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# RHYTHM NOTATION, TIME SIGNATURE & REPEATS

At the beginning of every song is a time signature. 4/4 is the most common time signature:

4 = FOUR COUNTS TO A MEASURE

$\frac{4}{4}$  = A QUARTER NOTE RECEIVES ONE COUNT

The top number tells you how many counts per measure.

The bottom number tells you which kind of note receives one count.

The time value of a note is determined by three things:

1) Note Head: 2) Stem: 3) Flag:

This is a whole note. The note head is open and has no stem. In 4/4 time it receives 4 counts.

This is a half note. It has an open note head and a stem. In 4/4 time it receives 2 counts.

This is a quarter note. It has a solid note head and a stem. In 4/4 time it receives 1 count.

This is an eighth note. It has a solid note head and a stem with a flag attached. In 4/4 time it receives 1/2 count.

This is a sixteenth note. It has a solid note head and a stem with a double flag attached. In 4/4 time it receives 1/4 count.

One count in 4/4 time can also be divided into three equal notes called eighth note triplets. To distinguish them from regular eighth notes, a small 3 appears above them. In 4/4 time one eighth note triplet receives 1/3 count.

A rest is a period of silence. Each type of note has a corresponding rest:

Whole Rest: = = 4 counts

Half Rest: = = 2 counts

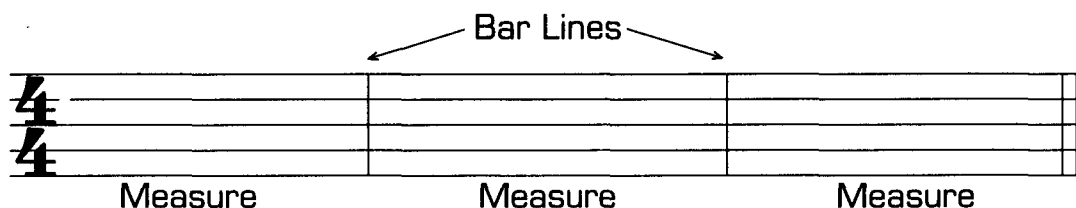
Quarter Rest: = = 1 count

Eighth Rest: = = 1/2 count



Sixteenth Rest: = = 1/4 count

Triplet Eighth Rest: = = 1/3 count

Music is divided into equal parts called measures. Barlines indicate the beginning and end of measures. A double barline (one thin and one thick) indicates the end of a piece.



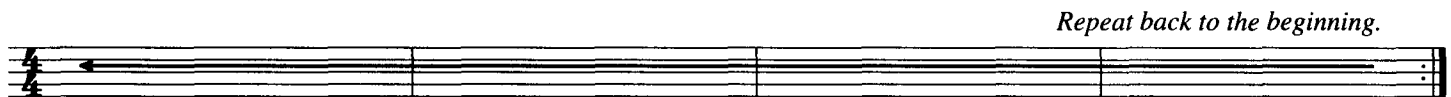
The following is a chart of notes and their equal rests in 4/4 time:

<p>Whole Note</p>  <p>Count: 1 2 3 4</p>	<p>Whole Rest</p>  <p>Count: 1 2 3 4</p>
<p>Half Note</p>  <p>Count: 1 2 3 4</p>	<p>Half Rest</p>  <p>Count: 1 2 3 4</p>
<p>Quarter Note</p>  <p>Count: 1 2 3 4</p>	<p>Quarter Rest</p>  <p>Count: 1 2 3 4</p>
<p>Eighth Note</p>  <p>Count: 1 2 3 4</p>	<p>Eighth Rest</p>  <p>Count: 1 2 3 4</p>
<p>Sixteenth Note</p>  <p>Count: 1 2 3 4</p>	<p>Sixteenth Rest</p>  <p>Count: 1 2 3 4</p>
<p>Eighth Note Triplet</p>  <p>Count: 1 2 3 4</p>	<p>Eighth Note Triplet Rest</p>  <p>Count: 1 ↑ 2 ↑ 3 ↑ 4 ↑</p>

 is called a repeat sign. When you see this sign, repeat the measure you just played:



Repeat signs :|| tell us to play a section of music again. One backwards facing repeat sign means you should repeat to the beginning:



When a section of music falls between two repeat signs, repeat that section:

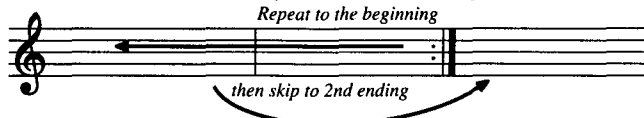


Take the repeat once, then continue on to the next section.

Sometimes a section of music is repeated, but the ending is different the second time:

First and Second Endings:

1st Ending	2nd Ending
1.	2.



Repeat to the beginning

then skip to 2nd ending