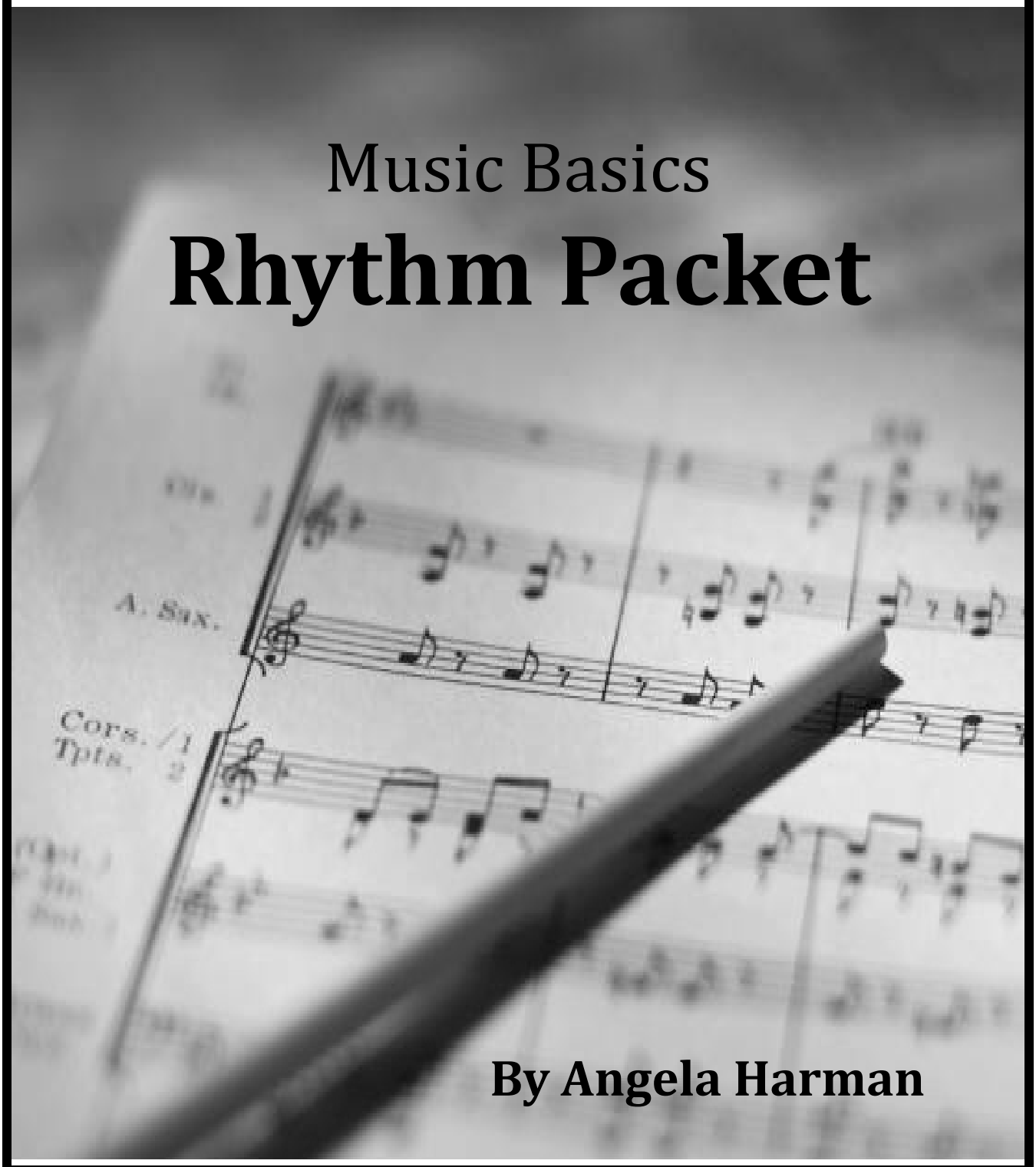
Music Basics

Rhythm Packet



By Angela Harman

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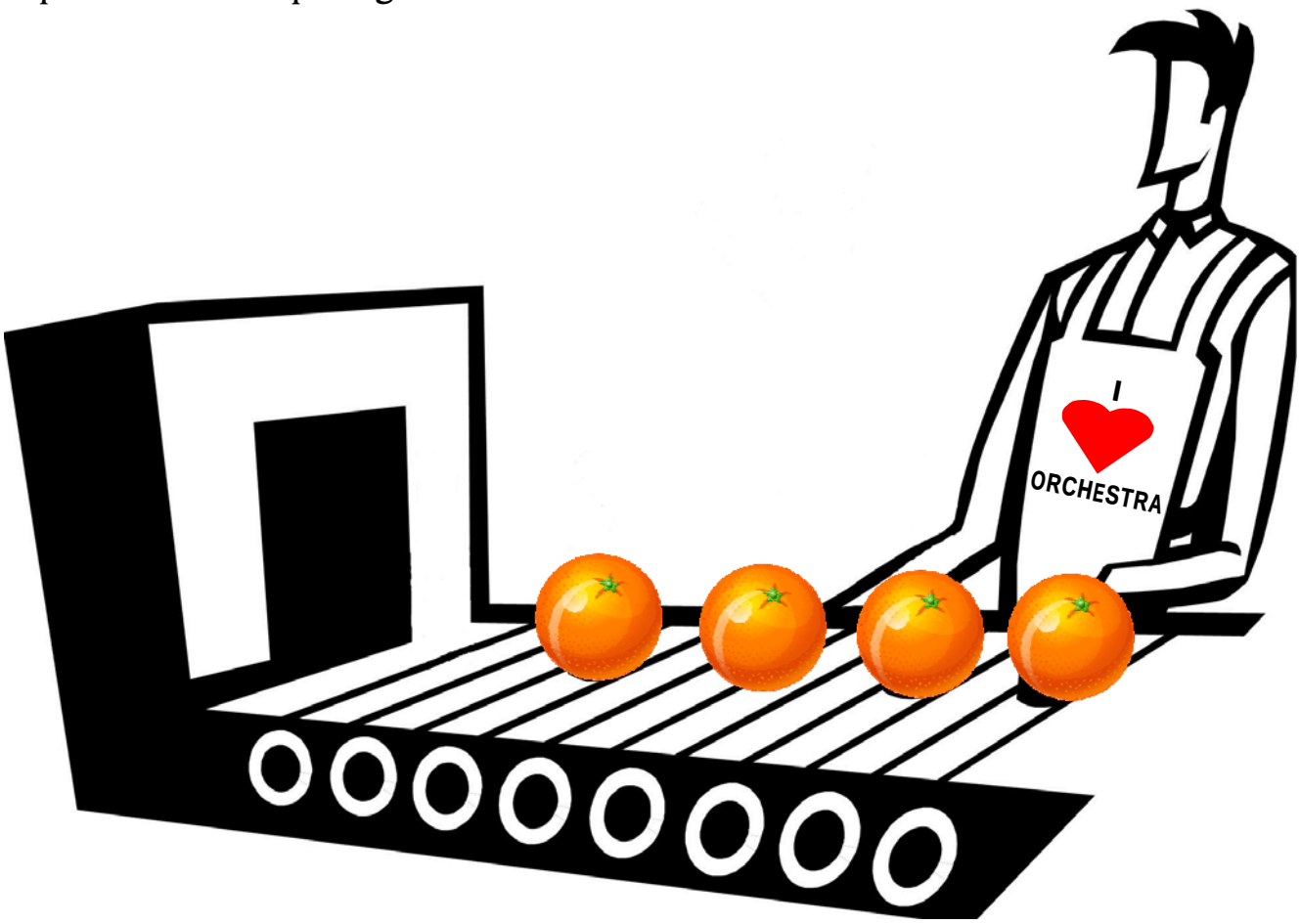
A **beat** is the constant pulse of the music...like a steady heartbeat. Think of the beat as oranges gliding down an assembly line. The beat comes out at a steady speed with even spacing.



EXERCISES:

1. The beat is easy to hear in music. Listen to some music and clap to the beat. Notice how easy it is to tap or clap to the best.

2. Clap the melody to the following songs. Have your friends guess which song you are clapping. You are now clapping rhythms!

- Happy Birthday
- Itsy Bitsy Spider
- Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

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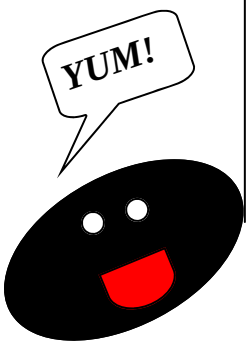
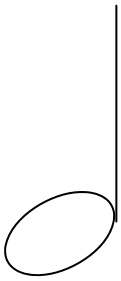
A **rhythm** is the duration of the notes...or low long or short to make the notes sound their pitch.

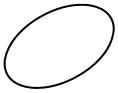
As beats are flowing out of an assembly line, different kinds of note can "eat up" the beats.

