



COUNTING NOTATION

Name _____

Musicians who learn to play an instrument, master the art of **counting** music notation to hone their skills. Often using a metronome (see Lesson 19) to set an accurate tempo, serious music students practice counting rhythm in preparation for playing musical exercises accurately. The process of “sight-reading” is strengthened by mastering the counting of rhythm patterns.

Necessary concepts that follow will help you put the pieces of **rhythm counting** into a meaningful sequence.

DIVIDED BEAT

Say the rhythm syllables for this example using **ta** (|), **ti ti** (▭), and **ta-ah** (♩).

Ex. $\frac{2}{4}$ ♩ | ♩ ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ | ♩ ||

Next, write the numbers for counting under the notes. For two eighth notes joined by a beam, say the count-number on the first note connected by the beam, then say the word ‘and’ on the second connected note. For half notes, clap the first beat, keeping hands clasped, pulsing outward on the second beat without clapping. Clap and count the example above aloud.

BEATS OF REST

When counting rhythm patterns that incorporate beats of rest, include the rests as part of the measure’s total value. To show the position of the rest as you clap, put hand out, palms up, pulsing the silent beat in the air.

Ex. $\frac{4}{4}$ ○ | ♩ - | ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ ♩ ||

$\frac{4}{4}$ ♩ ♩ ♩ | - | ♩ ♩ ♩ | ♩ - | ○ ||

Write in the counts under these examples, then clap and say the counts aloud, including the silent beats of rest.

TIED NOTES

Write the counts under this example including tied notes, then clap and count aloud. (Remember to not clap on tied notes.)

Ex. $\frac{4}{4}$ ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ :||

DOTTED NOTES/SIXTEENTH NOTES

Remembering that dots following notes add half the value of the note, use the word 'and' to express the second half of a beat. In counting four sixteenth notes, joined by a beam, say '1 - e- & - a' (ah) to count all four notes on one beat.



Write the counts under this example, then clap it as you count aloud.

COMPOUND METER

With six beats in a measure and an eighth note receiving one count, a sixteenth note then receives $\frac{1}{2}$ beat. With a faster tempo, $\frac{6}{8}$ meter feels as if it has two strong beats in each measure, with each beat divisible by three.



Write in the counts for this example, then clap it, counting aloud.

CUT TIME

If the bottom number of the time signature indicates that a half note receives one beat, equate this to the following example.



Write the counts in 'Cut Time', then clap it as you count aloud. Remember that another name for 'Cut Time' is 'Alle Breve'.

BONUS ACTIVITIES

1. Clap and count these examples.



2. Open your music textbook and find isolated measures of rhythm from a familiar song to clap and count.