

Fine Metronome

Version 3.5.0

Background

We are sure that until there will be musicians, there will be need for metronomes. One of distinguishing characteristics of any good performer is that (s)he *can* maintain a steady tempo, a habit best developed with a metronome device.

Features

Accurate and Reliable Fine Metronome gives you audio and visual reference with amazing accuracy on your PC or laptop. You will never hear it stammering. Due to Tempo Dither algorithm, developed by Fine Software, the metronome performs absolutely correctly even on blast tempos like 999 BPM.

Easy to use You cannot think about more simple way to define musical meters then in Fine Metronome. Using a grid, you can set whether each beat is accented, normal, or omitted. You can also enter the meter in standard music notation (like 3+2).

Handy to use The interface is streamlined to distract you less from your playing. With hotkeys (or joystick/gamepad) you can control every important aspect of Fine Metronome performance without even looking at the monitor.

Nice sound Fine Metronome ships with a dozen of carefully chosen sounds. But it's only starting point, because you can use any mono sound file encoded in PCM Wave (.wav) format.

Visual Each beat a bright light flashes, with its color suggesting the beat type, and the digits showing the beat number. With Fine Metronome, you can rely on both your auditory and visual perception, which makes it much easier to follow the rhythm.

Professional Need to make a click track for the recording session? Or have it in your mp3 player to take to a gig or athletic exercises? Fine Metronome provides easy export into PCM Wave (.wav) and MP3 (.mp3) formats.

Multi-functional Here are some functions and specifications not listed above:

- Tempo range 1 through 999 bpm¹
- Meters - simple, complex, additive, irregular, claves... any!
- Subdivisions
- Beat subunits (new in v3.5)

¹ Default tempo range is 40 through 208 bpm, a standard scale of good old mechanical devices. If you want another setting, just click in the center of the metronome display and enter any number from 1 to 999, or adjust the range permanently in Menu/Interface Options.

- Fractional BPM values
- Intelligent Tap
- User presets for meters
- Diary for saving practice goals and results
- Built-in presets for Latin and Flamenco music styles (new in v3.5)
- Animator's mode (new in v3.5)

Using the metronome

Tempo

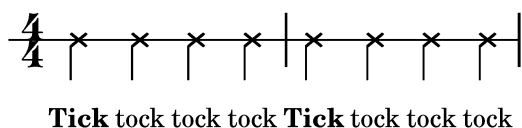
A *tempo* is the reciprocal of the time between two clicks. The tempo is measured in *Beats per Minute* (BPM) units. For example, a metronome set to 120 BPM will generate 120 clicks per a minute, i.e. two clicks per a second.

Fine Metronome default tempo range is 40 through 208 BPM, the same as the range of a vintage mechanical device. If you need bigger or lesser value, click on the in the center of the metronome display and type in any number from 1 to 999. If you frequently use tempo values outside the default range, use Interface Options dialog to set up your preferred range².

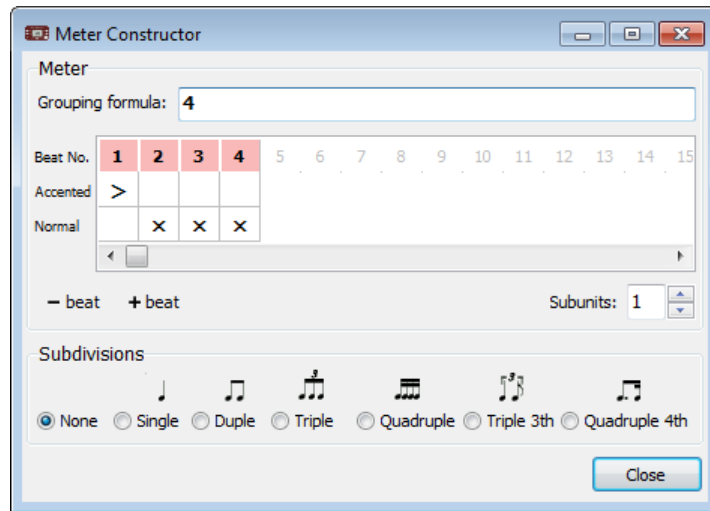
The Tap feature lets you guess unknown BPM value. To use this feature, click on the Tap button at constant rate, just like you clapp along with the music.

