

Reading & Rhythm.

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

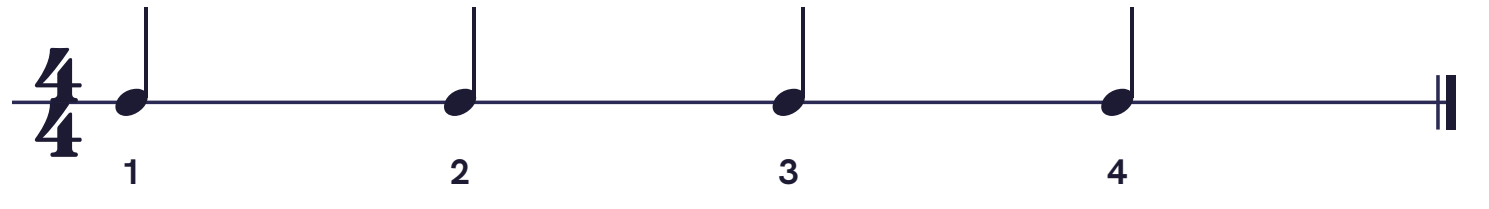
Free printable · 24 × 36 in

RHYTHM

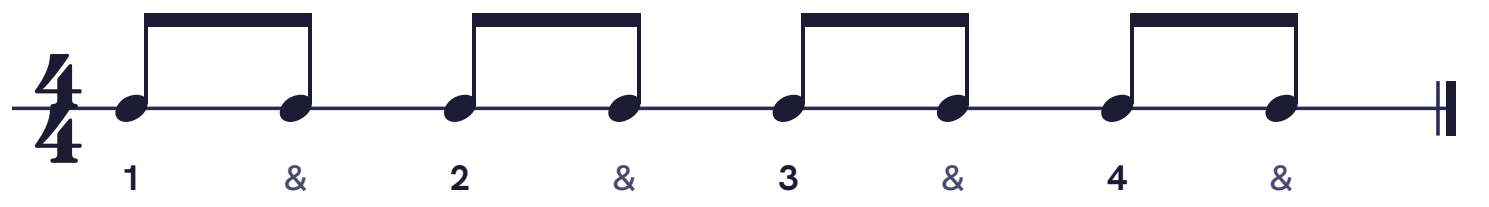
Counting Rhythms

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

Quarter notes



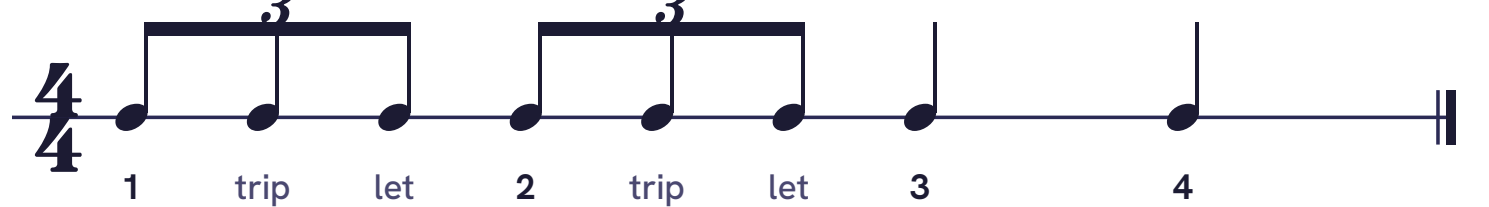
Eighth notes



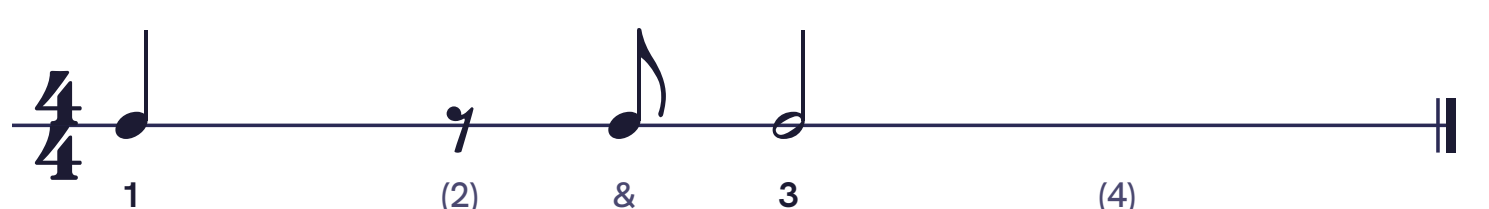
Sixteenth notes



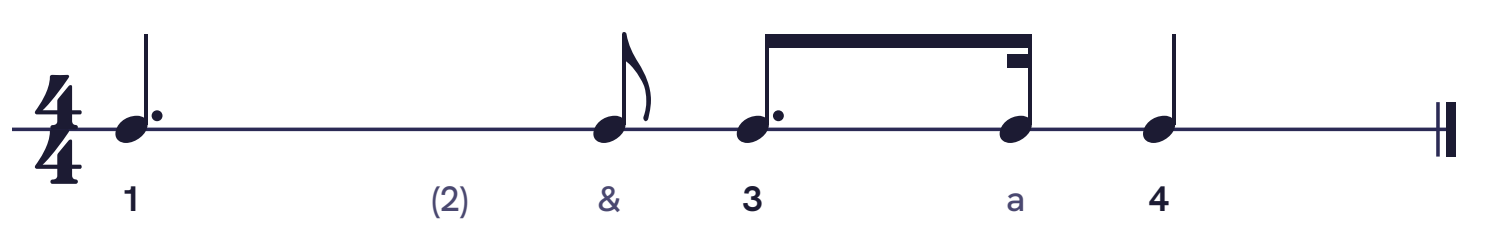
Eighth-note triplets



Notes and rests



Dotted rhythms



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

RHYTHM

Note & Rest Values

NOTE	REST	NAME	BEATS IN 4/4
		Whole note	4 beats
