

Unit 1

Meter

Meter is the grouping of beats into units of equal size called measures. The meter of a composition is indicated by the time signature.

Duple, Triple, and Quadruple Meter

Music with *two* beats in each measure is called **duple meter**.



Music with *three* beats in each measure is called **triple meter**.



Music with *four* beats in each measure is called **quadruple meter**.



Simple and Compound Meter

In **simple meter**, the beat can be divided by two: ♩ = ♪♪ or ♩ = ♪♪ or ♩ = ♪♪
The top number in the time signature will be 2, 3, or 4.



In **compound meter**, the beat can be divided by three: ♩ = ♪♪♪
The top number in the time signature will be 6, 9, or 12.

