

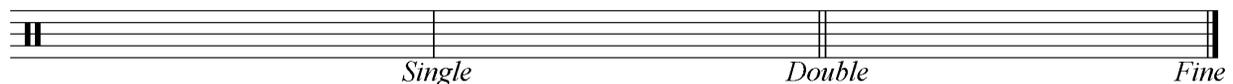
Reading Music

There are 5 primary types of notes used in music. They are listed out below with both the American name and European name. It is advised that you are familiar with both names however the American names are most common in popular music. It is important that you can name all 5 of these notes quickly and accurately as well as know the value for each note.

Note	American Name	European Name	Value
	Whole Note	Semibreve	4 beats
	Half Note	Minim	2 beats
	Quarter Note	Crotchet	1 beat
	Eighth Note	Quaver	½ beat
	Sixteenth Note	Semiquaver	¼ beat

Bars

Music is divided into smaller units called bars. They help keep the groups of notes organized in chunks that are easy to read. Bars are separated on the page by barlines and there are three types:



Single barlines are the most common and are generally used to separate bars.

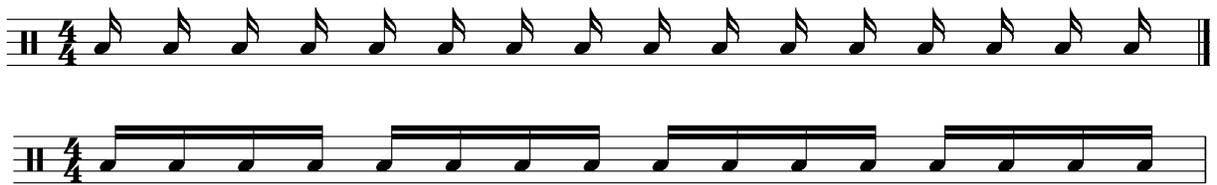
Double barlines are used to show the ends of sections.

Fine (pronounced *fee nay*) barlines are used at the end of compositions.

Beaming

Eighth notes and sixteenth notes often have their tails joined together. This is called beaming. It makes them easier to read and once you become familiar with the way notes are grouped together you will recognize the certain rhythms very quickly.

Look at the example below and you will see that once beamed the bar becomes much clearer.



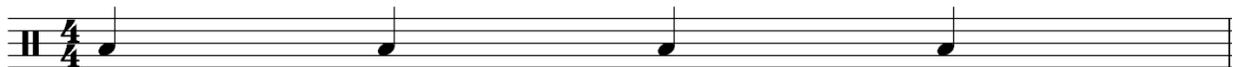
Time Signatures

4

4

Time signatures define the contents of a bar- how many beats and pulses make up the groove of the song. The best thing is to think of them as fractions.

The top number tells you how many counts there are in a bar, and the bottom number tells you the value of each count. So if we think of 4/4 as a fraction this tells us that a bar of 4/4 contains four quarter notes.



Clefs

For now we are dealing with rhythm so the clef we will be using is the *percussion clef*. It means that the lines of the stave do not represent specific pitch:

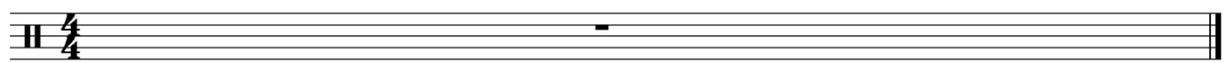


The other common clefs are Treble  bass  and tab  each of the clefs lets us know specific information about the pitches of the notes, or in the case of tab that the notation used will be tablature and not standard musical notation.

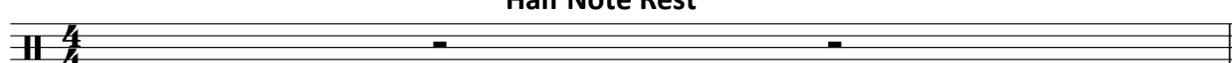
Rest

Rest receive the same value as a the note they represent. The only difference is a rest is a note that is not actually played on the instrument but is counted for as though it was.

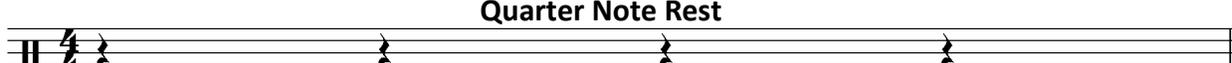
Whole Note Rest



Half Note Rest



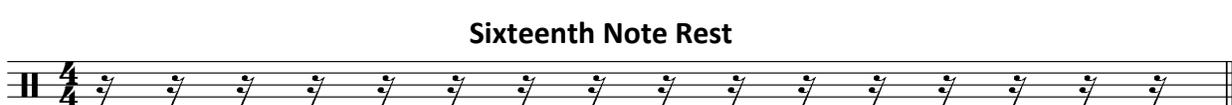
Quarter Note Rest



Eighth Note Rest



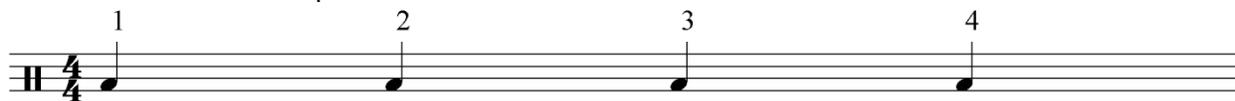
Sixteenth Note Rest



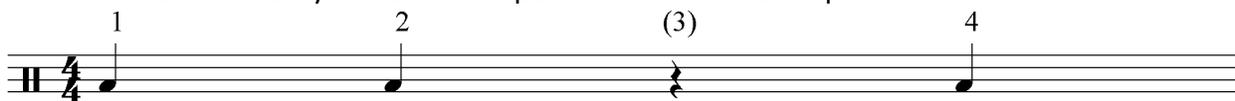
Counting Systems

Counting rhythms correctly will enable you to learn rhythm reading quickly and easily. There are a few reasons, the most important is knowing where you are in a bar. After some time working on rhythm reading these things will become instinctive and you probably would not need to count, but will find it very useful if you encounter a new difficult passage.

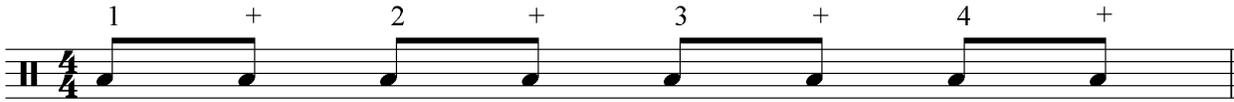
The most important part of any count is the numbers which in 4/4 would be '1 2 3 4' because these describe the main pulse.



The important trick here is that the beat (numbers) will be counted even when there is a rest! - but when there is a rest you would whisper the count. For example:



Notes played in between the main pulse will be counted too . Eight notes are counted by adding an (and) between the pulse notes. The (and) is represented by the + symbol.



Sixteenth would be counted using the sounds/words, and (written as +'), ee (written as e) and aah (written as a).



Showing a mixed example:

