

ELEMENTS OF MUSIC

Whole—Half—Quarter Notes

The duration of musical sounds (long or short) is indicated by different types of notes.

WHOLE NOTE

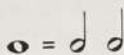


One whole note equals two half notes.

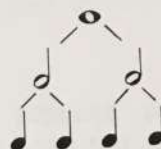
One half note equals two quarter notes.

One whole note equals four quarter notes.

HALF NOTE



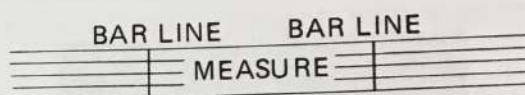
QUARTER NOTE



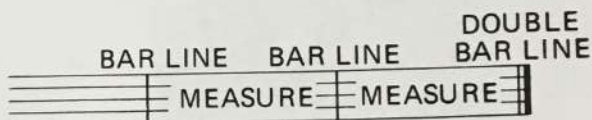
Measure—Bar Lines—Double Bar Lines

Music is divided into equal parts called **MEASURES**.

BAR LINES indicate the beginning and end of measures.

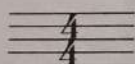


DOUBLE BAR LINES, one thin and one thick, show the end of a piece.



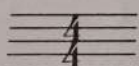
Time Signatures and Note Values

TIME SIGNATURES are placed at the beginning of a piece of music. They contain two numbers that show the number of beats (or counts) in each measure and the kind of note that receives one beat.



The top number shows the number of beats (or counts) in each measure.

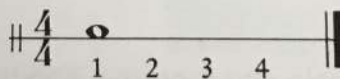
The bottom number shows what kind of note gets one beat.



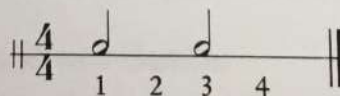
means four beats in each measure.

means a quarter note (♩) gets one beat.

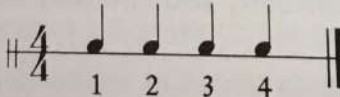
in $\frac{4}{4}$ time, a whole note receives four beats.



A half note receives two beats.



A quarter note receives one beat.



At the beginning of each line of music there is a clef sign. Unpitched percussion music uses the neutral (♯) clef.

METRONOME—A device which produces clicks and/or light flashes to indicate the tempo of the music. For instance, ♩ = 120 means that the metronome will click 120 times in a minute and each click will, in this case, represent a quarter note.

TEMPO—The rate of speed of a musical piece or passage. Tempo may be indicated by a musical term, or by an exact metronome marking.