






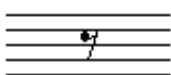

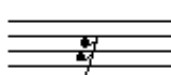


# Note Values


In music notation, a note value indicates the relative duration of a note, using the color or shape of the note head, the presence or absence of a stem, and the presence or absence of flags/beams/hooks.

A rest indicates a silence of an equivalent duration.

| Name           | Note   | Rest   |
|----------------|--|--|
| Whole Note     |   |   |
| Half Note      |   |   |
| Quarter Note   |   |   |
| Eighth Note    |   |   |
| Sixteenth Note |  |  |

## The Whole Note

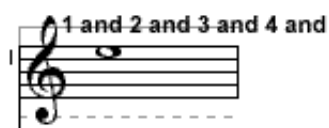
Its length is typically equal to four beats in 4/4 time. Most other notes divide the whole note; half notes are played for one half the duration of the whole note, quarter notes are each played for one quarter the duration, etc. A whole note lasts half as long as a double whole note.

It looks like this: 

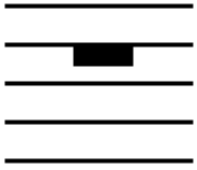
This is actually the easiest one to play.

All you have to do is strum the chord once, and wait for three beats. Strum the chord again, and wait for three beats.

A Whole Note equals 4 beats:




A Whole Rest would look like this (same value, but instead of playing it, you rest for that duration):

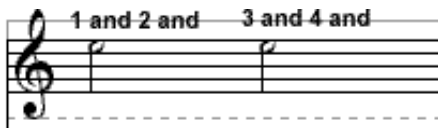


## The Half Note

A half note is a note played for twice the duration of a quarter note. In time signatures with a denominator of 4, such as 4/4 or 3/4 time, the half note is two beats long.

It looks like this: 

You can think of the half note as dividing the whole note into two. This means you're playing a given note or chord twice for every one time you play a whole note.




A Half Rest would look like this (same value, but instead of playing it, you rest for that duration):



## The Quarter Note

A quarter note is a note that represents the duration of one beat. In other words it gets one beat.

It looks like this: 

You remember that I told you that a song in standard (4/4) time gets 4 beats per measure, right? That would mean that the song it would get 4 quarter notes per measure, because a quarter note gets one beat. That's why it's called a quarter note. There are 4 quarters in a whole. For example, a dollar bill can be divided up into 4 quarters. (.25 + .25 + .25 + .25 = \$1.00)

A Quarter Rest would look like this (same value, but instead of playing it, you rest for that duration):



## The Eighth Note

An eighth note is a note played for one eighth the duration of a whole note, hence the name. As with all notes with stems, the general rule is that eighth notes are drawn with stems to the right of the notehead, facing up, when they are below the middle line of the musical staff.

It looks like this: 

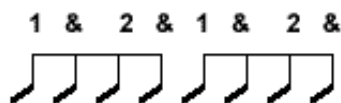
When they are on or above the middle line, they are drawn with stems on the left of the note head, facing down.

Flags are always on the right side of the stem, and curve to the right. On stems facing up, the flag starts at the top and curves down; for downward facing stems, the flags start at the bottom of the stem and curve up. When multiple eighth notes or sixteenth notes (or thirty-second notes, etc.) are next to each other, the stems may be

connected with a beam rather than a flag. 

We can count eight notes along with a beat like this: Tap a steady rhythm on table. Each time your hand hits the table is a beat. Each beat gets two eighth notes, so each time your hand hits the table is a "1" or "2". Each time your hand comes up is the "and".

See the example:



You'll want to strum them in a down up down up pattern like so (and vice versa):



An Eighth Rest would look like this (same value, but instead of playing it, you rest for that duration):



## The Sixteenth Note

The easiest way to explain sixteenth notes is by using what we already know from the eighth note. This is LITERALLY doubled up.

Sixteenth notes are notated with an oval, filled-in note head and a straight note stem with two flags.



As you can see, it looks just like the eighth note, only with double beams that connect. A sixteenth note by itself would look like this:



A Sixteenth Rest would look like this (same value, but instead of playing it, you rest for that duration):



**Video Reference:** Much more material is covered in our Strumming School DVD. Please refer to Chapter 1 "Note Values" on the DVD for additional information.