Meter

Music is rooted in pulsation, and these pulse events are called *beats*. Beats can have different emphasis (or accent). A sequence of beats is called *meter*. A *measure* defines boundaries within which the meter sequence repeats. Each measure usually starts from the accented beat. A common meter pattern, 4/4, with its implementation in the metronome are illustrated below.

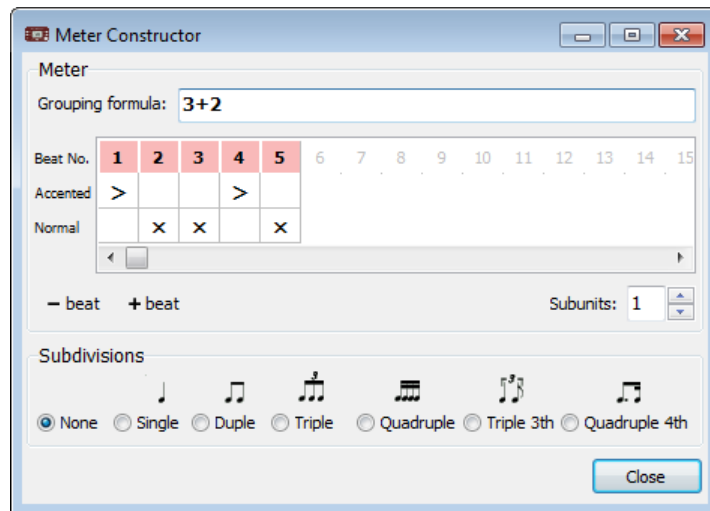
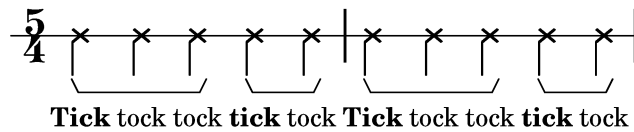


² The advantage of standard range is that moving slider by 1 pixel always changes the tempo by one BPM.



Fine Metronome uses distinct sound and volume for accented beats. This can be set up in Sound Options and Volume Options dialogs.

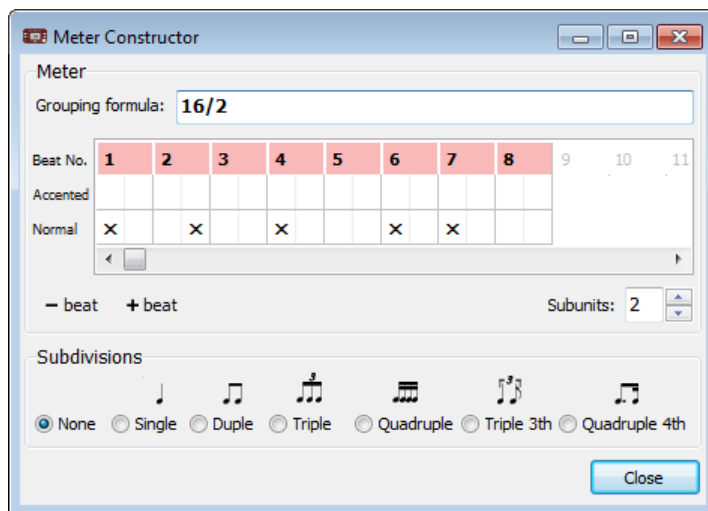
Fine Metronome allows you to specify complex meters, like additive, which have one major and a few minor downbeats, and mixed meters, which span several measures. Such meters are easily specified by combining beats into groups, each group beginning with the accented beat. For example, the meter of the well-known "Take Five" jazz piece can be notated simply as "3+2"³.



