Rhythm Symbols

In most music there is a pulse or **BEAT** that is either directly played, implied or simply felt.
Several beats are grouped into repeating cycles called **MEASURES** or **BARS**.
Beats are also broken down into smaller (faster) parts called **DIVISIONS or SUBDIVISIONS**.

Time-Signature (Meter-Signature)

Appears at the start of a section of music to decribe how the rhythm is counted and written.

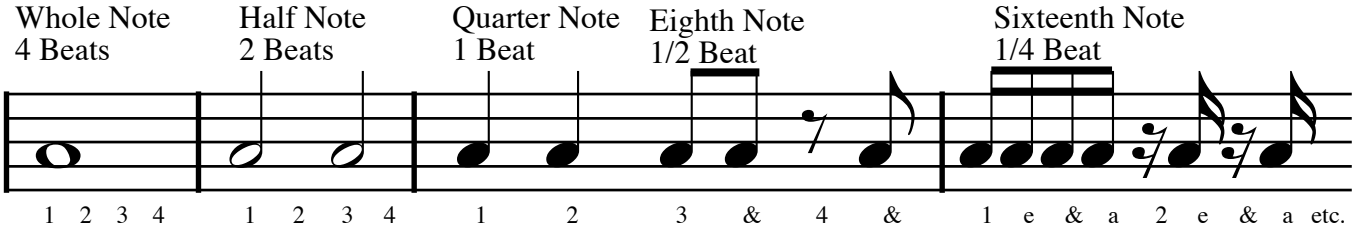
4 top number- How many beats in each measure.

4 bottom number- What type of note gets one beat.

(*Usually in $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{6}{8}$, $\frac{9}{8}$ and $\frac{12}{8}$ the ♪'s are grouped in threes and a ♩. gets one beat.)

Note Values

Our system of rhythmic notation is based on a measure of four beats, i.e. $\frac{4}{4}$ or "Common Time".
A "whole" note lasts a whole measure of four beats; a "half" note takes up a half measure, etc.



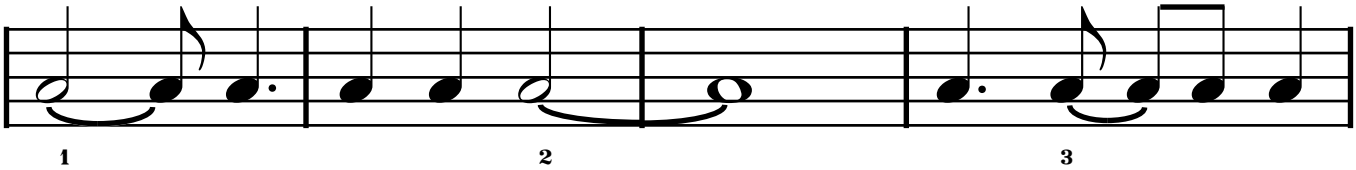
Dotted Notes

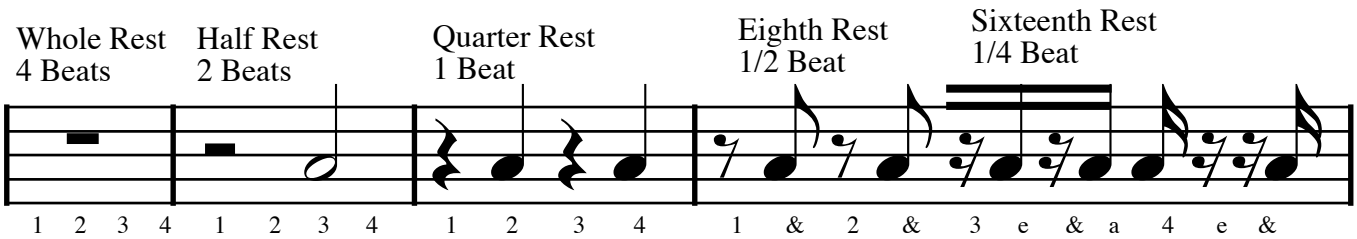
A dot after a note increases its value (duration) by half (i.e. a dot makes the note 50% longer).

Ties

A tie is used to combine notes of the same pitch into one longer note. Ties have three uses:

1. Ties create notes of lengths that aren't available with regular notes and dots.
2. Ties allow notes to be held across barlines.
3. Ties can be used to help make beats more visible, making some rhythms easier to read.



Rest Values

Rests show specific durations of silence. The sum of note and rest values must equal a full measure.