


Unit 1

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


Notes and Rests in $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, and $\frac{4}{4}$

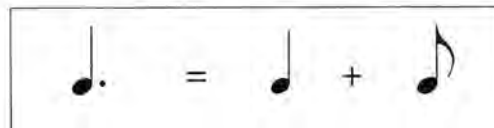
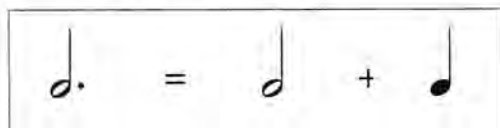
<u>1 beat</u>		<u>2 beats</u>		<u>4 beats</u>		<u>$\frac{1}{2}$ beat</u>	
Quarter Note 		Half Note 		Whole Note 		Eighth Note 	
Quarter Rest 		Half Rest 		Whole Rest  (whole measure rest)		Eighth Rest 	

Dotted Notes

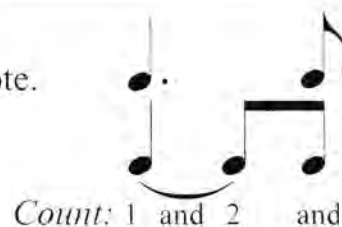
The dot on the right side of a note adds half of the value of the note.

Dotted Half Note  3 beats

Dotted Quarter Note  $1\frac{1}{2}$ beats



The dotted quarter note is often followed by one eighth note. This rhythm may be understood when seen as a quarter note tied to an eighth note.



Upbeats

An **upbeat** is the note or notes that come before the first full measure of a piece. The measure with the upbeat(s) is **incomplete**.

The missing counts are found in the last measure, which is also incomplete.

