

$\frac{4}{4}$ Time Signature and Note Values

The TIME SIGNATURE appears at the beginning of the music after the clef sign. It contains two numbers, one above the other.

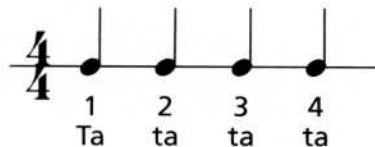


$\frac{4}{4}$ The upper number tells how many beats (or counts) are in each measure. In this case, 4.

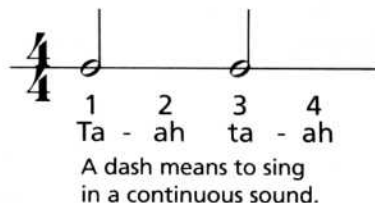
$\frac{4}{4}$ The lower number indicates what type of note receives 1 beat. In this case, a quarter note.

In $\frac{4}{4}$ time:

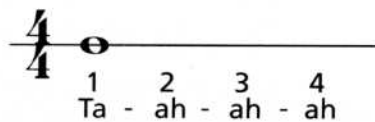
A quarter note (♩) is equal to one count (or beat). Count (1, 2, 3, 4) and clap the rhythm evenly (once per beat). The beat numbers are written under the notes. Also, say "ta" and clap.



A half note (♪) is equal to two counts (or beats). Count and clap the rhythm evenly (holding your hands together for 2 beats). The beat numbers are written under the notes. Also, say "ta-ah" (in a continuous sound) and clap.

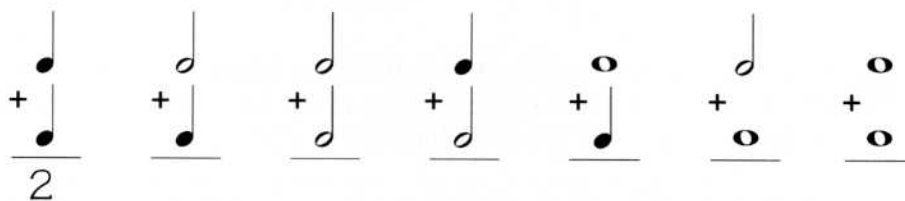


A whole note (♩) is equal to four counts (or beats). Count and clap the rhythm evenly (hands together for 4 beats). The beat numbers are written under the notes. Also, say "ta-ah-ah-ah" (in a continuous sound) and clap.



Exercises

- 1** Add the following notes to get the total number of beats:



- 2** Draw bar lines, a double bar at the end, and stems on the appropriate notes in the following example so that there are 4 beats in each measure. Count and clap; say (using "ta", etc.) and clap.



- 3** Write the $\frac{4}{4}$ time signature and fill in the missing beats (if any) by adding only one note per measure. Count and clap; say and clap.

