The Double Dot: Add Half, Then Half Again

Intermediate rhythm · In 4/4, a quarter note is one beat.
Keep the sixteenth-note count steady while a longer note holds.

1 · RECALL ONE DOT; ADD THE NEXT

One dot adds half the original note's value. A second dot adds half of what the first dot added.

1 + ½ + ¼ = 7/4 beats = 1¾ beats = 7 sixteenths

The additions get smaller: the second dot adds ¼ of the original quarter note.

2 · COMPARE ON A SIXTEENTH GRID

Each cell lasts ¼ beat. Filled cells show the held duration; empty cells finish the two-beat window. The dark underline marks how long the note is held. These are time grids, not staff spacing.

Quarter
1 beat · 4 cells



1	e	&	a	2	e	&	a

Dotted quarter
3/2 beats · 6 cells



1	e	&	a	2	e	&	a

Double-dotted quarter
7/4 beats · 7 cells



1	e	&	a	2	e	&	a

Say every count: **1 e & a 2 e & a**. Say e as 'ee,' & as 'and,' and a as 'ah.' A double-dotted quarter holds through "2 &"; its sixteenth partner starts on the final "a".

3 · READ A TWO-BAR PHRASE

Each long–short pair fills two beats. The syllables under the notes mark attacks; keep counting between them.



A. Double-dotted quarter = _____ beats

B. Long + short pair = _____ beats

Try it Count 1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a out loud. Clap on 1, the 'a' of 2, 3, and the 'a' of 4. Keep all spoken subdivisions even. Restart at 1 for bar 2, then clap both bars with track 2.

Complete A and B before turning the page to check

Check: A = 7/4 beats (7 sixteenths). B = 2 beats (8 sixteenths).
Pair count: 1 e & a 2 e & a; claps at 1 and 2's "a". Phrase attacks in each bar: 1, 2's "a", 3, 4's "a".

Listen / check · quarter = 60 BPM
1: quarter, dotted quarter, double-dotted quarter; one piano note per bar, with clicks continuing during the rests.
2: two-bar phrase with clicks. Both tracks begin with four count-in clicks.
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