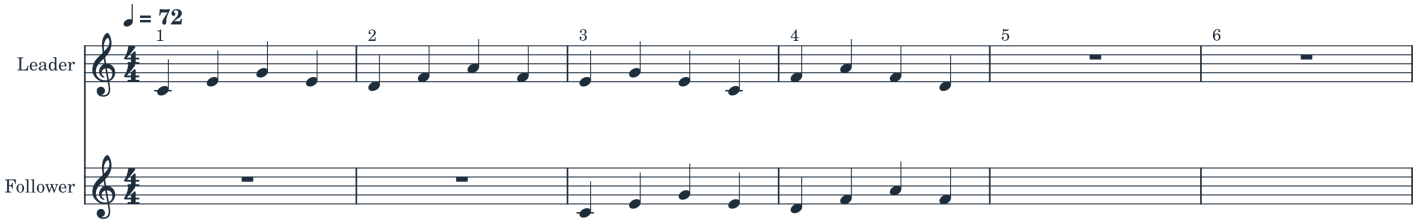Build a Canon: Copy, Overlap, Check

In this exercise, the follower copies every pitch and rhythm of the leader exactly, starting eight quarter-note beats later.
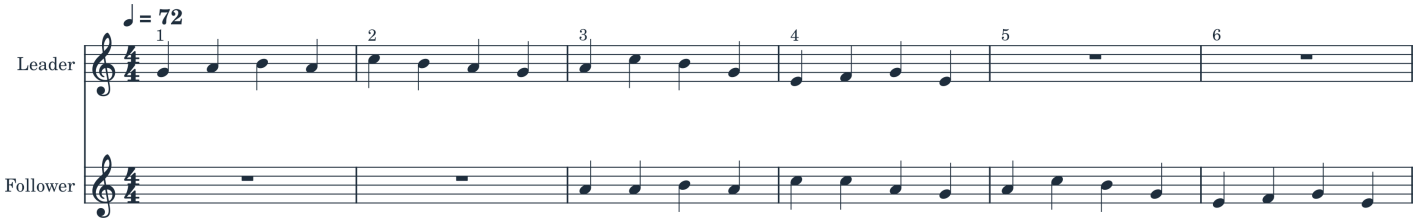
1 · COMPLETE THE FOLLOWER

Write eight quarter notes in follower bars 5–6 (the empty write-in bars). Copy leader bars 3–4 exactly, eight beats later. Other rests remain silent.



2 · FIND THE TWO ERRORS

A student copied this melody with a delay of eight quarter-note beats, but made two pitch mistakes. Circle the wrong follower notes. Write the repairs here: bar ___ beat ___ pitch ___; bar ___ beat ___ pitch ___.



3 · COMPOSE A TWO-BAR OVERLAP
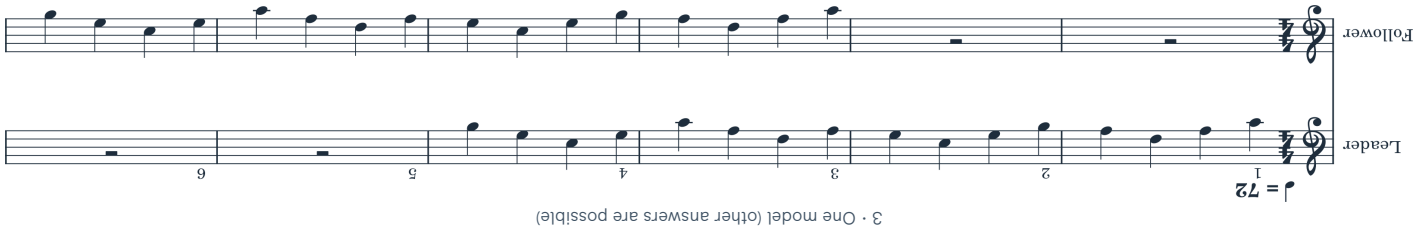
Keep leader bars 1–2: **C4 E4 G4 E4 | D4 F4 A4 F4**. Compose replacement leader bars 3–4; copy them into follower bars 5–6. Use only **C4, D4, E4, F4, G4 and A4, all quarter notes**. Allowed vertical intervals: unison, third, fifth, sixth or octave; your notes must also fit the range.

Use separate manuscript paper. Write leader bars 3–4 above follower bars 3–4 (the fixed opening), then write follower bars 5–6 as the delayed copy.
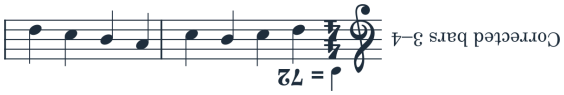
Check Follower check: does each follower note match the leader note eight beats earlier in pitch and duration? Composition check: do leader bars 3–4 stay in range, contain four quarters per bar and form only the listed intervals with the follower?

Listen: tissimo.co/worksheets/build-a-delayed-canon · quarter = 72
Compare numbered piano tracks, then use the Check yourself group.
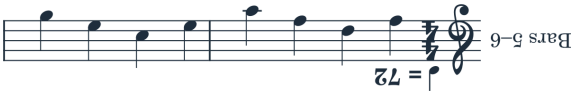
Rubric: C4–A4 naturals; four quarters/bar; unchanged opening; identical follower eight beats later; only allowed overlap intervals.



3 · One model (other answers are possible)



2 · Bar 3 beat 1: G4; Bar 4 beat 2: B4



1 · Follower bars 5–6

© 2026 Tissimo. All rights reserved.