

Sapta Tala Alankaras

1. Chaturasra Jaathi Dhruva Talam

This is the first of the seven Sapta Tala Alankaras. The parts of this Tala are 1 Laghu, 1 Dhruta, followed by 2 Laghus. Laghu is a beat followed by counting on the fingers, starting from little finger, followed by ring finger, and middle finger. The number of counts in the Laghu is determined by the jaathi – for Chaturasra jaathi, there are a total of 4 counts for each Laghu.

Dhruta is a beat followed by a wave. A Dhruta is of 2 counts.

Again, Chaturasra Jaathi Dhruva talam has a break-up as laghu, dhruta, laghu, laghu, consisting of 4, 2, 4, 4 beats for a total of 14 beats per avartana or cycle.

2. Chaturasra Jaathi Matya Talam

This is the second of the seven Sapta Tala Alankaras. The parts of this Tala are 1 Laghu, 1 Dhruta, followed by 1 Laghu.

Laghu is a beat followed by counting on the fingers, starting from the little finger, followed by the ring finger, and middle finger. The number of counts in the Laghu is determined by the jaathi – for Chaturasra jaathi, there are a total of 4 counts for each Laghu.

Dhruta is a beat followed by a wave. A Dhruta is of 2 counts.

Again, Chaturasra Jaathi Matya talam has a break-up as laghu, dhruta, laghu, consisting of 4, 2, 4 beats for a total of 10 beats per avartana or cycle.

3. Chaturasra Jaathi Rupaka Talam

This is the third of the seven Sapta Tala Alankaras. The parts of this Tala are 1 Dhruta, followed by 1 Laghu.

Dhruta is a beat followed by a wave. A Dhruta is of 2 counts.

A Laghu is a beat followed by counting on the fingers, starting from the little finger, followed by the ring finger, and the middle finger. The number of counts in the Laghu is determined by the jaathi – for Chaturasra Jaathi, there are a total of 4 counts for each laghu.

Again, Chaturasra Jaathi Rupaka Talam has a break-up as dhruta, laghu, consisting of 2, 4 beats, for a total of 6 beats per avartana or cycle.

4. Misra Jaathi Jhumpa Talam

This is the fourth of the seven Sapta Tala Alankaras. The parts of this Tala are 1 Laghu, 1 AnuDhruta, followed by 1 Dhruta.

Laghu is a beat followed by counting on the fingers, starting from the little finger, going up to thumb, and again ending in little finger. The number of counts in the Laghu are determined by the jaathi – for Misra Jaathi, there are a total of 7 counts for each Laghu.

AnuDhruta is a beat of the palm, consisting of 1 count.

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Dhruta is a beat followed by a wave. A Dhruta is of 2 counts.

Again, Misra Jaathi Jhumpa Talam has a break-up as laghu, anudhruta, dhruta, consisting of 7, 1, 2 beats for a total of 10 beats per avartana or cycle.

5. Thishra Jaathi Tripura Talam

This is the fifth of the seven Sapta Tala Alankaras. The parts of this Tala are 1 Laghu, followed by 2 Dhrutas.

A Laghu is a beat followed by counting on the fingers, starting from the little finger, followed by ring finger. The number of counts in the Laghu are determined by the jaathi – for Thishra jaathi, there are a total of 3 counts for each Laghu.

Dhruta is a beat followed by a wave. A Dhruta is of 2 counts.

Again, Thishra Jaathi Tripura Talam has a break-up as Laghu, Dhruta, Dhruta, consisting of 3, 2, 2 beats, for a total of 7 beats per avartana or cycle.

Adi Tala, which is the most common tala in Carnatic music, is a variety of Tripura Tala. It is also known as the Chaturasra Jaathi Tripura Tala, with 4, 2, 2 counts in Laghu, Dhruta, Dhruta, for a total of 8 beats or counts per cycle.

6. Khanda Jaathi Ata Talam

This is the sixth of the seven Sapta Tala Alankaras. The parts of this Tala are 2 Laghus, followed by 2 Dhrutas.

A Laghu is a beat followed by counting on the fingers, starting from the little finger, followed by ring, middle and index fingers. The number of counts in the Laghu are determined by the jaathi – for Khanda Jaathi, there are a total of 5 counts for each Laghu.

Dhruta is a beat followed by a wave. A Dhruta is of 2 counts.

Again, Khanda Jaathi Ata Talam has a break-up as Laghu, Laghu, Dhruta, Dhruta consisting of 5, 5, 2, 2 beats, for a total of 14 beats per avartana or cycle.

7. Chaturasra Jaathi Eka Talam

This is the seventh of the seven Sapta Tala Alankaras. The parts of this Tala are just 1 Laghu, which is a beat, followed by counting on fingers, from the little finger, to the middle finger. Chaturasra Jaathi has a total of 4 counts per Laghu.

Again, Chaturasra Jaathi Eka Talam has only 1 Laghu consisting of 4 counts in total.