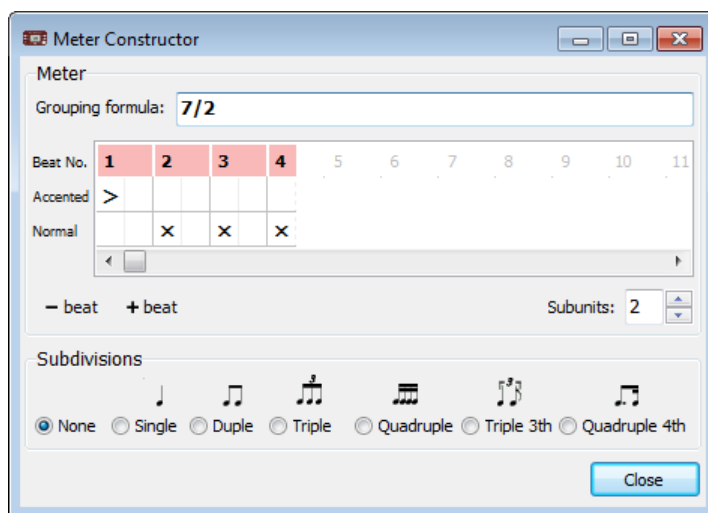
Our metronome can also play *submeter*, also known as subdivisions. These are played with lower volume and light, and can greatly help you in developing smooth rhythm feel. Available subdivisions are duple (2), triple (3), quadruple (4), shuffle (triple with ommited second note), and some more.

³ _____
The bottom number of the time signature is not important here.

Fine Metronome version 3.5 introduces new concept: *beat subunits*. The idea stems from Latin claves, where the pattern is irregular and involve eighth notes, while basic unit remains quarter note. Difficulties with writing these patterns are solved by diving the beat into 2 (or 3, 4) subunits. Unlike subdivisions mentioned above, these units appear on the grid and you can specify different pattern for each beat. Subdivisions and subunits are independed from each other, so you can "two against three" or other useful way of counting.



Another feature added in v3.5 is a "cutted" meter, which is the meter with the last subunit dropped off. You can use this feature to play in 5/8 (five eighths) or 7/8 time.



Hotkeys

- **Space** turns the metronome On or Off
- **Alt+Space** turns the metronome On or Off when its window is inactive
- **Right** increases the tempo by 1 BPM

- **Left** decreases the tempo by 1 BPM
- **PgUp** or **Ctrl+Right** increases the tempo by 8 BPM
- **PgDn** or **Ctrl+Left** decreases the tempo by 8 BPM
- **Up** increases volume
- **Down** decreases volume
- **Ctrl+Up** increases volume grossly
- **Ctrl+Down** decreases volume grossly
- **Enter** or **T** taps tempo
- **M** shows the Meter dialog
- **O** shows the Options dialog
- **P** opens the Presets window
- **D** shows the Diary window
- **E** opens the Export dialog
- Mouse wheel Up increases tempo by 1 BPM
- Mouse wheel Down decreases tempo by 1 BPM
- **Ctrl+Mouse Whell up** increases volume
- **Ctrl+Mouse Whell Down** decreases volume
- **1** sets 1 beat per measure
- **2** sets 2 beats per measure
- **3** sets 3 beats per measure
- **4** sets 4 beats per measure
- **5** sets 5 (3+2) beats per measure
- **6** sets 6 beats per measure
- **7** sets 7 beats per measure
- **8** sets 8 beats per measure

- **Ctrl**+**`** or **Ctrl**+**0** sets no subdivision
- **Ctrl**+**1** sets single subdivision
- **Ctrl**+**2** sets duple subdivision
- **Ctrl**+**3** sets triple subdivision
- **Ctrl**+**4** sets quadruple subdivision
- **Ctrl**+**5** sets quintuple subdivision
- **Ctrl**+**6** sets sextuple subdivision
- **Ctrl**+**7** sets septuple subdivision
- **Alt**+**3** sets triple subdivision with 1st and 3th notes only (shuffle)
- **Alt**+**4** sets quadruple with 1st and 4th notes only

Support

If you need technical support or have any comments or suggestions, fell free to contact us (even if you are not a registered user yet) using email:

support@finemetronome.com

or the Contact Us form on the website:

<http://www.finemetronome.com/contactus.html>

Please note that in v3.5 user presets and diary file have been moved to the following folder:

[Documents and Settings folder]\Application data\Fine Metronome

To gain more understanding about using the metronome, read Troy Stetina' article "How to Use a Metronome to Improve Your Practice".

Acknowledgements

We need to acknowledge people who (among others) made invaluable suggestions for Fine Metronome appearance and functionality:

Brad Williamson

Troy Stetina

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Andy Latham

Changelog

Version 3.5.0

- [New] When volume slider is in the lowest position, sound is muted
- [New] Flash window position and size are saved upon exit; Reset option added