

Understanding Jhumra Taal: The 14-Beat Rhythmic Cycle in Tabla

When it comes to Hindustani classical music, the tabla breathes life into the performance through intricate rhythmic cycles known as *taals*. One such elegant and deeply expressive taal is **Jhumra Taal**, a **14-beat** cycle (matra) that's cherished in slow-tempo (vilambit) compositions, especially in *Khayal* vocal music and instrumental renditions.

What is Jhumra Taal?

Jhumra Taal is composed of **14 beats** divided into **4 vibhags (sections)**:
3 + 4 + 3 + 4

This structure makes it subtly complex and highly suitable for leisurely, expansive improvisation. It provides a wide canvas for artists to express emotional depth and melodic intricacies.

Theka (Basic Pattern) of Jhumra Taal:

Here's the most common *theke* (basic pattern) of Jhumra Taal:

Dha | Dhin Dhin | Dha - | Tin Tin | Ta - | Dhin Na | Dhin Dhin | Dha -

Matras:

1. Dha
2. Dhin
3. Dhin
4. Dha
5. (rest)
6. Tin
7. Tin
8. Ta
9. (rest)
10. Dhin
11. Na

12. Dhin

13. Dhin

14. Dha

This theka is typically played at a **vilambit laya (slow tempo)**, offering a graceful and meditative pulse.

Where You'll Hear It

Jhumra is a favorite among vocalists like **Pandit Bhimsen Joshi** and **Kishori Amonkar**, who use it to enrich the emotional intensity of slow *Khayals*. It's also heard in sarangi and sitar recitals when paired with deeply emotive ragas.

Listen to Jhumra Taal:

 [Sample Audio of Jhumra Taal – Slow Theka \(YouTube\)](#)
