



Time Signatures and Rhythm


Time Signatures


The **time signature** is the two numbers written at the beginning of a piece.


- The top number tells how many beats are in each measure.
- The bottom number tells what kind of note gets one beat.


In a time signature with a 4 on the bottom, the **quarter note**  gets one beat.


2 means two beats in each measure.
4 means the quarter note gets one beat.  = 1 beat


The **half note** gets two beats.  = 2 beats


3 means three beats in each measure.
4 means the quarter note gets one beat.  = 1 beat


 = 2 beats

The **dotted half note** gets three beats.  = 3 beats

4 means four beats in each measure.
4 means the quarter note gets one beat.  = 1 beat

 = 2 beats









 = 3 beats

The **whole note** gets four beats.  = 4 beats

C is another way to write the time signature $\frac{4}{4}$. It is called **common time**.

Rest Signs

Rest signs are used in music for **silence**. These notes have rest signs of the same value.

Quarter Note 	Half Note 	Whole Note 	Eighth Note 
Quarter Rest 	Half Rest 	Whole Rest 	Eighth Rest 
		(whole measure rest)	

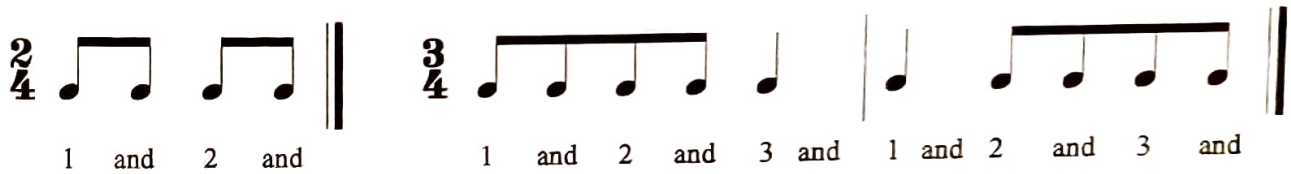
Eighth Notes

One **eighth note** looks like this: 

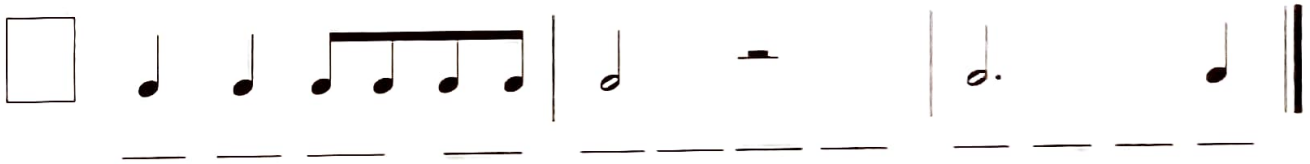
Two or more eighth notes are joined by a beam.



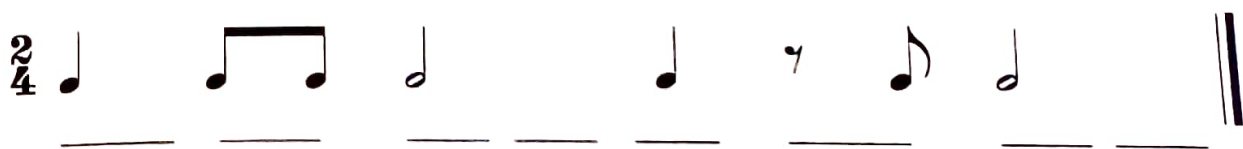
Eighth notes may be counted by saying “and” after the number.



- Write the correct time signature for each example.
Write in the counts. Use a + sign for the word “and”.
Clap and count the rhythms aloud.

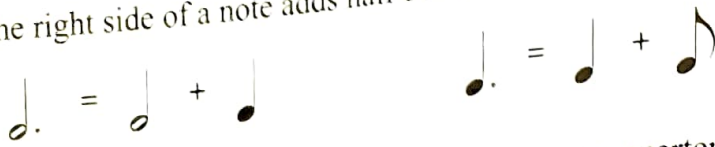


- Draw bar lines to divide these rhythms into measures.
Write in the counts. Use a + sign for the word “and”.
Clap and count the rhythms aloud.



Dotted Note Rhythms

A dot on the right side of a note adds half of the value of the note.



The dotted quarter note may be understood when seen as a quarter note tied to an eighth note. Clap and count these rhythms.

4/4

Count: 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and

3. Rewrite each measure of tied note rhythms with dotted note rhythms. Write the counts under the notes. Clap and count aloud.

4/4

4/4

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

3/4

3/4

1 + 2 + 3 +

Triplet

The word **triplet** means three.

The eighth note triplet is equal to one quarter note:



Triplet rhythms may be counted in many ways. Clap and count this triplet rhythm in the ways suggested below.

$\frac{4}{4}$:	
<i>Count:</i>	trip - i - let	quarter	trip - i - let	quarter
<i>or:</i>	1 trip - let	2	3 trip - let	4
<i>or:</i>	1 - 2 - 3	1	1 - 2 - 3	1
<i>or:</i>	1 - un - un	2	3 - ee - ee	4

4. Clap and count these rhythms.

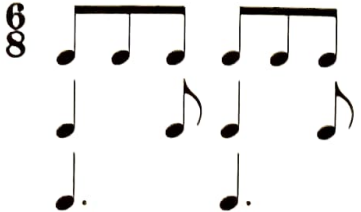
5. Play and count aloud.

Time Signature $\frac{6}{8}$

6 means six beats in each measure.
8 means the eighth note gets one beat.

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Rests</u>
		1 beat γ
		2 beats Z
		3 beats $\text{Z} \cdot$
		6 beats —

A measure in $\frac{6}{8}$ can be divided in half, creating a feeling of two pulses per measure.



Count: 1 2 3 4 5 6
 or: 1 2

6. Clap and count this rhythm aloud.



Count: 1 2 3 4 5 6 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 | 1 2 3 4 5 6

7. Write in the counts. Clap and count aloud.



8. Add barlines to this rhythm.
 Write in the counts. Clap and count aloud.



9. Write in the counts. Play and count aloud.



