

Common Time

4/4 is also known as common time. Instead of 4/4 you can write:



TIME SIGNATURE / METRE

(How the pulse is grouped into bars)

Cut Common Time

2/4 is also known as cut-common time. Instead of 2/4 You can write:



Time Signatures

Written at the start of the music (and anywhere it changes) to show how many beats there are per bar, plus what type of beat

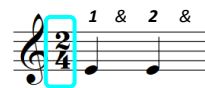
Simple Time Signatures **Each beat can be divided into two equal halves*



4 crotchet beats per bar



3 crotchet beats per bar



2 crotchet beats per bar

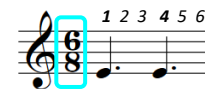
Compound Time Signatures **Each beat is dotted and can't be divided into two equal halves*



4 dotted crotchet beats per bar (12 quavers)



3 dotted crotchet beats per bar (9 quavers)



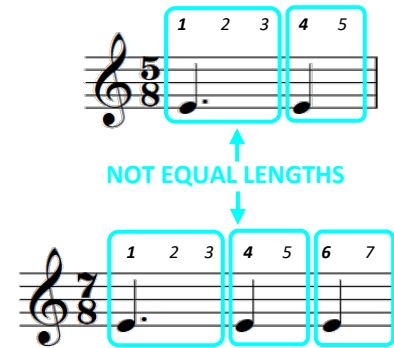
2 dotted crotchet beats per bar (6 quavers)

Listening Examples Go to Youtube to hear some examples of different metres:

2/4	Slaidburn March	<i>*A march is usually in 2/4 (Left, Right, Left, Right... = 1, 2, 1, 2...)</i>
3/4	Shostakovich's Waltz No.2	<i>*A waltz is a dance, usually in 3/4</i>
4/4	All That Jazz (from Chicago)	<i>*Chicago is a Musical</i>
5/4	Take Five (By Dave Brubeck)	<i>*Listen out for the jazz style</i>
7/4	The start of Money (By Pink Floyd)	<i>*Listen out for the opening bass riff</i>
6/8	We Are The Champions (By Queen)	<i>*Queen are a famous British Rock Band</i>
12/8	The Way You Make Me Feel (By Michael Jackson)	<i>*Count 1&a 2&a 3&a 4&a</i>

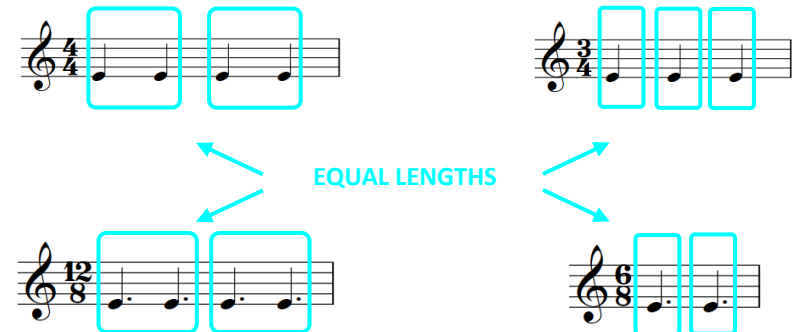
Irregular Time Signatures

Time signatures that can't be divided into equal groups of 2 or 3.



Regular Time Signatures

Time signatures that can be divided into equal groups of 2 or 3.



Writing Your Own Music

You must make sure every bar adds up to the correct number of beats. Changing metre is a good way to create contrast in your work.