

Reading & Rhythm.

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

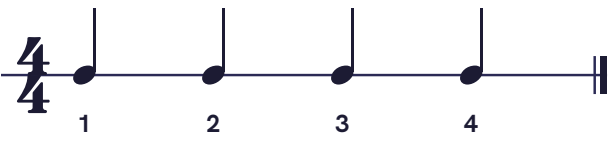
Free printable · 11 × 17 in

RHYTHM

Counting Rhythms

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

Crotchets



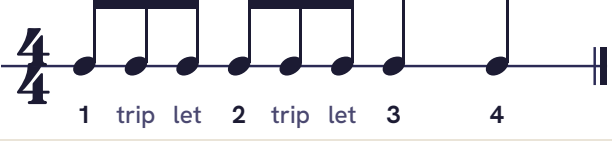
Quavers



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

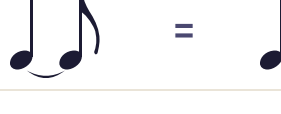
A tie joins two notes of the same pitch into one longer sound. A dot adds half the note's value.

Both give the same length, as these pairs show.



Dotted minim

3 beats



Dotted crotchet

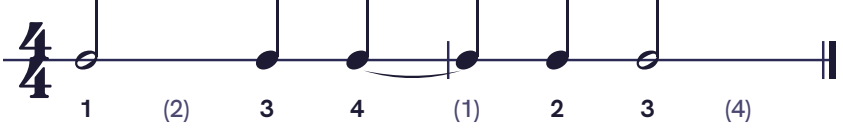
1½ beats



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.



pianissimo

very soft



piano

soft



mezzo-piano

moderately soft



mezzo-forte

moderately loud



forte

loud



fortissimo

very loud



crescendo

gradually louder



decrescendo (diminuendo)

gradually softer

