

Note & Rest Values Part 1

- Music really is all about rhythm. Rhythm is all about counting. Listen to your favourite pop song, and you will feel a beat—or rhythm. This rhythm will likely fall into groups of four: 1, 2, 3, 4. 1, 2, 3, 4. Each one of these four divisions makes up 1 bar.
- But as we saw in the Time Signatures Part 1 & 2 pages, not all music has to be broken up into bars of four—meaning not all music is written in 4/4 time.
- Regardless of how many beats per bar there are, or which kind of note gets 1 beat, there are different types of note values, and they each signify a length of time of a measure.
- It really comes down to doing a bit of math. As you see below, each shorter note is exactly half as long as the one before it.

Whole note:



Called a whole note because it takes up the whole bar of 4/4 time.

Half note:



Called a half note because it is half as long as a whole note. It also lasts half a measure in 4/4 time.

Quarter note:



A quarter note is half the length of a half note. In 4/4 music, there would be four in a bar, and each would get one beat.

Eighth note:



An eighth note is half as long in duration as a quarter note. In 4/4 time there would be 8, eighth notes per bar.

Sixteenth note:



Sixteenth notes are yet again half as long in duration as an eighth note. In 4/4 time there would be 16, sixteenth notes in a bar.

- There are notes even shorter in duration than sixteenth notes, but the notes I've included here are the most common ones you'll see.