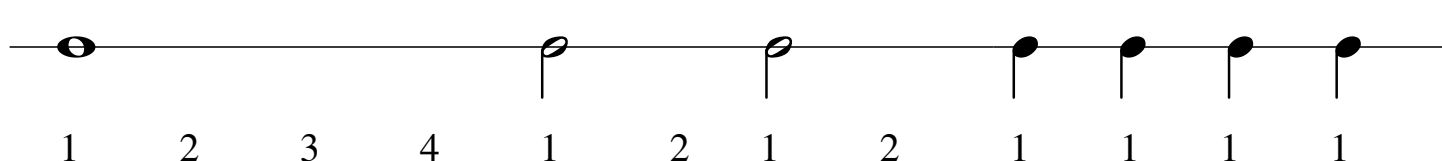


# Reading Rhythmic Notation

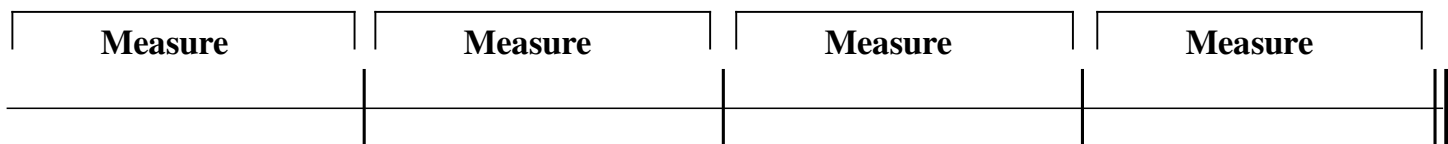
## Note Values and Time Signatures

The word RHYTHM describes patterns of long and short notes. These long and short notes are grouped together in measures of the same number of beats or counts.

WHOLE NOTE 4 BEATS	HALF NOTES 2 BEATS	QUARTER NOTES 1 BEAT
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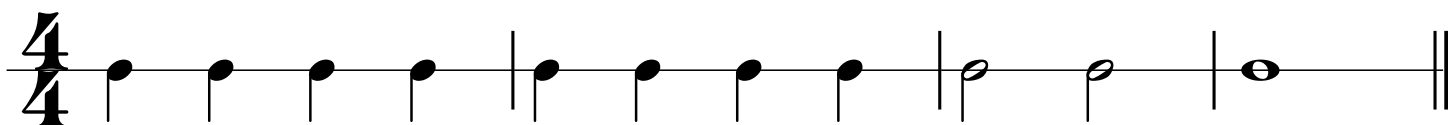


Music is divided into MEASURES. Each measure has the same number of beats or counts. Measures are separated by BAR LINES.



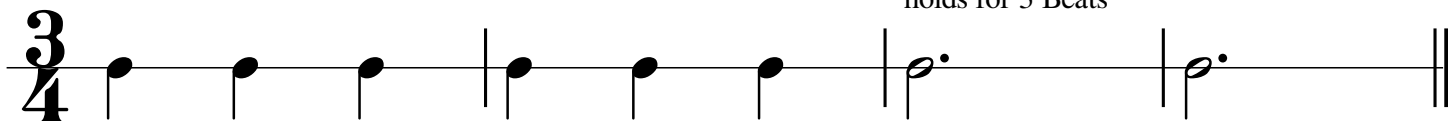
At the beginning of each piece of music, you will find the TIME SIGNATURE. It is two numbers, one stacked on top of the other. The top number tells us how many beats are in one measure. For example, if the top number is 4, there will be four beats in each measure. The bottom number 4 stands for Quarter Note. 4 over 4 tells us there are 4 Quarter Notes (or the equivalent) in every measure.

4 Beats per Measure



Quarter Note = One Beat

3 Beats per Measure



A Dotted Half Note  
holds for 3 Beats

Quarter Note = One Beat

Groups of notes held together by a single beam are called EIGHTH NOTES. Eighth notes are twice as fast as quarter notes. We count them by adding the word "and" in between the counts. The word "and" is written as "+".

4/4

1 2 3 4 | 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + | 1 2 + 3 4 | 1 + 2 3 + 4

3/4

1 2 3 | 1 + 2 + 3 + | 1 2 + 3 + | 1 2 + 3 +

Practice clapping the following rhythms. Count out loud as you clap.