		Half note	2 beats
		Quarter note	1 beat
		Eighth note	½ beats
		Sixteenth note	¼ beats

A dot adds half the note's value: a dotted half note = 2 + 1 = 3 beats.

PRACTICE TIP

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

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 half note

3 beats

 = 

Dotted quarter note

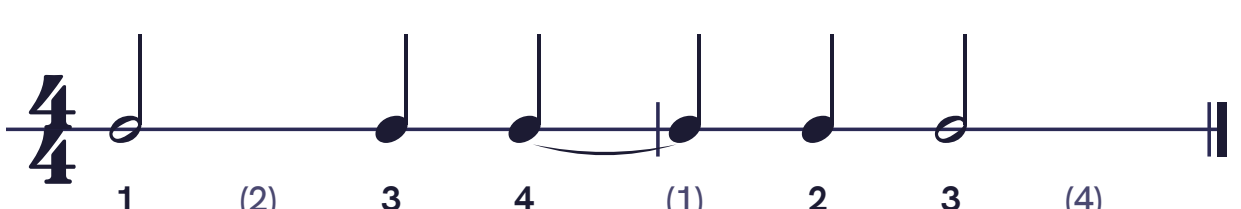
1½ beats

 = 

Dotted eighth note

¾ beats

A tie can cross the barline into the next measure; a dot can't.



1 (2) 3 4 (1) 2 3 (4)

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)

PRACTICE TIP

Say the note names out loud as you read.

