

Polyrhythm

Music

Two rhythms at once — how to count 3 against 2 and 4 against 3.

Count in the smallest unit both rhythms divide into: the lowest common multiple.

3:2 → count 6 · 4:3 → count 12

3 against 2 Count 6. One hand on 1-3-5, the other on 1-4

Mnemonic: 'not dif-fi-cult'.

4 against 3 Count 12. One on 1-4-7-10, the other on 1-5-9

Mnemonic: 'pass the gol-den but-ter'.

Both together

That coincidence is the anchor.

They align only on beat 1

THE COMMON MISTAKE

× **Trying to feel both rhythms independently at once**

✓ **Feel one, count the grid, place the other**

Independence comes later, and only after the grid is automatic.

A polyrhythm is two pulses at once. A polymetre is two bar lengths at once — different thing.