

2 Minute Music Theory

3.5

Always look at what you have left. Never look at what you have lost.

Robert H. Schuller

As you have seen, quarter notes in $\frac{4}{4}$ meter get one count and half notes get two counts. On longer notes we place the numbers under the note to show that each beat is accounted for and which note it belongs to. Eighth notes are counted by splitting the beat in half. The first half of the beat receives the number and the second half of the beat is called the + (*and*).

The image shows three measures of music in 4/4 time. The first measure contains four quarter notes with counts 1, 2, 3, and 4 below them. The second measure contains two half notes with counts 1, 2, 3, and 4 below them, where the 3 and 4 are positioned under the second half note. The third measure contains four eighth notes with counts 1, +, 2, +, 3, and 4 below them, where the 3 and 4 are positioned under the second eighth note of each pair.

1. In each example below write the counts under each note.
2. Then place bar lines to mark the correct number of beats for each measure according to the time signature.

One point per bar line or note counted.

The image shows a single measure of music in 4/4 time. It contains four groups of notes: 1) four quarter notes, 2) four eighth notes beamed together, 3) a half note followed by a quarter note, and 4) a half note followed by a quarter note. Red vertical lines are placed at the end of each group of notes. Red counts are written below the notes: 1, 2, 3, 4 for the first group; 1, +, 2, +, 3, 4 for the second group; 1, +, 2, 3 for the third group; and 1, 2, 3 for the fourth group.

Eighth notes are often beamed together to show one beat. It is much easier for the eye to see the beat when the notes are connected.

The image shows two lines of musical notation. The first line is in 3/4 time and contains four measures: 1) three quarter notes, 2) a half note followed by a quarter note, 3) a half note followed by a quarter note, and 4) a half note followed by a quarter note. Red vertical lines are placed at the end of each measure. Red counts are written below the notes: 1, 2, 3 for the first measure; 1, +, 2, 3 for the second measure; 1, 2, 3 for the third measure; and 1, 2, 3 for the fourth measure. The second line is in 2/4 time and contains four measures: 1) two quarter notes, 2) a half note followed by a quarter note, 3) a half note followed by a quarter note, and 4) a half note followed by a quarter note. Red vertical lines are placed at the end of each measure. Red counts are written below the notes: 1, 2 for the first measure; 1, 2 for the second measure; 1, 2 for the third measure; and 1, 2 for the fourth measure.