QUARTER NOTE
Eats up 1 beat





HALF NOTE
Eats up 2 beats



WHOLE NOTE
Eats up 4 beats

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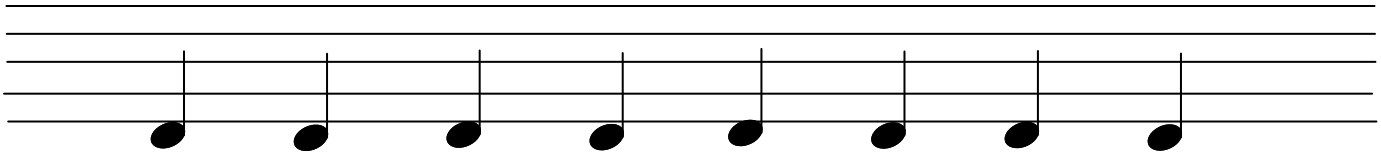
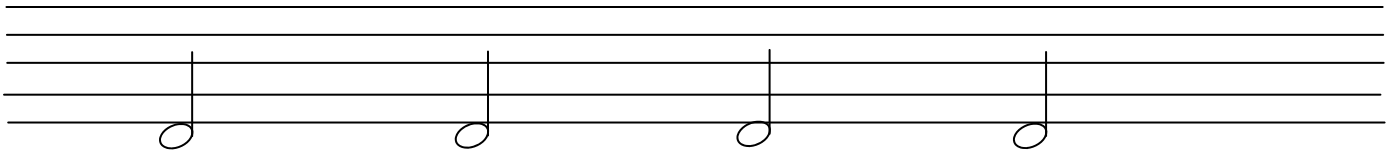
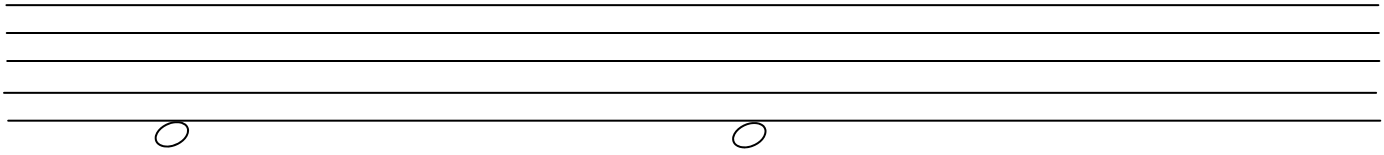
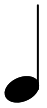
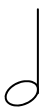
Listen to a beat on a metronome or drum beat. Clap the following rhythms:







 = _____ beat(s) and is called a _____note.

 = _____ beat(s) and is called a _____note.

 = _____ beat(s) and is called a _____note.

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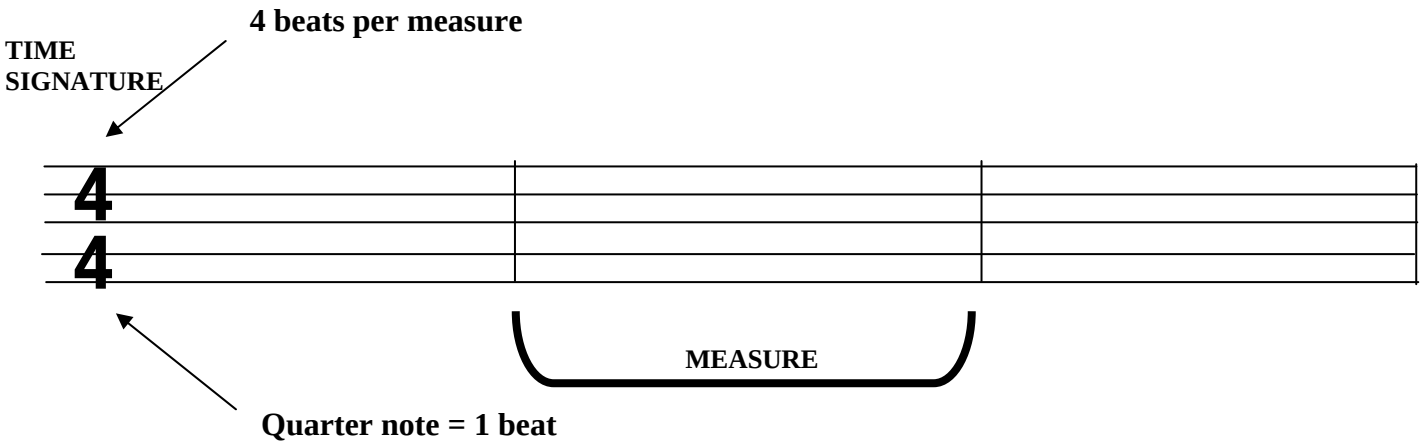
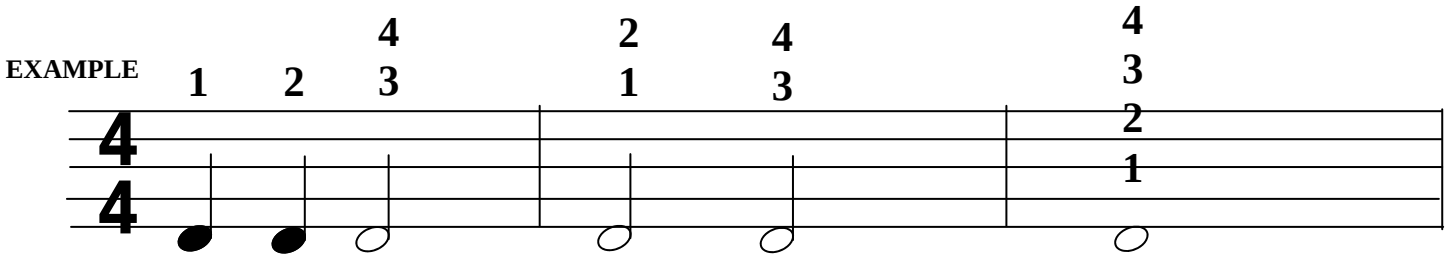
Rememberwaybackinkindergartenyoulearnedhowtoputspacesinbe-tweenwordssothatthethingsyouwritewillbeeasiertoread. It is very hard to read a sentence that has no spaces between the words. The same is true in music. If you had a bunch of notes all written in a row close together, it would be easy to get lost. To make notes more readable, the staff is divided up into smaller chunks called **measures.**

A **time signature** is found at the beginning of a staff. It has two numbers.
The top number tells you how many beats are in a measure. The bottom number represents the name of the note that equals one beat.



