

Reading & Rhythm.

Count it, clap it, read it: rhythms, time signatures and the signs on the page.

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RHYTHM

Counting Rhythms

Say the counts out loud while you clap or tap. The numbers are the beats; e, & and a split them.

Crotchets 

Quavers 

Semiquavers 

Quaver triplets 

Notes and rests 

Dotted rhythms 

Counts in brackets fall on a held note or a rest: keep counting them silently.

RHYTHM

Ties & Dots

A tie joins two notes of the same pitch into one longer sound. A dot adds half the note's value.

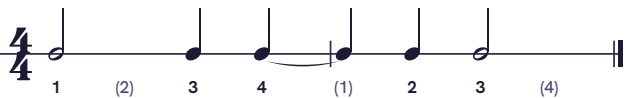
Both give the same length, as these pairs show.

 **Dotted minim** 3 beats

 **Dotted crotchet** 1½ beats

 **Dotted quaver** ¾ beats

A tie can cross the bar line into the next bar; a dot can't.



PRACTICE TIP

Practise slowly. Speed comes from playing it right, not from playing it fast.

EXPRESSION & TEMPO

Articulations

Marks above or below a note tell you how to play it. Most go on the note-head side; the marcato and fermata go above.

 **Staccato** Short and detached

 **Accent** Play this note louder

 **Tenuto** Hold it for its full length, slightly stressed

 **Marcato** Strongly accented

 **Fermata** Hold longer than written

 **Slur** Play smoothly, without breaks (legato)

EXPRESSION & TEMPO

Dynamics

How loud or soft to play.

pp *pianissimo* very soft

p *piano* soft

mp *mezzo-piano* moderately soft

mf *mezzo-forte* moderately loud

f *forte* loud

ff *fortissimo* very loud

 *crescendo* gradually louder

 *decrescendo* (diminuendo) gradually softer

