

UNIT 9: TIME SIGNATURES

In music, steady beats are divided into groups. A steady beat may be divided into

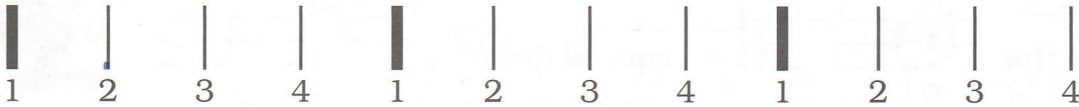
2's:



or **3's:**



or **4's:**

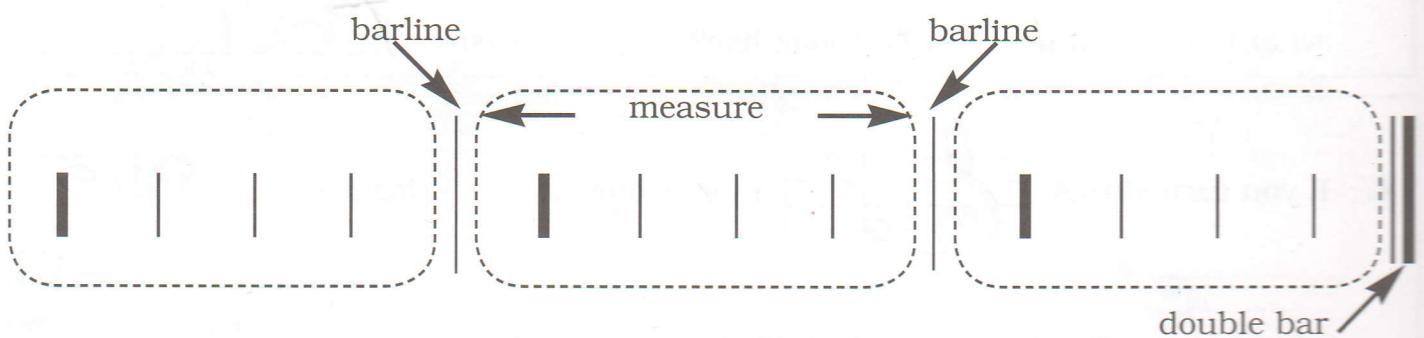


or any number of beats!



Each group of beats is separated by barlines. The space between the barlines is called a **measure**.

Barlines divide the beats into **measures**. A **double bar** is placed at the end.



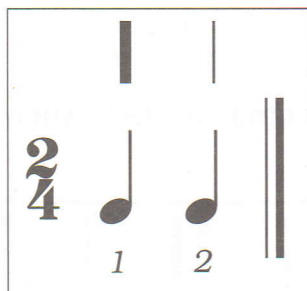
TIME SIGNATURES, CONT.



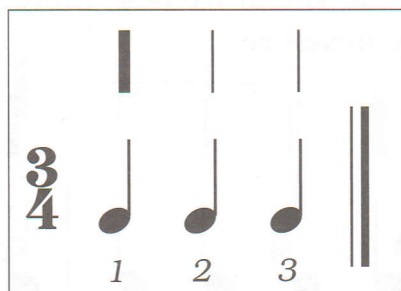
These are **time signatures**: $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$
 The top number tells us how many beats are in each measure.
 The bottom number tells us the kind of note that gets one beat.



$\frac{2}{4}$ When you see $\frac{2}{4}$ think $\frac{2}{4}$
 (two quarter notes) in each measure.



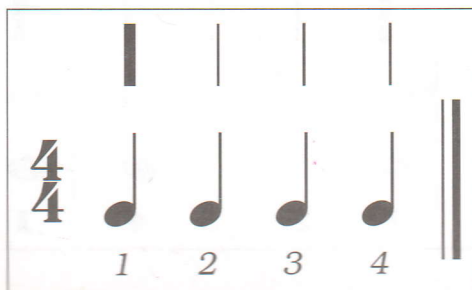
$\frac{3}{4}$ When you see $\frac{3}{4}$ think $\frac{3}{4}$
 (three quarter notes) in each measure.

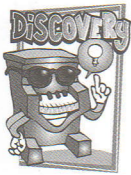


When using time signatures, count in a new way. Add up the beats in each measure.



$\frac{4}{4}$ When you see $\frac{4}{4}$ think $\frac{4}{4}$
 (four quarter notes) in each measure.





TIME SIGNATURES, CONT.

When the top number in the time signature is 2, there are 2 beats in every measure. Count “one, two” in every measure.

2/4
Say: 1 2 1 2 1 2

When the top number in the time signature is 3, there are 3 beats in every measure. Count “one, two, three” in every measure.

3/4
Say: 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3

When the top number in the time signature is 4, there are 4 beats in every measure. Count “one, two, three, four” in every measure.

4/4
Say: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

When clapping and counting whole notes, dotted half notes, half notes, and quarter notes in a rhythm, add up the beats in each measure.

4/4
Say: 1 - 2 3 - 4 1 - 2 - 3 4 1 - 2 - 3 - 4



COUNTS GONE MISSING

Write in the missing counts then clap and count each rhythm. Remember to feel the steady beat before you begin.

1. $\frac{2}{4}$

Rhythm 1: Quarter note, Quarter note. Counts: 1, 2.

Rhythm 2: Half note. Counts: 1 - 2.

Rhythm 3: Quarter note, Quarter note. Counts: 1, 2.

Rhythm 4: Quarter note, Quarter note. Counts: 1, 2.

Rhythm 5: Half note. Counts: 1 - 2.

2. $\frac{3}{4}$

Rhythm 1: Quarter note, Quarter note, Quarter note. Counts: 1, 2, 3.

Rhythm 2: Half note. Counts: 1 - 2 - 3.

Rhythm 3: Quarter note, Quarter note, Quarter note. Counts: 1, 2, 3.

Rhythm 4: Half note. Counts: 1 - 2 - 3.

3. $\frac{4}{4}$

Rhythm 1: Half note, Half note. Counts: 1 - 2, 3 - 4.

Rhythm 2: Half note. Counts: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4.

Rhythm 3: Quarter note, Half note. Counts: 1, 2 - 3 - 4.

Rhythm 4: Quarter note, Half note. Counts: 1, 2 - 3 - 4.

4. $\frac{4}{4}$

Rhythm 1: Half note, Quarter note, Quarter note. Counts: 1 - 2, 3, 4.

Rhythm 2: Quarter note, Half note. Counts: 1, 2 - 3 - 4.

Rhythm 3: Quarter note, Half note, Quarter note. Counts: 1, 2 - 3, 4.






THE WINDSTORM

The notes on this page were scattered by a terrible windstorm. Put them back where they belong by drawing the notes above the counts in each measure. Use only the notes on the bottom of the page. (Hint: Cross out the notes as you go.)

1. $\frac{2}{4}$

1 - 2 | 1 - 2 | 1 2 ||



2. $\frac{3}{4}$

1 - 2 - 3 | 1 2 3 | 1 2 3 ||

3. $\frac{4}{4}$

1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 ||

