



## The Taal

The taal or the rhythm plays an important role in Indian music. It literally means “clap”. The taal also consists of various concepts. The basic concepts of taal are as follows: ~

- ❖ The “Tali” (this is a pattern of clapping which includes the number of claps)
- ❖ The “Khali” (this is the number of “waves” which is closely associated with the claps)
- ❖ The “Vibhag” (this is the specific measure specified by each clap or wave and the measure may be of any number of beats)
- ❖ The “Matra” (this is the beat which may be subdivided)
- ❖ The “Bol” (this is the mnemonic systems whereby each stroke of the drum has a syllable attached to it known as bol)
- ❖ The “Theka” (this is the established pattern of bols and vibhag)
- ❖ The “Lay” (this is the tempo which may be either slow (vilambit), medium (mandhya) or fast (drut))
- ❖ The “Sam” (this is the beginning of the cycle and the first beat of any cycle is usually stressed)
- ❖ The “Avartan” (this is the basic cycle)

There are about 50 to 60 taals and the most popular ones are Teentaal, Dadrataal, Jhaptaal, Ektaal and Keherwataal.

### **Teentaal**

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	
Dha	Dhin	Dhin	Dhal		Dha	Dhin	Dhin	Dhal	
X					2				
9	10	11	12		13	14	15	16	
Dha	Tin	Tin	Ta		Ta	Dhin	Dhin	Dha	
0					3				

Details: ~

- ❖ 16 Matras
- ❖ 3 Talis (claps) and 1 Khali (no claps)
- ❖ Used during accompaniment with singing or with another instrument

### **Dadrataal**

1	2	3		4	5	6	
Dha	Dhin	Na		Dha	Tin	Na	
X				0			

Details: ~

- ❖ 6 Matras
- ❖ 2 Vibhags
- ❖ 1 Tali and 1 Khali

### **Jhaptaal**

1	2		3	4	5		6	7	
Dhin	Na		Dhin	Dhin	Na		Tin	Na	
X			2				0		

8	9	10
Tin	Tin	Na
3		

Details: ~

- ❖ 10 Matras
- ❖ 4 Vibhags (2 and 3 Matras alternately)
- ❖ 3 Talis and 1 Khali

### **Ektaal**

1	2		3	4		5	6	
Dhin	Dhin		Dhage	Tirkit		Tu	Na	
X			0			2		
7	8		9	10		11	12	
Kat	Ta		Dhage	Tirkit		Dhin	Na	
	0		3			4		

Details: ~

- ❖ 12 Mantras
- ❖ 6 Vibhags
- ❖ 4 Talis and 2 Khalis

### **Keherwataal**

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
Dha	Ge	Na	Ti		Na	Ge	Dhin	Na
X					0			

Details: ~

- ❖ 8 Matras
- ❖ 2 Vibhags
- ❖ 2 Talis