

## Discussion: Visually Obscured Beats: The Augmentation Dot

Another device notators use to simplify their written music is the *augmentation dot*. Where we've been writing  $\frac{3}{4}$  ♩, another notator might write  $\frac{3}{4}$  ♩. ♩. And where we've been writing  $\frac{3}{4}$  ♩, another notator might write  $\frac{3}{4}$  ♩. That's because when a dot is placed next to a note, it adds to that note one half the note's value. Therefore, a quarter note with a dot placed next to it is equivalent to a quarter note tied to an eighth note (or an eighth note tied to a quarter note). Although in each of the above examples the latter notation is simpler in that it requires fewer symbols, it doesn't show clearly where each beat begins and ends. That's why many students encounter difficulty in reading dotted rhythms.

### Exercises:

#### E. Playing All Four Sounds (With the Augmentation Dot)

If necessary, draw a box around each beat in Exs. E-1 and E-2, then label each beat with the letter D, N, B, or U.

E-1  $\frac{4}{4}$  ♩. ♩ ♩ | ♩. - | ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ | ♩. ||

E-2  $\frac{3}{4}$  ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ ||

#### F. Putting It All Together

Tap the following. Label each beat if necessary.

F-1  $\frac{4}{4}$  ♩. ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ ♩ | ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ ||

F-2  $\frac{3}{4}$  ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ ||

F-3 C ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ | ♩. ♩ ||

F-4  $\frac{2}{4}$  ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ ||