

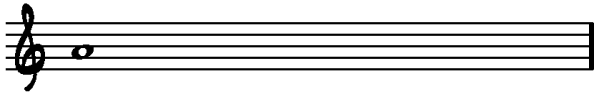




Rhythmic Elements (Page 1)

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Part 1: Note Values

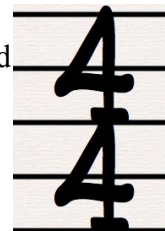
“Note Values” are a way of expressing the duration of notes relative to each other. Keep in mind that the relationship is exact. If a whole note is one second long than a half note is exactly $\frac{1}{2}$ a second long and if a quarter note is one second long, than a whole note is 4 seconds long.

Whole Note 1 Whole note	
Half Note 2 half notes = 1 whole note 1 half note = $\frac{1}{2}$ whole note	
Quarter Notes 4 quarter notes = 1 whole note 1 quarter note = $\frac{1}{4}$ whole note	
Eighth Notes 8 eighth notes = 1 whole note 1 eighth note = $\frac{1}{8}$ whole note	
Sixteenth Notes 16 sixteenth notes = 1 whole note 1 sixteenth note = $\frac{1}{16}$ whole note	

Part 2: The Pulse (beat) of the music

Each song has a pulse often called the beat. The beat is assigned a note value by the person writing down the music, and from that note value we can determine how many beats other note vales will have.

At the beginning of a piece of music there is a *Time Signature* which looks like a fraction (and it actually is). The bottom number of the fraction tells you what the pulse of the music is. In this case because the bottom number is a 4, the quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) note will be our beat. The top number tells you how many of the beat will be in a measure. In this case 4. So in this example there would be 4 quarter in a measure.



Looking back at part one we can now go through and assign actual lengths to each of the notes. According to our time signature:

- 1) the whole note gets 4 beats
- 2) the half note gets 2 beats
- 3) the quarter note gets 1 beat
- 4) the eighth note gets $\frac{1}{2}$ of a beat
- 5) the sixteenth note gets $\frac{1}{4}$ of a beat

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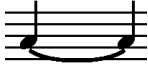
Part 3: *Other Values*

The system we have so far doesn't have enough variation to express all of the rhythmic possibilities in music. Here are the most common tools composers use to express other values.

1) The dot.

- A dot after (not below or above) a note extends its value by $\frac{1}{2}$. In other words, if a the quarter note is the beat:
 - a quarter note with a dot (called a “dotted quarter note”) is $1 \frac{1}{2}$ beats long. 
 - A dotted half note then would be 3 beats long (2 for the half note + $\frac{1}{2}$ of 2 for the dot) 

2) The tie

- The tie, ties two notes together, adding their values to one another. The tie looks like a curved line connecting the head (circular part) of the note to the head of the next note. Again assuming the quarter note gets the beat:
 - a quarter note (1 beat) with a tie to another quarter note is played like one note with a value of 2 beats (1+1). 
 - a half note (2 beats) tied to a quarter note (1 beat) is played like one note with a value of 3 beats (2+1). 