

Part 2—Four-bar Rock/Latin Rhythm Phrases

The phrases in **Part Two** all have articulations to help you know how to “pronounce” them. In rock (funk) and Latin music, unmarked quarter and eighth notes are usually played short. Sixteenth or eighth notes by themselves are also usually played short, except when there’s a series of them, in which case they’re usually played legato. The last of a group of two or more eighth or sixteenth notes is usually played short.

A_m

D_m

G_m

C_m

F_m

B_bm

The musical score is written for guitar and bass in 4/4 time. It consists of ten systems, each with a guitar staff and a bass staff. The guitar parts are marked with a 'G' and the bass parts with a 'B'. The key signature is D major (two sharps: F# and C#). The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. Accents and slurs are used to indicate phrasing. Measure numbers are placed below the first staff of each system. The systems are labeled with their respective chords: D major (31-35), G major (36-40), C major (41-45), F# major (46-50), B major (51-55), and E major (56-60).

D major
31 32
33 34 35

G major
36 37
38 39 40

C major
41 42
43 44 45

F# major
46 47
48 49 50

B major
51 52
53 54 55

E major
56 57
58 59 60

When syncopated rhythms feel as “normal” to you as very straight rhythms, then you are on your way to being able to smoothly sightread whatever music is put in front of you. Try to make “tricky” rhythms seem smooth and not forced or jerky. When you do this you learn to relax and not tense up when you see complex rhythms, and you become a better sightreader and a better musician overall.

The musical score consists of 35 measures, organized into systems of two staves each. The key signature changes at the beginning of each system:

- Measures 1-5: C major
- Measures 6-11: F major
- Measures 12-17: B \flat major
- Measures 18-23: E \flat major
- Measures 24-29: A \flat major
- Measures 30-35: D \flat major

The rhythm is consistently 4/4. The notation includes a variety of syncopated patterns, often using beamed eighth and sixteenth notes, and frequent rests. The piece concludes with a final cadence in the D \flat major system.

This musical score is for guitar, spanning measures 36 to 71. It is written in 4/4 time and features a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The score is organized into systems, each beginning with a chord voicing: F# (measures 36-41), B (measures 42-47), E (measures 48-53), A (measures 54-59), D (measures 60-65), and G (measures 66-71). Each system consists of two staves. The first staff in each system contains a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, often with slurs and accents. The second staff contains a more melodic line, frequently using a 'chord-melody' style where the notes of the chord are played in a sequence. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign at the end of measure 71.

Thinking of each phrase as one melody rather than a group of notes and rhythms helps you sound more musical and far less mechanical. If you're playing alone, pretend you're playing for an audience. Better yet, find a practice partner and do "team practicing," playing these in "echo" fashion. You'll rest as much as you play, you'll have a sympathetic audience, and you'll play better than you would if you were practicing alone.

A_m

1 2 3 4 5

D_m

6 7 8 9 10 11

G_m

12 13 14 15 16 17

C_m

18 19 20 21 22 23

F_m

24 25 26 27 28 29

B_bm

30 31 32 33 34 35