# Rests

A REST is the absence of sound for a specified length. For every note, there is an equivalent rest. A whole rest is 4 beats of silence, a half rest is 2 beats of silence, a quarter rest is 1 beat of silence, and an eighth rest is 1/2 beat of silence.

WHOLE REST  
4 BEATS

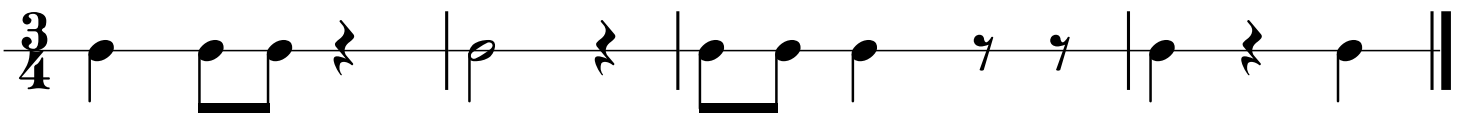
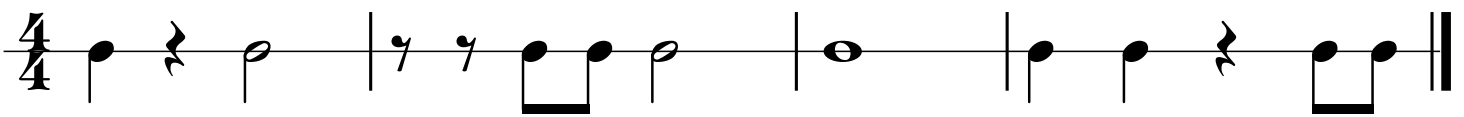
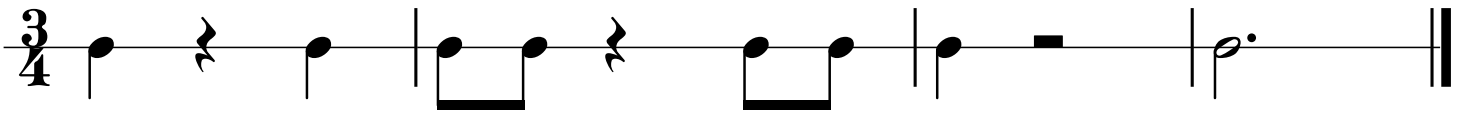
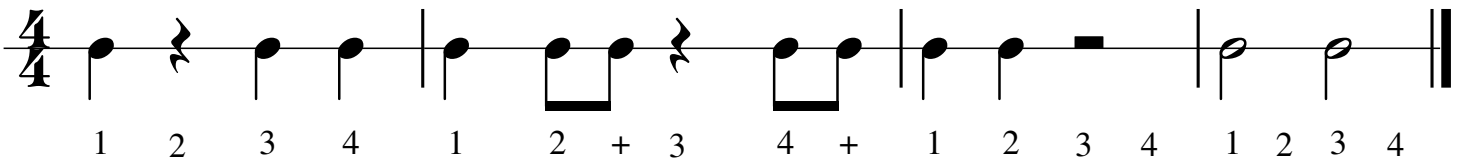
HALF RESTS  
2 BEATS

QUARTER RESTS  
1 BEAT

EIGHTH RESTS  
1/2 BEAT



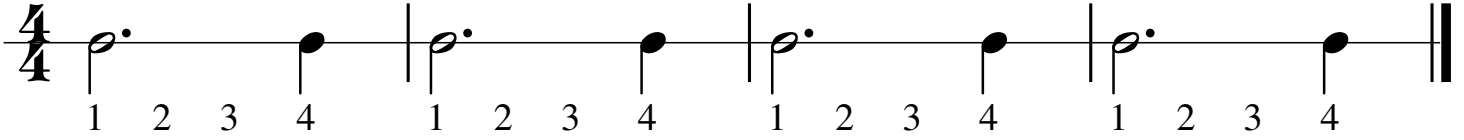
Practice clapping the following rhythms. Count out loud as you clap. For rests, continue counting but do not clap.



