

The Rhythmic Majesty of Dhamar Taal: Exploring the Tukra

Indian classical music is an intricate interplay of melody and rhythm, with the tabla taking center stage in defining the rhythmic framework. Among the diverse array of taals, Dhamar Taal stands out for its majestic and nuanced 14-beat structure. Its association with traditional Dhrupad singing and rich rhythmic compositions, such as the Tukra, makes it a fascinating subject for tabla enthusiasts.

What is Dhamar Taal?

Dhamar Taal is a 14-beat rhythmic cycle, traditionally associated with Dhrupad, one of the oldest forms of Indian classical music. Its weighty yet flexible nature allows for profound expressions of rhythm, making it ideal for both vocal and instrumental music.

Structure of Dhamar Taal:

| Beats | 14 |

| Division | 5 + 5 + 4 |

| Bols | Dha Dhin Ta | Kita Dhin Ta | Ti Ta | Dhin Dhin |

- Sam (1st beat): Marked by a powerful Dha, the sam anchors the cycle.***
 - Khali (8th beat): The khali introduces a contrasting empty feel, creating space for rhythmic interplay.***
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What is a Tukra?

A Tukra is a short, crisp composition in tabla playing, often performed at the end of a tabla solo. It typically concludes with an elegant tihai (a phrase repeated thrice) to land on the sam. Tukras in Dhamar Taal often reflect its regal and stately character, blending symmetry with creativity.

A Classic Dhamar Taal Tukra

Here's a popular Tukra in Dhamar Taal:

Tukra Composition:

***Dha Dha - Dha Dhin Ta | Kita Dha - Kita Dhin Ta | Ti Ta Kita | Dhin Dhin
Dha***

(Repeat three times with a tihai to conclude.)