



## MTO 22.3 Examples: Adams, Playing with Beats and Playing with Cats

(Note: audio, video, and other interactive examples are only available online)

<http://www.mtosmt.org/issues/mto.16.22.3/mto.16.22.3.adams.php>

**Table 1.** Track listings for Run the Jewels 2 and Meow the Jewels

RUN THE JEWELS 2	MEOW THE JEWELS	
Track Title	Track Title	Producer
Jeopardy	Meowpurrdy	El-P
Oh My Darling Don't Cry	Oh My Darling Don't Meow	Just Blaze
Blockbuster Night Pt. 1	Pawfluffer Night	Zola Jesus
Close Your Eyes (and Count to F**k)	Close Your Eyes (and Meow to Fluff)	Geoff Barrow
All My Life	All Meow Life	Nick Hook
Lie, Cheat, Steal	Lie, Cheat, Meow	Prince Paul
Early	Meowrly	Boots
All Due Respect	Paw Due Respect	Blood Diamonds
Love Again	Snug Again	Little Shalimar
Crown	Creown	The Alchemist
	Creown	3D (from Massive Attack)
Angel Duster	Angelsnuggler	Dan the Automator



**Example 2a.** “Lie, Cheat, Steal”/“Lie, Cheat, Meow,” verse 1, lines 5–20 (E1-P)

1	x	y	z	2	x	y	z	3	x	y	z	4	x	y	z	
5	tho-	r-	ties	have	spo-	ken,	de-	man-	ded	your	pure	de-	vo	tion	Get	Au-
6	ne-	tized	to	the	ground	while	the	fal-	cons	of	mur-	der	close		in	mag-
7		to	go		gua-	no		y'all	know	me	kind-	a	bat		shit	chose
8	bright		lights	of	fuck-	er-	y	stuck	in		au-	to-	mat-	ic		The
9	tea	bag	a	pir-	ha-	na	tank	heart	in		bare-	y	beat-	in	A	wild
10		one		who'll	swim	like	di-	rect-	ly	af-		ter	eat-	en	while	hold-
11	in'	a	toast-	er	ov-	en	that's	plugged		wit	a	fork	in	it,	cause	death
12		by	lec-	tro-	cu-	tion's	like	life	in	New	York,		inn-	it?	press-	es
13	Shoul	a	been	a	den-	Mom	said	it	Pain's	the	way	that	craft	ex-		
14	Born		in	a	lit-	that	can't	af-	to	rent		in	Where's	the	it?	
15	Wan-	na	talk	shop	hor-	it	with	act-	o	touch	in	What's	the	the	it?	
16	Au-	to	graph	skin	chop	up	I	brag	e	nough	you	fac-	to	the	suck	A
17	lot-	ta	you	new	tag	em	don't	lieu		kind	a	"fuck	is	is	you?"	I
18	lit-	tle	black	spot	sun	of	but	not	too	high	to	I'm	the	truth		
19	line	the	booth	to	blood	like	Bate-	North-	ing	sac-	red	I'll	a	play-	pen	
20		jewel	ru	ner	make	the	stick	Not	for	sale	but	I'm	in	pay-	men	

**Example 2b.** Beat for “Lie, Cheat, Meow,” lines 11–14 (0:18–0:29 in Audio Example 2b)

The musical score is presented in two systems. The top system contains the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics "Meow" are written below the notes. The piano accompaniment is written in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and consists of a series of chords, with the word "(purr)" written below the first few measures. The bottom system contains the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "Meow" and "meow" written below the notes. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and rests. The score is oriented vertically on the page.

**Example 3a.** Basic beat for “Crown”

The image displays a musical score for three instruments: Synth, Bass, and Percussion. The score is written in 12/8 time and features a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The Synth part consists of two whole notes, G2 and B1, which are sustained throughout the piece. The Bass part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, starting with a half note G1 followed by six eighth notes (F1, E1, D1, C1, B0, A0), and then repeating a similar pattern with a half note G1 and six eighth notes (F1, E1, D1, C1, B0, A0). The Percussion part is represented by a single eighth note G1, followed by a series of eighth notes (F1, E1, D1, C1, B0, A0) and a final eighth note G1, with rests indicated by a squiggle.

**Example 3b.** “Crown”/“Creown,” verse 1, lines 1–8 (Killer Mike)

1	x	y	2	x	y	3	x	y	4	x	y
shame.			Down	with	the	shame.			Down	with	the
traps	in	the	rain	with	co-	caïne.			Used	to	walk
raps	in	the	traps	as	I	sat	in	the	Used	to	write
prayed	that	God	give	me	a	lane.			rain	and	I
lane.			Give	me	the	fame.			Give	me	a
fame	and	I	pro-	mise	to	change.			Won't	be	the
same.			Won't	be	the	same	kind	of	man	that	puts
co-	caïne	in	this	la-	dy's	hand.					



Example 3d. "Creown," version 2 (3D), verse 1, with lyrics

12/8

Down with the shame Down with the shame Used to walk traps in the rain with co - caine

Bass

3

Used to write raps in the traps as I sat in the rain and I prayed that God give me a lane Give me a lane Give me the fame

Bass

6

Give me the fame and I pro-mise to change Won't be the same Won't be the same type of man that puts co-caine in this la-dy's hand

Bass

6

Perc.

4/4

Perc.

3

6



**Example 4a.** “Oh My Darling Don’t Meow,” first part of the verse

Musical score for Example 4a. The top staff is a bass line in 4/4 time, featuring a melodic sequence of eighth and quarter notes. The bottom staff is a snare line, also in 4/4 time, with a consistent rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The word "MEOW!" is written above the snare line, with an 'x' mark indicating the snare hit for each note. The label "(snare)" is placed below the first few notes of the snare line.

**Example 4b.** The “Funky Drummer” break

Musical score for Example 4b. The top staff shows a snare line with a complex rhythmic pattern. A bracket above the first two measures is labeled "3+2+3 snare pattern". The bottom staff shows a bass line with a similar rhythmic pattern. The snare line consists of eighth notes with 'x' marks above them, and the bass line consists of eighth notes.

**Example 4c.** “Oh My Darling, Don’t Meow,” verse 1 (Killer Mike) (0:08–0:20 in Audio Example 4b)

Me and Ei - p got time to kill — got folks to kill — on ov - er - kill — he hang - in out the win - dow I hold the wheel One black one white we shoot to kill That

MEOW! MEOW! MEOW! MEOW! MEOW! MEOW! MEOW! MEOW!

(modified backbeat)

fuck - boy life bout to be re - pealed That fuck - boy shit bout to be re - pelled Fuck - boy ji - had kill In - fi - dels, Al - la - hu Ak - bar BOOM from Mike and Ei

3+2+3 pattern

(“Funky Drummer” pattern doubled in length)



