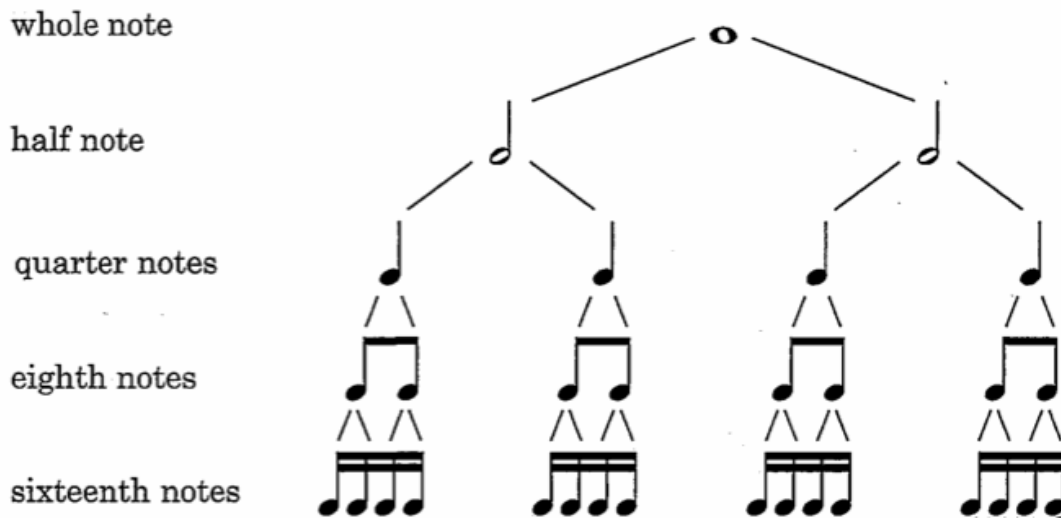


Rhythm

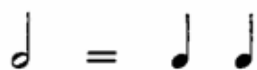
Rhythm is the organization of sounds and silence over time. The building blocks of rhythm are notes, which represent sound. Different note values represent different durations of sound:



The illustration above shows that note values are based on divisions of a whole note, which can be divided into two half notes, four quarter notes, eight eighth notes, etc.



One whole note is equal in duration to four quarter notes.



One half note is equal in duration to two quarter notes.

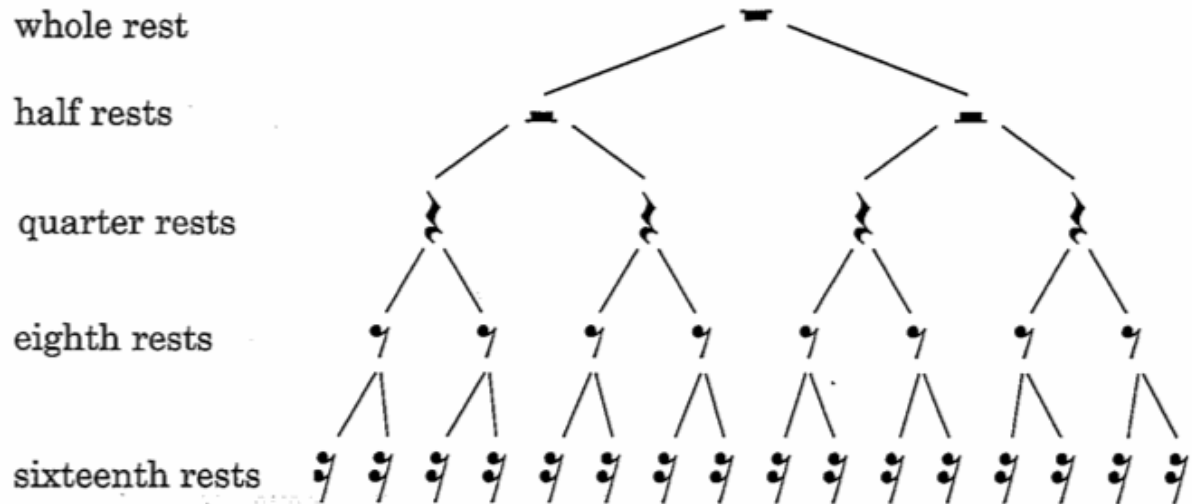


Two eighth notes equal one quarter note in duration.



