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# CHAPTER 2: BASIC NOTE DURATIONS

The *duration* of a note (how long a note lasts compared to the length of a beat) is shown with the following symbols. These are known as *note values*.

The symbol that's used most often to represent a single beat is the one that we've already seen. It has a black *notehead* (the oval part) and a tail called a *stem*.

## Basic Symbols

This is known as a *quarter note*. With four beats per measure, we'll have four quarter notes.

### Quarter Note



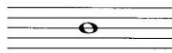
For a note that lasts twice as long, the notehead is hollow. This note is called a *half note*. It is worth two quarter notes.

### Half Note



To show a note that lasts for four beats, the symbol you'll need is a stemless, hollow notehead. This is

### Whole Note

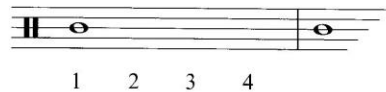


The whole note is the longest duration you'll commonly see. With four beats per measure.

Listen to the audio track and clap on the first beat of each measure and be sure to say the beat count out loud as you clap before the music begins.

### Example 1

 Audio 02-01



Let's recap. A whole note is sure to clap whenever a measure of music starts.



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3. ♩ = 70



Exercise 3 consists of two staves of music. The top staff is in 3/4 time and contains two measures of eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff is in 2/4 time and contains two measures of eighth-note patterns.

4. ♩ = 60



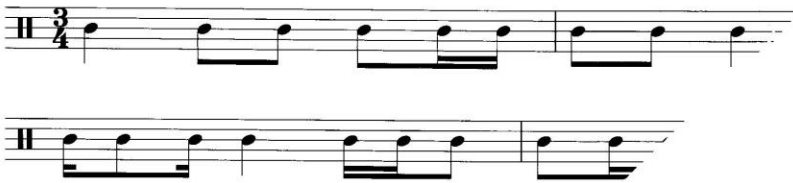
Exercise 4 consists of two staves of music. The top staff is in 4/4 time and contains two measures of eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff is in 2/4 time and contains two measures of eighth-note patterns.

5. ♩ = 80



Exercise 5 consists of two staves of music. The top staff is in 4/4 time and contains two measures of eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff is in 2/4 time and contains two measures of eighth-note patterns.

6. ♩ = 40



Exercise 6 consists of two staves of music. The top staff is in 3/4 time and contains two measures of eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff is in 2/4 time and contains two measures of eighth-note patterns.

7. ♩ = 60



Exercise 7 consists of two staves of music. The top staff is in 4/4 time and contains two measures of eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff is in 2/4 time and contains two measures of eighth-note patterns.



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# CHAPTER 9: TRIPLETS

As we've seen, simple time signatures all have a basic beat that subdivides into two. In 4/4, for example, the quarter-note beat subdivides into two eighth notes. Those eighth notes can be subdivided further, into two 16th notes each.

## Example 1

 Audio 09-01

♩ = 100



It is also possible to subdivide this quarter-note beat into three. This is where *triplets* come in. Triplets are groups of **three** notes played in the space of **two**.

Look at the following rhythm. In this example, the third beat in each measure contains three eighth notes, rather than two. Together, they equal the length of two standard eighth notes. The triplet eighth notes are grouped by a single beam, with an additional "3" to indicate the triplet.

The triplets are played evenly but usually with an accent on the first triplet eighth note of the group. Clap and count carefully to say the beat counts on the third beat without rushing.

## Example 2

 Audio 09-02

♩ = 100



We can also create quarter-note triplets, with three notes played in the space of two ordinary quarter notes. In this next example take the place of two ordinary quarter notes. The triplet quarter notes are grouped by a single beam, with an additional "3" to indicate the triplet.

Clap them clearly and evenly. Listen out for the way the triplet quarter notes are played. It might not feel very natural at first.

## Example 3

 Audio 09-03


♩ = 100




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And now, with some rests and ties added.

 **Audio 10-ex-09 to 10-ex-14**

9. ♩ = 60



1 e & a 2 e & 3 e & 1 e & 2 & 3 e & a

1 e & 2 e & a 3 & 1 e & 2 & 3 &

10. ♪ = 140



11. ♩ = 50



12. ♩ = 60



13. ♩ = 80



14. ♪ = 140



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# CHAPTER 13: 32ND NOTES

There's one more subdivision to look at: the 32nd note. As you can imagine, this is half the duration of a 16th note.

32nd notes are drawn like 16th notes but with an additional flag.



When 32nd notes are beamed together, they have triple beams. They are grouped together like this to make them easier to read.



With eight 32nd notes to a quarter-note beat, there are 32 in a single measure of 4/4.

32nd rests are drawn just like 16th rests but with an additional flag.



## Tapping 32nd Notes

To get a feel for 32nd notes, tap through the next exercise in the following way.

- At a slow tempo (the recording is at 40 bpm), tap even quarter notes in 4/4 with one finger.
- After two measures, you'll need to tap eighth notes. Use the same single finger for on-beat eighth notes.
- After two measures of eighth notes, you're playing 16th notes, and if you're all with the same finger. Remember to accent the on-beat 16th note.
- Finally, you'll need to bring the opposite hand into play for the

Tapping rhythms is a bit of a knack, but it's a useful tool; drive home by focussing on which hand you're using for the different subdivisions. Practice fast notes reliably and confidently.



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