Look at the example, then write the counting for the notes in the following measures. Because of the time signature, there can only be 4 beats in each measure. Remember how many beats each note is 'eating' and write the numbers above the note:



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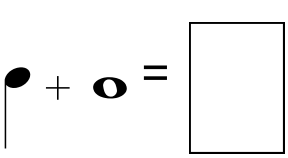
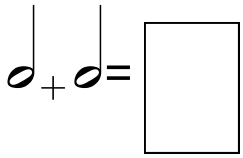
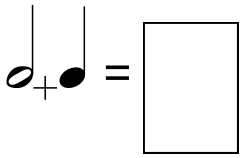
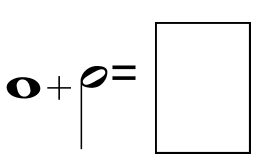
MUSIC MATH

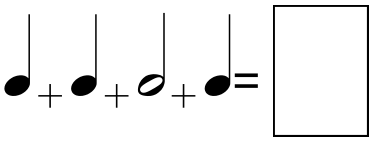
Add up the number of beats for musical math sentence and write the number.

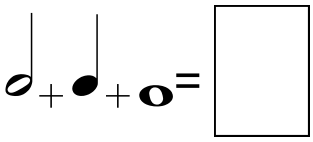


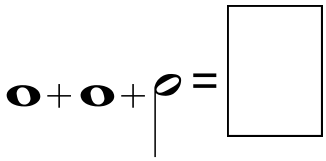


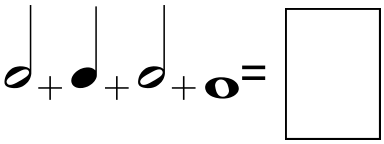


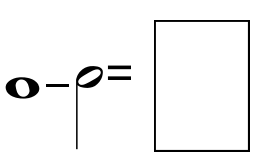


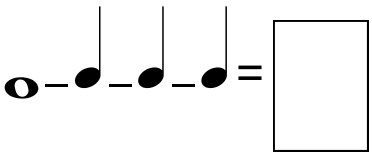












Draw 4 music math problems of your own and solve:

1._____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

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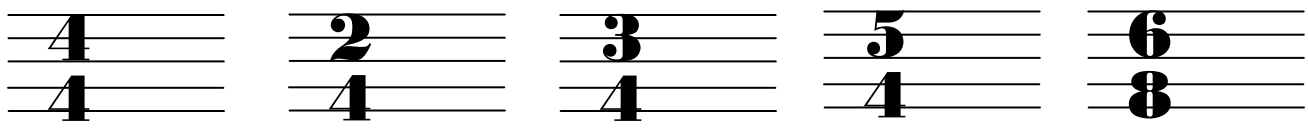
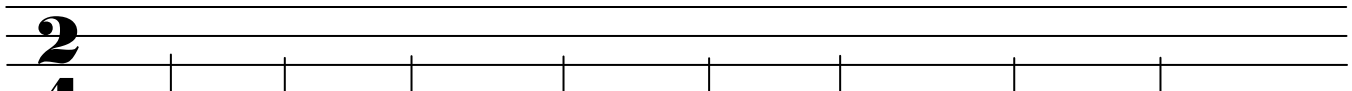
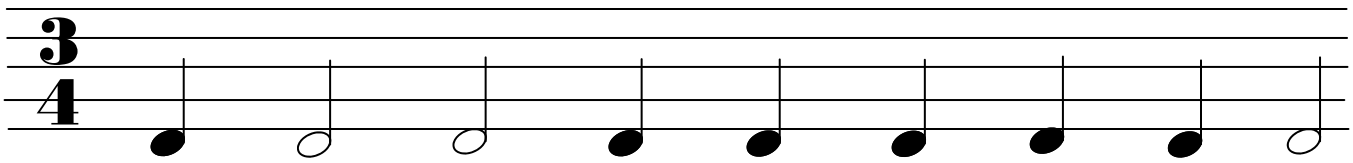
Look at the following time signatures. How many beats will be in each measure?

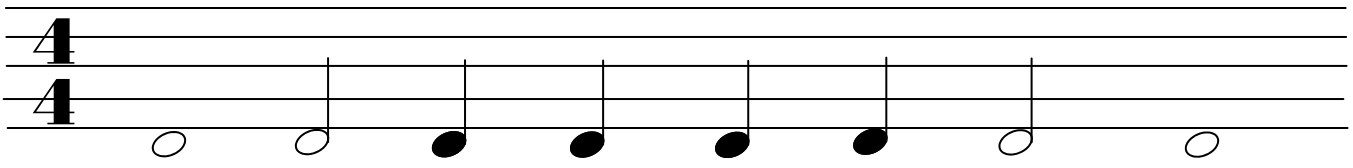


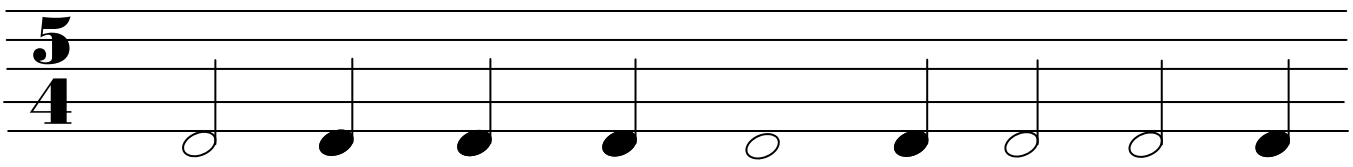
_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Draw bar lines to make measures for the following music examples. Be sure to check the time signature on each line.