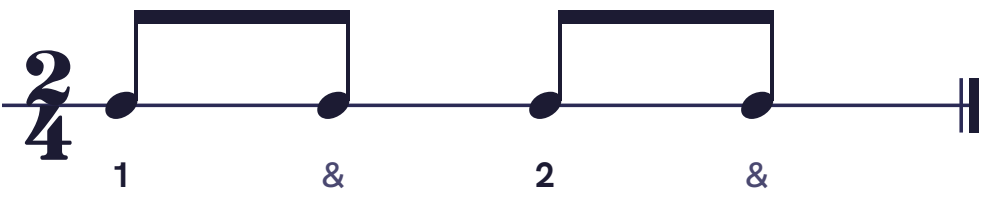
RHYTHM

Simple & Compound Time

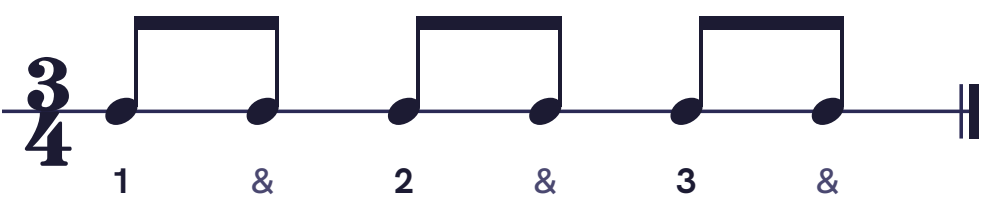
The time signature tells you how the beat divides. Beams group the notes the same way, one group per beat.

Simple time

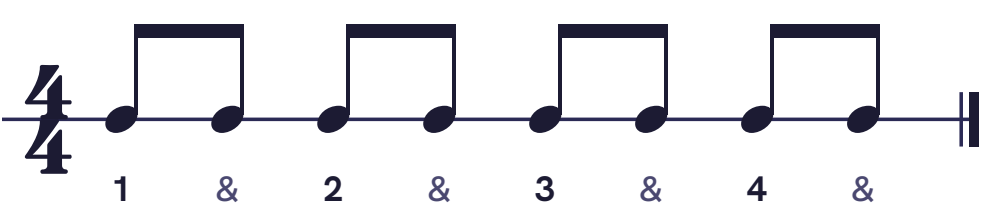
The beat is a quarter note. It splits into 2 eighths.



2 beats



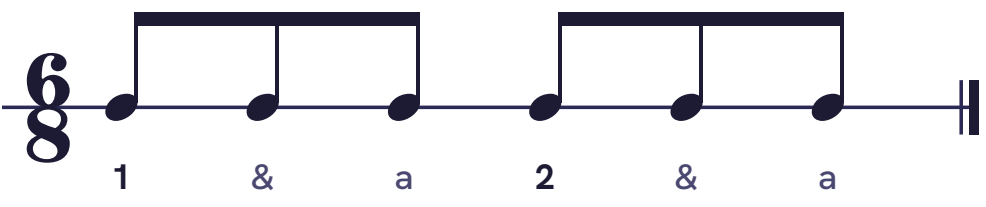
3 beats



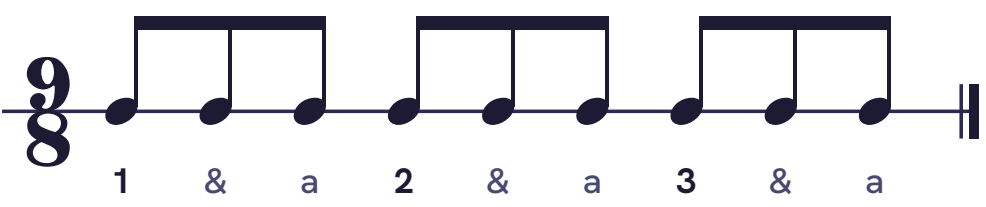
4 beats

Compound time

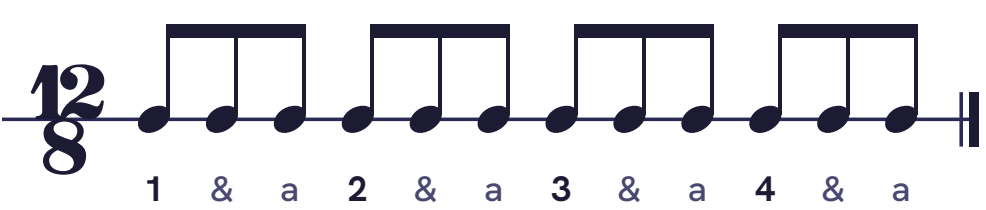
The beat is a dotted quarter note. It splits into 3 eighths.