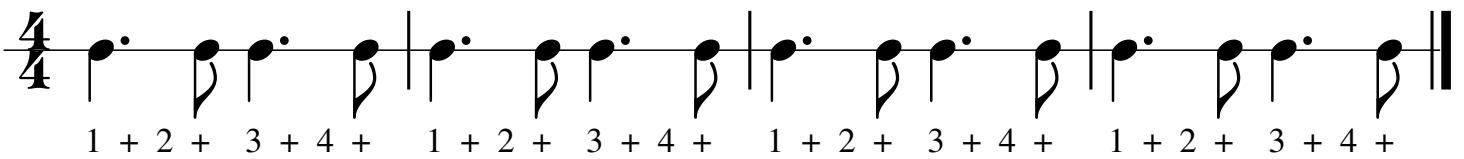
# Dotted Notes and Ties

A DOTTED NOTE holds for one and a half times the value of a note without a dot.

A DOTTED HALF NOTE holds for 3 beats.



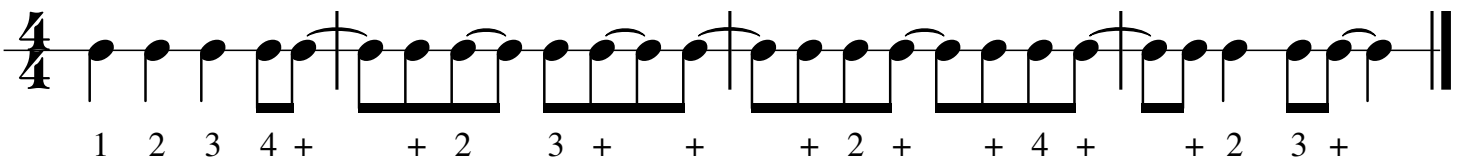
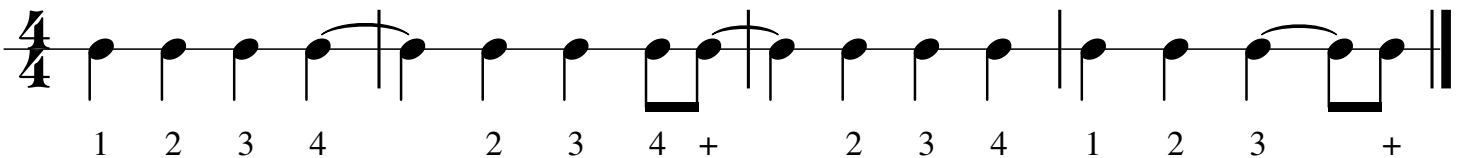
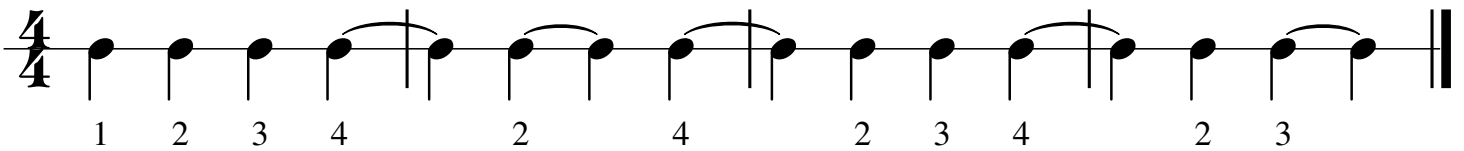
A DOTTED QUARTER NOTE holds for 1 1/2 beats, and is often followed by an eighth note.



A TIE is a curved line that connects two notes of the same pitch.

Only the first of the two notes connected by a tie is sounded. The note is held for the combined value of both notes.

2 tied quarter notes hold for 2 beats. A quarter note tied to an eighth note holds for 1 1/2 beats.



# Sixteenth Notes and Rests

SIXTEENTH NOTES are twice as fast as eighth notes.

Count the quarter notes quite slowly -  
you'll have to go four times faster when you get to the sixteenth notes!

Sixteenth notes can be counted "one ee and uh two ee and uh three ee and uh four ee and uh."

$\frac{4}{4}$

1 2 3 4    1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +    1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 e + a    1 2 + 3 e + a 4

$\frac{3}{4}$

1 2 3    1 + 2 + 3 +    1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a    1 2

$\frac{2}{4}$

1 2    1 + 2 +    1 e + a 2 e + a    1 2

The following examples use both sixteenth notes and rests.

$\frac{4}{4}$

1 3 4    1 + + + +    e + a e + a e + a e + a    1 2 + 3 e + a 4

$\frac{3}{4}$

1 3    + 2 + +    1 + a 2 + a 3 + a    1 2

$\frac{4}{4}$

1 2 3 4    + 2 + 3 + 4 +    1 e a e + a e + a 4 e a    1 2 + 3 e + a 4