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RESTS

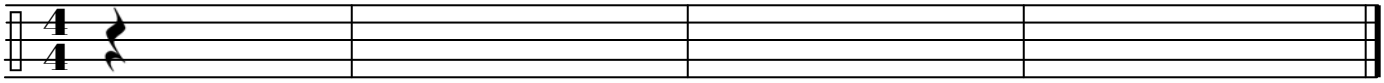
Each note value has a corresponding rest. Rests are silent. Look at the names of the rests below. Label the beats and draw the note value that goes with each of the rests.

Quarter Rest = _____ beat(s) and _____ note.

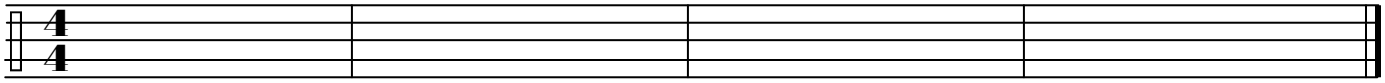
Half Rest = _____ beat(s) and _____ note.

Whole Rest = _____ beat(s) and _____ note.

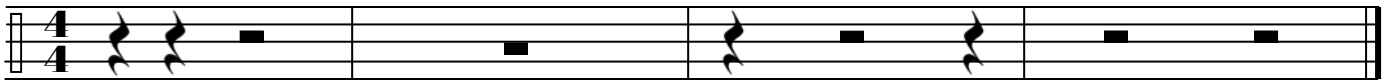
Practice drawing quarter rests on the staff below. How many should you draw in each measure to equal 4 beats?



Draw 2 half rests in the first two measures and 1 whole rest in the last 2 measures:



Write the counting for the rests:



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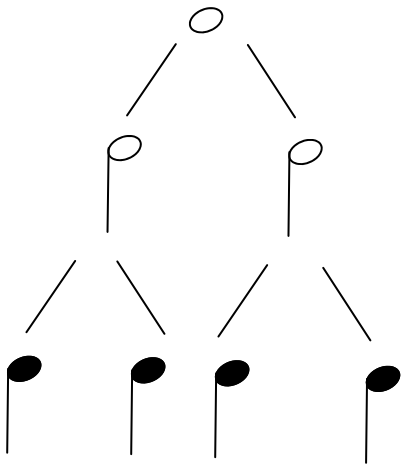
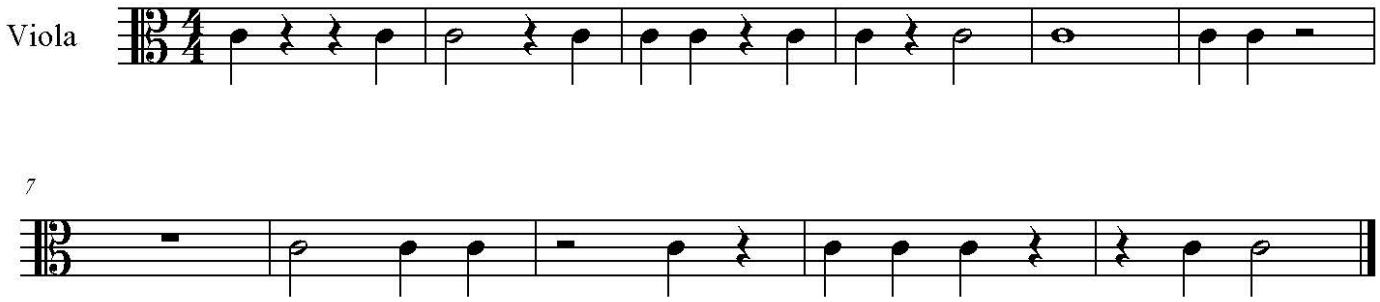
The Rhythm Tree

Look at the rhythm tree below for the notes. The diagram shows how each note can be divided in half. Every time a note is divided in half, the value of the note is also divided in half—making it double the speed. Using the same idea, make a rhythm tree for the rests.

NOTES **RESTS**



Write the counting for the following musical example, then clap the rhythm.



Create your own ***8 measure*** rhythm in 4/4 time on the staff below. Use quarter notes, half notes, whole notes and their corresponding rests.

