

Musical knowledge 2: rhythm notation

Definitions

1. **Pulse** = the underlying count in the music. Like a heartbeat. You clap/dance to this. You *feel* it rather than *hear* it.

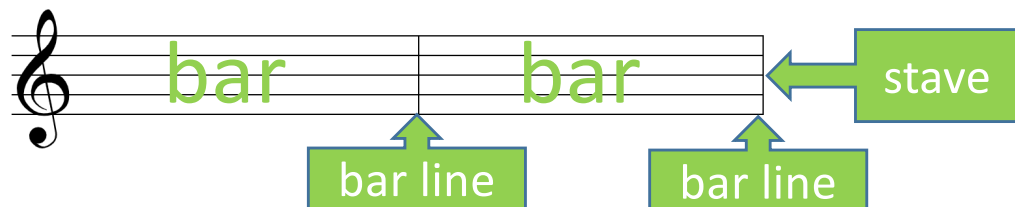


2. **Rhythm** = long and short notes, and the gaps between them:



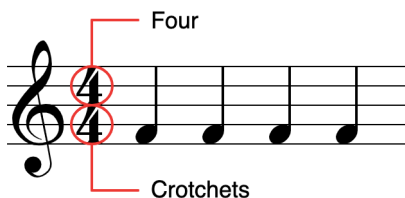
Bars and time signatures

1. Notes on the **stave** are divided up into bars by bar lines.



2. The **time signature** = two numbers at the start of the music. It tells us how many beats are in a bar: how we count in the piece.

3. The top number tells us how many beats are in a bar. The bottom number tells us what sort of beats they are.



How to read rhythms

1. These are the basic types of notes.

American note names are more logical: here, the UK names are in brackets.

Note/Rest Name	Note Symbol	Rest Symbol	Note/Rest Value (Length)
Whole Note/Rest (Semibreve)			4 beats
Half Note/Rest (Minim)			2 beats
Quarter Note/Rest (Crotchet)			1 beat
Eighth Note/Rest (Quaver)			1/2 beat

Pairs or 4s of quavers are beamed together. Remember each blob is a note.

2. Rhythms can be made up of any combination of notes or rests, as long as each bar adds up correctly.

3. A dot after a note adds on half as much again: $\text{dotted quarter} = \text{quarter} + \text{eighth} = 3 \text{ beats}$

$$\text{dotted quarter} = \text{quarter} + \text{eighth} = 1\frac{1}{2} \text{ beats}$$

4. A triplet squeezes three notes into the time it normally takes to play two:

3 Notes in the Space of 2

