The fastest way to measure a song's tempo is tap tempo. You tap a key in time with the music and the tool works out the tempo.

How it works

Each tap is timed, the intervals are averaged, and the result is converted with a simple formula ***metronome*** 60,000 divided by the average gap in milliseconds. Taps 500 ms apart give 120 BPM.

Getting an accurate reading

Follow the drums rather than the vocals. Tap for at least eight beats so small errors average out. Skip free intros.

Is it 70 or 140?

If the number looks half or double what you expect, you are probably tapping every other beat. Check typical genre tempos to pick the right reading.

Once you have the BPM, practise the song at its real speed, or slow it down while you learn.