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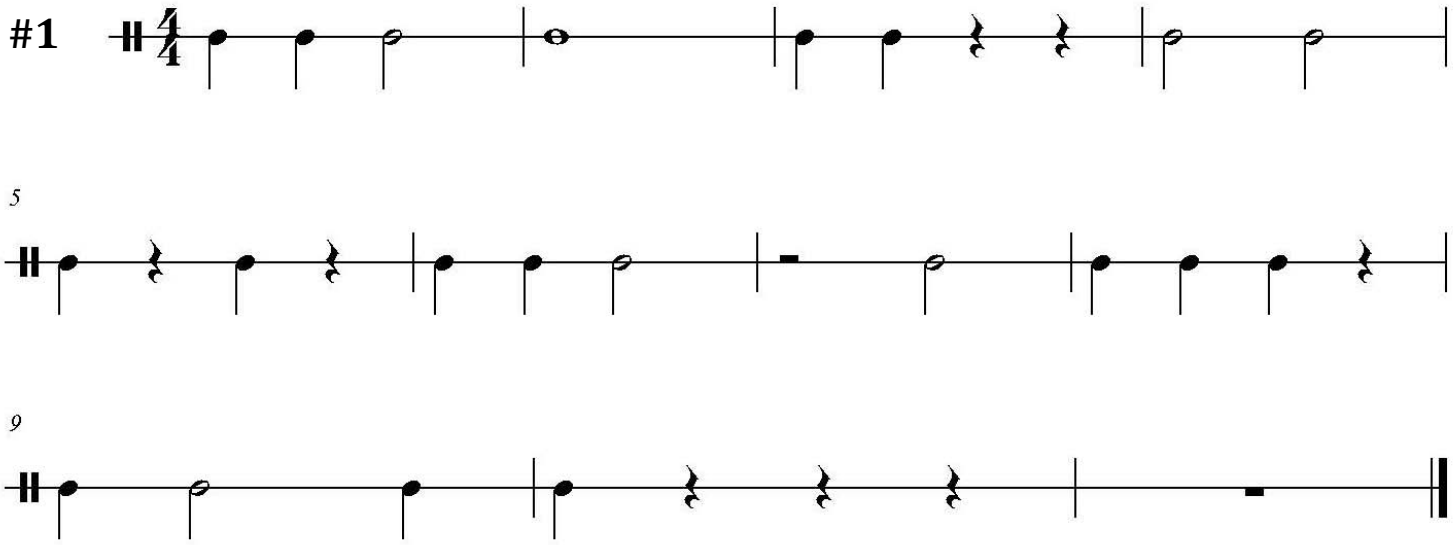
Rhythm Exercise

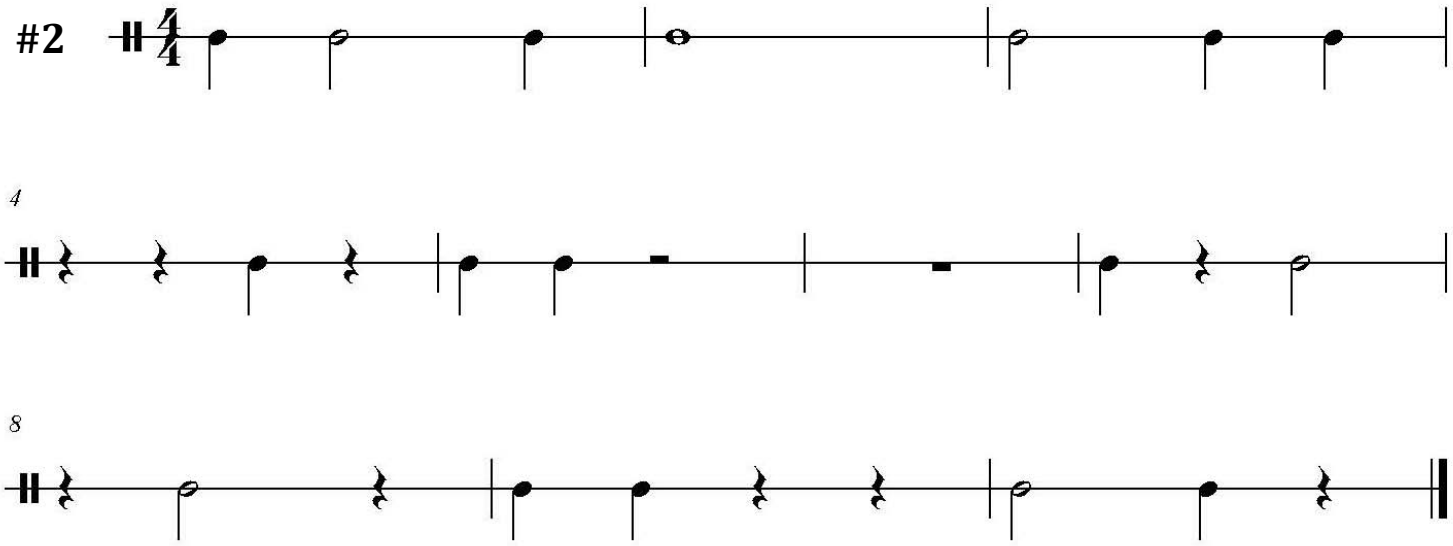
Quarter Notes, Half Notes, Whole Notes and Rests.

Write the counting to the rhythms below and tap the rhythms on your instruments.

