

In contrast to swing music, the eighth notes in funk music are played straight (as long as you are in common time).

The difficulty with funk is knowing which notes to play short, which notes to play long, and which notes to emphasize. This is where articulation becomes the controlling factor.

The same rules for house tops apply as in swing. However, in "The Funky Melon" we begin to see staccato markings as well. Staccato notes are played short and to the point with a "dit" sound and relatively little emphasis. Remember, house tops are tongued, short, and loud with a "da" sound. Let's use measures 13 - 16 as an example of both. Be sure to listen to the demonstration on the CD for comparison.

While there are no set rules for placing staccatos and house tops in funk, we can find a number of situations in this etude where they seem to work well. Just as in the previous piece, articulation patterns are often established and left for you to continue.

IMPORTANT: This etude was taken from "Complete Jazz Styles, Introductory Etudes in Jazz Comprehension, Book 1." Additional promotional material, including MP3 and PDF downloads, is available at www.randyhunterjazz.com.