2 beats



3 beats



4 beats

EXPRESSION & TEMPO

Dynamics

How loud or soft to play.

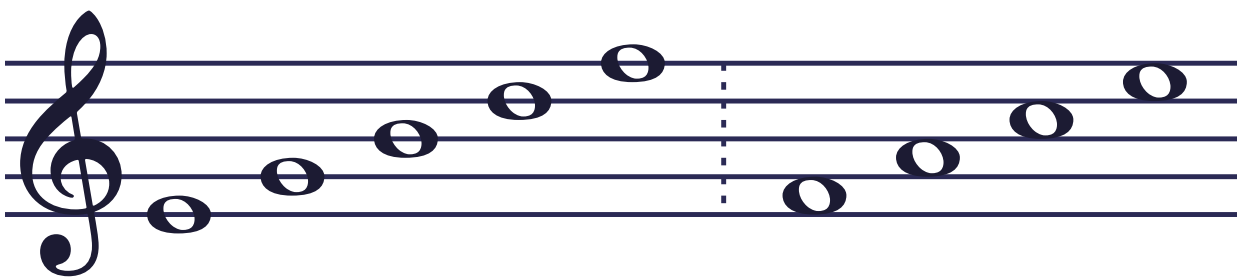
<i>pp</i>	pianissimo	very soft
<i>p</i>	piano	soft
<i>mp</i>	mezzo-piano	moderately soft
<i>mf</i>	mezzo-forte	moderately loud
<i>f</i>	forte	loud
<i>ff</i>	fortissimo	very loud
	crescendo	gradually louder
	decrescendo (diminuendo)	gradually softer

FOUNDATIONS

Note Names on the Staff

Read from the bottom line up.

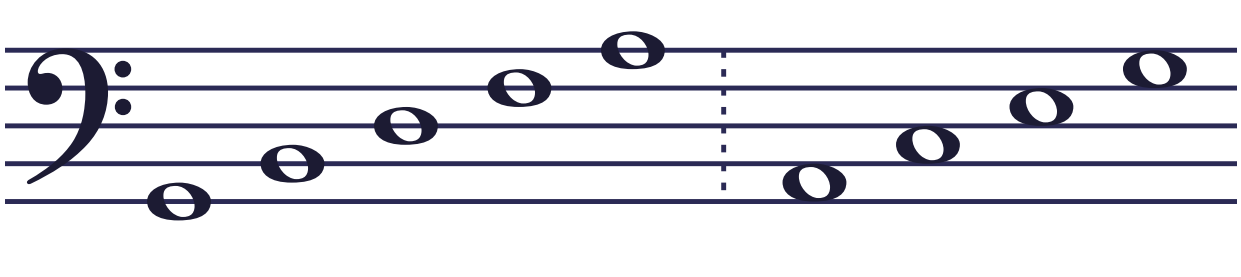
Treble clef



E G B D F F A C E

Lines: Every Good Boy Does Fine · Spaces: FACE

Bass clef



G B D F A A C E G

Lines: Good Boys Do Fine Always · Spaces: All Cows Eat Grass

FOUNDATIONS

Repeats & Road Map

Signs that send you back or ahead, so music doesn't have to be written out twice.



Repeat signs

Play the music between the signs twice. With no start sign, go back to the beginning.



1st and 2nd endings

Play the 1st ending the first time. On the repeat, skip it and play the 2nd ending.

D.C. al Fine

Da capo al fine

Go back to the beginning (da capo: from the top) and play to Fine.



Dal segno al coda

Go back to the sign (dal segno: from the sign), play to "To Coda", then jump to the coda.

Fine

Fine (fee-nay)

The end of the piece.

Play order