#1



#2



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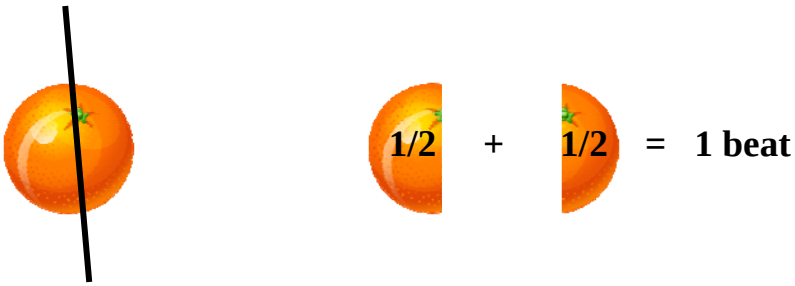
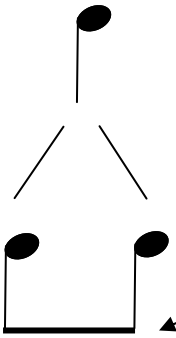
Eighth Notes

Remember the rhythm tree? That tree is able to grow much bigger. We can continue to divide notes in half to double their speed. First, let's think about our beats as oranges. Orange beats a great, but what if we need a note that is faster than a quarter note? We would need to cut our orange in half. We now have 2 pieces that are equal to one beat.



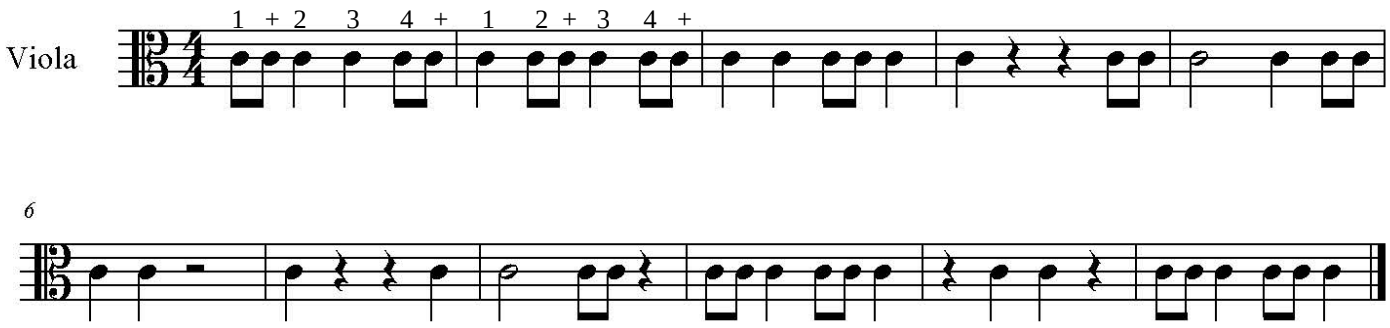
A quarter note divided in half makes **eighth notes**. Each eighth note is worth **1/2** of a beat. Most times, eighth notes appear in groups of 2, because it takes 2 to equal one beat.

An eighth note has a **flag** that is connected to the stem. One eighth note is worth 1/2 beat.



When there are 2 eighth notes together, their flags connect and make a line that connects the 2 eighth notes together. The 2 eighth notes together make 1 beat.

When counting eighth notes, writing the beat on the first of the 2 connected eighth notes, then a (+) sign on the second eighth note. Look at the example below, then finish writing the counting.



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Group Eighth Note Exercises

Clapping eighth notes:

1. With your right hand, tap quarter note beats on your knee with a metronome set at 60 bpm.

2. Place your left hand about 10 inches above your knee so that your right hand begins to hit your left hand while keeping the quarter note beat. You have now cut those quarter notes in half and you can hear the eighth notes.

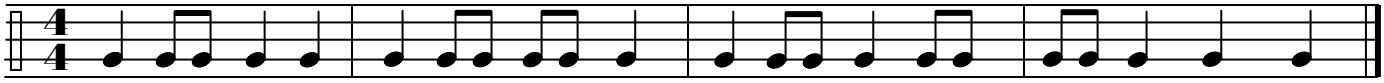
3. Count the eighth notes as you clap, saying 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and.

4. Your teacher will now call out note values. Tap your knee and keep the beat with the correct note value!

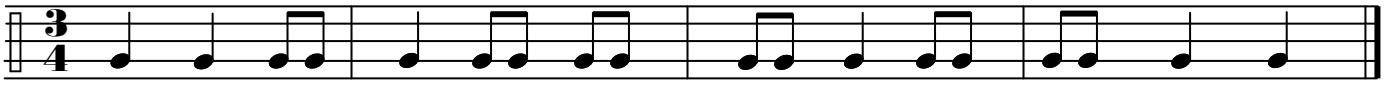
    - Tap Half Notes
    - Tap Quarter Notes
    - Tap Eighth Notes

Look at the rhythms below. We are going to count these rhythms using words. For every quarter note, say "YUM." On the eighth note pairs, say "Brown-ie." Be sure to say the words as you keep the beat to the rhythm.
(For example, for measure 1, say Yum, Brown-ie, Yum, Yum.)

1.



2.



Using the same rhythm examples above, write the counting and clap while saying the counting.

