Jazz Rhythms
by Jamey Abersold

Name: _________________________________________________________

On the following page, you have been given a copy of Jamey Abersold’s jazz rhythms exercise.

• Make a recording in which you perform each of these rhythms.
• Write a paragraph in which you pick three rhythms that create syncopation in different ways, and explain how the beat is obscured to create syncopation (through ties? rests? etc.).

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Jazz Rhythms exercise reproduced with permission from Jamey Aebersold, Jazz Handbook (New Albany, IN: Jamey Aebersold Jazz, 2000).
The first note (it’s a pick up) could always be left off without hurting the rest of the phrase.

1. 

2. This is a good starter rhythm.

3. The four eighth notes help define the target note — half-note.

4. Syncopation

5. etc. anything Eighth notes help your phrase beginnings. They give motion.

6. 

7. Ascend

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