Four sixteenth notes equal one quarter note in duration.

Silences can also be notated using rests. As with notes, different values of rest represent different durations of silence:



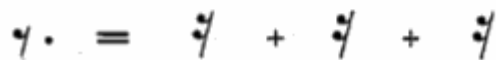
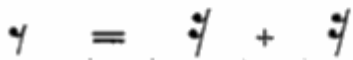
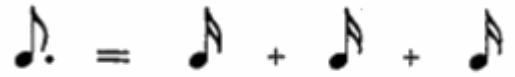
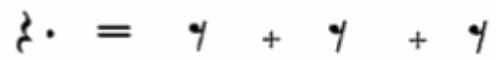
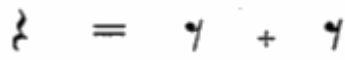
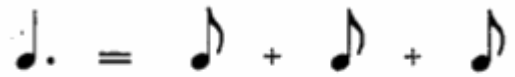
A note value can be increased by half, by adding a dot after the note. This is called a **dotted rhythm**.

Half Note:

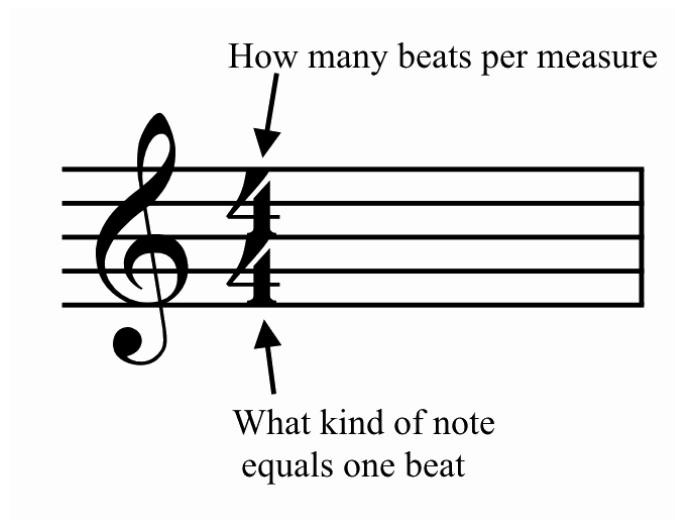
Dotted Half Note:

Quarter Note:

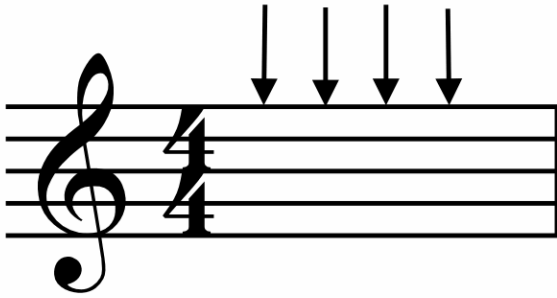
Dotted Quarter Note:



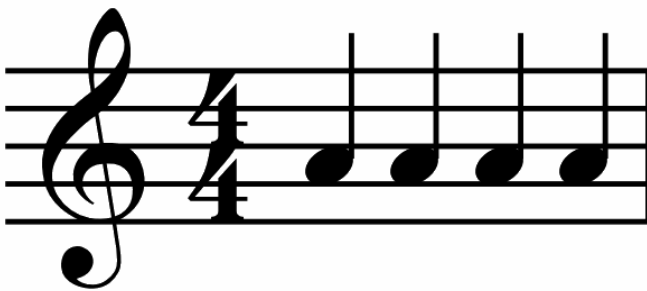
The second component of rhythm is meter. Meter is the framework within various note values are organized. The meter is defined at the beginning of a piece of music by a time signature. A **time signature** consists of two numbers: the top number tells you how many beats (divisions of time) in each measure, and the bottom number tells you what kind of note equals one beat. Take the following example:



The top number says that there are four beats in each measure:



The bottom number says that one beat equals a quarter note. Therefore, we know that a total of four quarter notes can fit within one measure:



According to the tree of note values, many rhythmic patterns are possible within this framework. Here are just a few examples:

