

# Lesson 1

## Whole Notes Half Notes Quarter Notes

### The Whole Note

The first type of note you will learn in lesson 1 is called the whole note. Because it looks like an egg, it is easy to recognize. A whole note takes up four beats, so only one whole note can fit into each 4/4 measure.

You can think of each measure as being a piggy bank which must hold exactly \$1.00. Now imagine that a whole note is a one dollar bill--only one can fit into each measure.

Look at the following measures.



When playing a whole note, the sound will begin on beat one, and will continue through beat four.

### The Half Note

The next type of note you will learn is called the half note. The half note looks much like the whole note, except that the half note has a stem attached to its side. Each half note takes up two beats.

Remembering that our piggy bank must hold exactly one dollar, now think of each half note as being like a fifty-cent piece--only two of them can fit into each measure.

Look at the following measures.



The first half note of each measure takes up beats one and two, while the second half note takes up beats three and four. Sound will begin on beat one, and will continue through beat two. It will begin again on beat three, and will continue through beat four.

## The Quarter Note

The third type of note that you will learn in this lesson is called the quarter note. The quarter note looks much like the half note, but the quarter note is solid, rather than hollow. Each quarter note takes up one beat.

Once again, remembering that our piggy bank can hold exactly one dollar, now think of each quarter note as being like 25 cents, or a quarter--four of them can fit into each measure.

Look at the following measures.



Since there are four beats in each measure, and since each quarter note takes up a beat, you will play on all four beats.

## Putting it all together

Play the following exercise to get a feel for whole, half, and quarter notes.



Now try the following exercise which uses a combination of half notes and quarter notes within the same measure.



# Lesson 1 Exercises

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10.



11



12



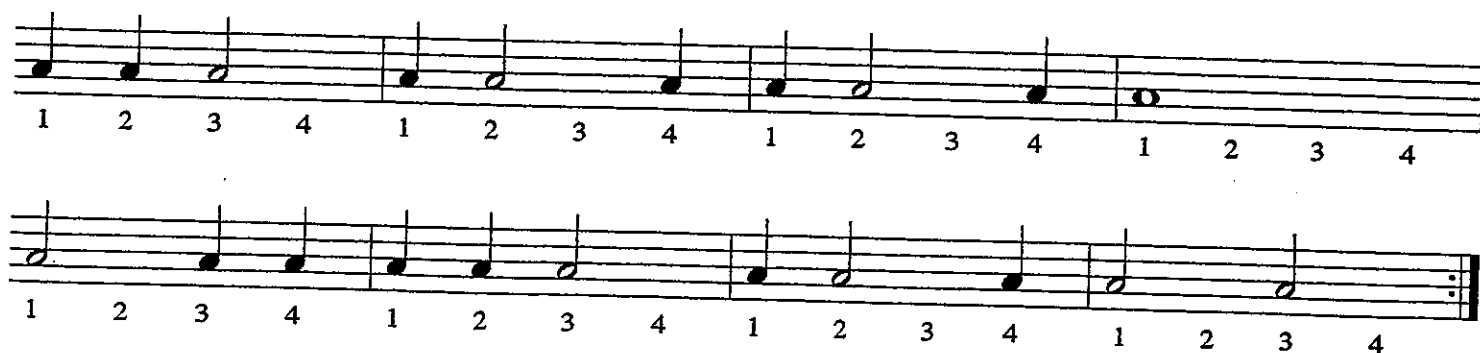
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14



15



# Lesson 2

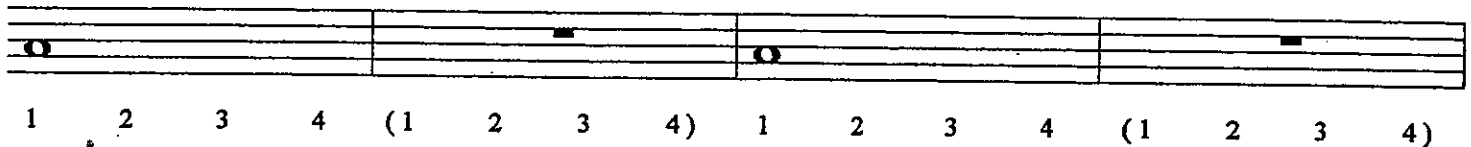
## Whole Note Rests Half Note Rests Quarter Note Rests

In this lesson you will learn about rests, which are musical symbols that tell a musician how many beats **not** to play. The first three types of rests you will learn are the whole note rest, the half note rest, and the quarter note rest.

### The Whole Note Rest

Like a whole note, a whole note rest takes up four beats. But when a measure contains a whole note rest, no sound will be made during those four beats. The whole note rest looks like an upside-down top hat, and hangs from the bar line.

Look at the following measures. (The numbers in parenthesis show resting beats, which means that they are counted, but not played).



### The Half Note Rest

Like the half note, the half note rest takes up two beats, but no sound will be made during those beats. The half note rest looks like a top hat, so don't get it confused with the whole note rest, which looks like an upside-down top hat.

Look at the following measures. (The numbers in parenthesis show resting beats, which means that they are counted, but not played).



## The Quarter Note Rest

Like the quarter note, the quarter note rest takes up one beat, which will be counted, but not played. The quarter note rest is easy to recognize because it looks like a lightning bolt.

Look at the following measures. (The numbers in parenthesis show resting beats, which means that they are counted, but not played).



# Lesson 2 Exercises

1



2



3



4



5



6



7





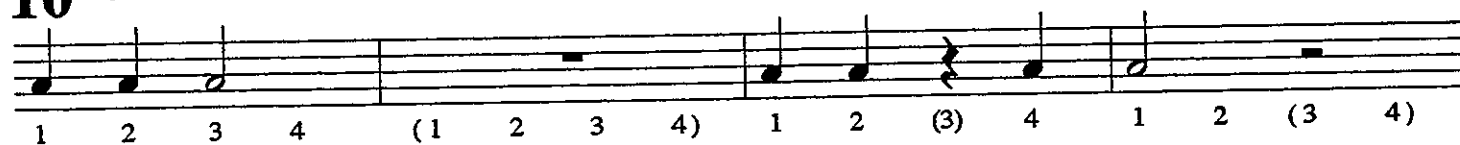
8



9



10



11



# 12

(1) 2) 3 4 (1) 2) 3 4 1 (2) 3) 4 (1) 2 3 (4)

1 2 (3) 4 (1) 2 3 4) (1) 2) 3 4 1 2 (3 4)

# 13

1 (2) 3) 4 (1) 2) 3 (4) (1) 2 (3 4) 1 2 (3 4)

(1) 2 (3 4) 1 (2) 3) 4 (1) 2 (3) 4 (1) 2 3 (4)

# 14

(1) 2 (3) 4 1 2 (3) 4 1 (2) 3 4 (1) 2 (3 4)

(1) 2 3 4) (1) 2) 3 4 1 (2) 3 4 (1) 2 (3 4)

# 15

1 (2) 3 (4) (1) 2) 3 (4) (1) 2 3 (4) 1 2 (3) (4)

(1) 2 (3 4) 1 2 (3) 4 1 (2) 3) 4 1 (2) 3 4

# Lesson 3

## Eighth Notes

In this lesson, you will learn about the eighth note. The eighth note looks much like the quarter note, but the eighth note has a flag attached to its stem. Eighth notes get  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a beat each, so eight of them can fit into each 4/4 measure.



Eighth notes are often connected by a single line at the top of their stems, as shown below. They are counted 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &. (They may also be connected in groups of four, rather than two).



Remember that quarter notes are counted 1 2 3 4, so really, we have just added a note between each quarter note and named it "&" (pronounced "AND").



Now play the following exercise to get a feel for the relationship between quarter and eighth notes.



# Lesson 3 Exercises

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12

1 2 & 4 & 1 & 4 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 3 4

1 & 3 4 & 1 & 3 4 2 & 3 & 1 & 3 4

13

1 & 4 & 3 & 2 & 1 & 4 &

2 & 1 & 3 3 & 4 & 2 & 4

14

1 3 & 4 2 & 3 4 2 & 3 & 1 & 2 &

1 & 4 & 2 & 3 3 & 1 & 2

15

2 & 4 & 1 4 & 2 3 4 & 2 & 3 4

3 & 4 2 & 3 1 & 2 4 & 2 & 3