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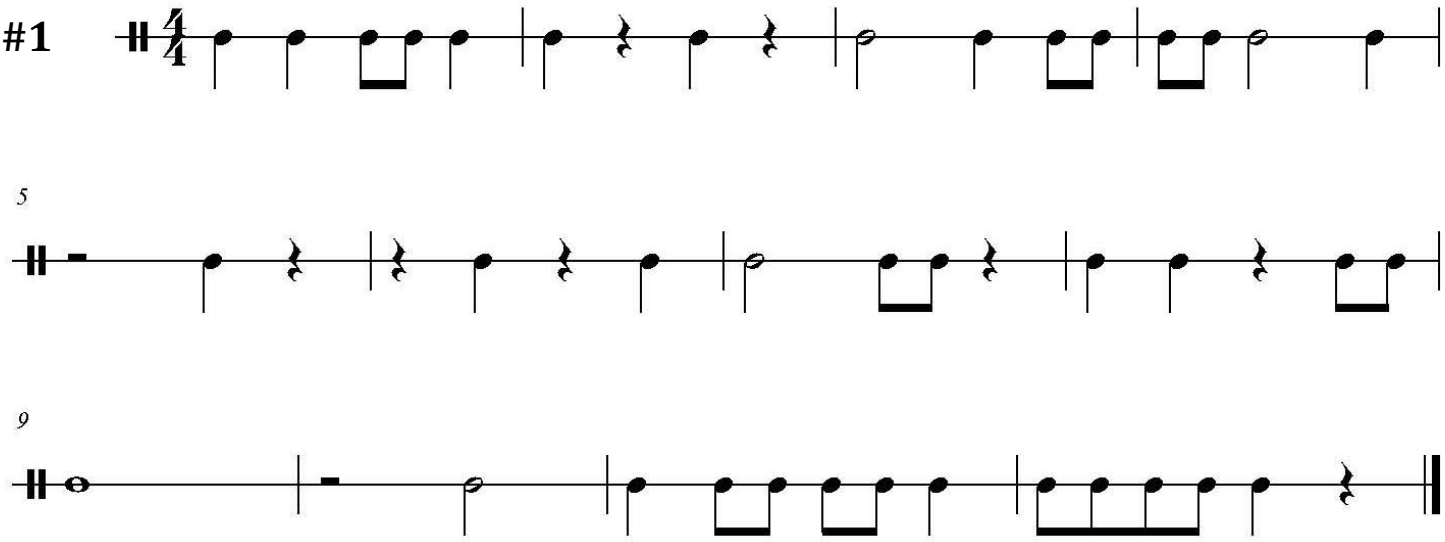
Rhythm Exercise

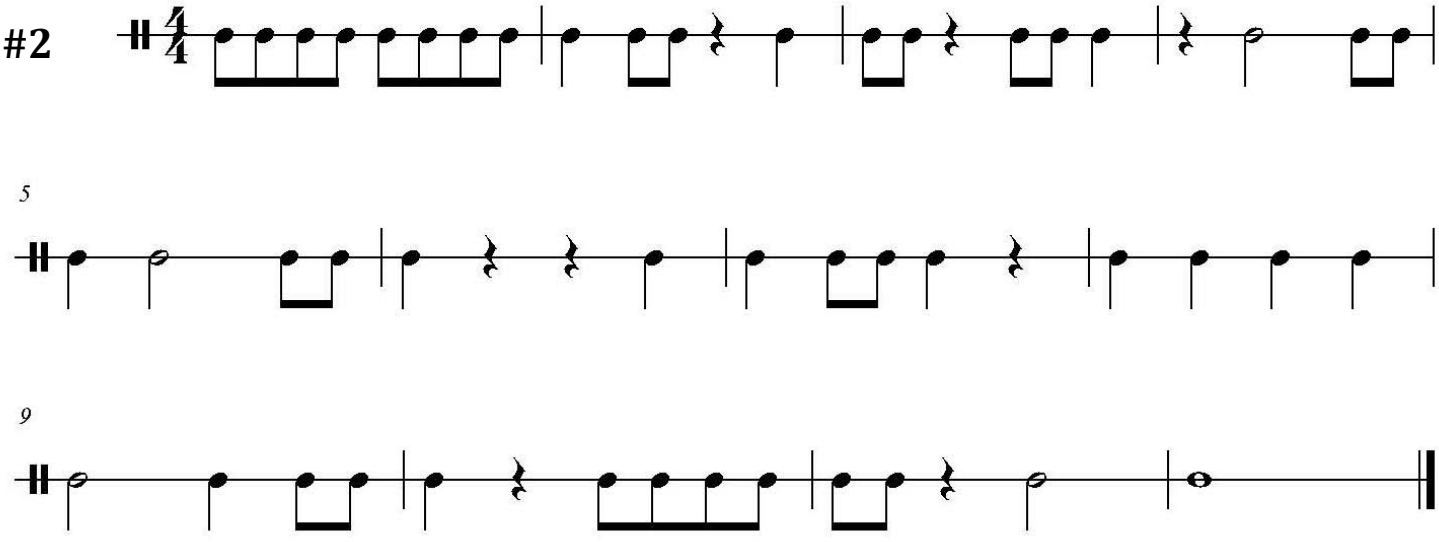
Quarter Notes, Half Notes, Whole Notes, Eighth notes and rests

Write the counting to the rhythms below and tap the rhythms on your instruments.

#1



#2



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