


Ostinato



Thursday, 08 October 2020

What is an ostinato?

- Here is a very famous example of a melodic ostinato:
- 
- Definition - an ostinato is a short melodic or rhythmic pattern which is performed repeatedly as an accompaniment for a song

Learning Objectives.

To understand what an Ostinato is.
To recognise them in examples.

Key Words

Ostinato
Basso
Rhythm
Melody
Hook

Ostinato



Thursday, 08 October 2020

- Ostinato (derived from Italian: "stubborn", compare English: *obstinate*) is a motif or phrase which is persistently repeated in the same musical voice.

Learning Objectives.

To understand what an Ostinato is.
To recognise them in examples.

Key Words

Ostinato
Basso
Rhythm
Melody
Hook

Ostinato



Thursday, 08 October 2020

Learning Objective.

To learn the difference between a rhythmic and melodic ostinato

Learning Objectives.

To understand what an Ostinato is.
To recognise them in examples.

Key Words

Ostinato
Basso
Rhythm
Melody
Hook

Ostinato



Thursday, 08 October 2020

Melodic and Rhythmic Ostinati

- There are two types of ostinati - **MELODIC** and **RHYTHMIC**.
- A melodic ostinato is where a short tune is repeated as the basis for a piece of music.
- A rhythmic ostinato is where a short rhythmic pattern is repeated as the basis for a piece of music.

Learning Objectives.

To understand what an Ostinato is.
To recognise them in examples.

Key Words

Ostinato
Basso
Rhythm
Melody
Hook

Ostinato



Thursday, 08 October 2020

Listen to the following pieces of music.

Do they have a **MELODIC** ostinato (repeating pattern), or a **RHYTHMIC** ostinato?



Learning Objectives.

To understand what an Ostinato is.
To recognise them in examples.

Key Words

Ostinato
Basso
Rhythm
Melody
Hook

Ostinato



Thursday, 08 October 2020

In [music](#), an **ostinato** is a short pattern of notes which is repeated several times throughout a song or piece of music. The word "ostinato" is related to the word *obstinate*. It is like a musical idea which is being obstinate and will not go away. The plural can be either "ostinati" or "ostinatos".

An ostinato can last for a section of a piece or it might last for the whole piece of music. An ostinato can be a repeated group of [notes](#) or just a [rhythm](#). It is similar to a [riff](#) in [jazz](#). Many kinds of music use ostinati, e.g. [classical music](#), jazz, [boogie-woogie](#) and [African](#) music.

A ground bass, or *basso ostinato*, is an ostinato pattern in the lowest notes, which keeps playing while the melodies in the higher notes change. This was often used in [baroque](#) musical works. An example is the famous [Canon in D](#) by [Pachelbel](#).

An example of a rhythmic ostinato is the first movement from the *Planets Suite* by [Gustav Holst](#). This is the movement in 5/4 time which describes [Mars](#). *Boléro* by [Maurice Ravel](#) also uses a repeated rhythm all the way through the piece.

An example from [popular music](#) is [Pink Floyd](#)'s *Money*.

Learning Objectives.

To understand what an Ostinato is.
To recognise them in examples.

Key Words

Ostinato
Basso
Rhythm
Melody
Hook