

Section 1.4

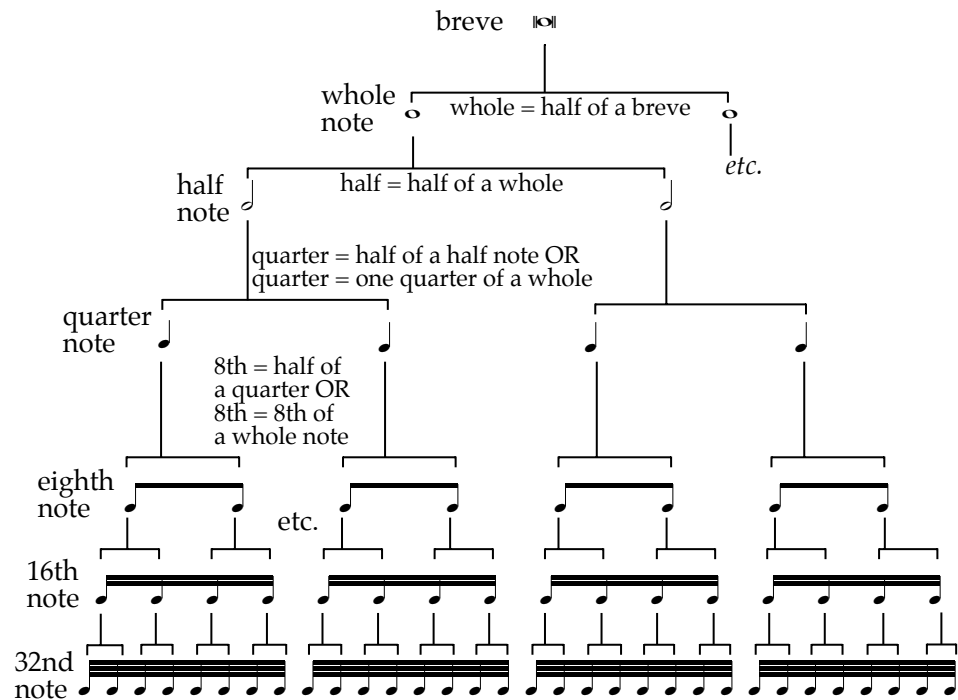
RHYTHMIC VALUES

Duration
Rhythmic value
Rhythm

Duration is how long a note lasts. A **rhythmic value** is a symbol indicating relative duration (see table below). A **rhythm** is a series of rhythmic values.


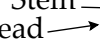

Rhythmic values

Rhythmic values indicate **relative duration**, not absolute duration. Each rhythmic value is **half** the duration of the next longer value. Shorter note values (**64th notes**, etc.) are also possible.



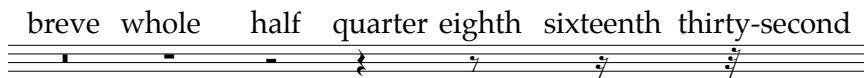
Notehead
Stems
Flags
Beams

The oval part of the note is called the **notehead**. Notes shorter than whole notes have a **stem** attached to the notehead. Notes shorter than quarters have **flags** or **beams**, depending on the rhythmic context (see **1.10 Summary of Notation Guidelines**). Eighth notes have one flag (or beam), sixteenth notes have two flags (or two beams), and so on. The position of the notehead on the staff indicates the pitch of the note.

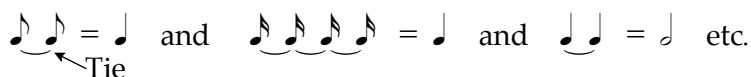
Stem →  Flag
 Notehead →  =  Beam
 (2 eighth notes with flags) = (2 eighth notes beamed together)

Rests

Rests are similar to notes, but indicate **lengths of silences**. A breve rest is twice as long as a whole rest, a whole rest is twice as long as a half rest, and so on. Remember that a whole note looks like a “hole” in the ground.

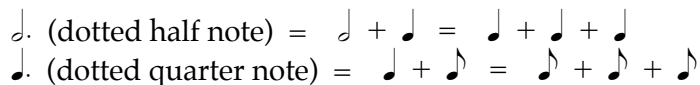
**Ties**

A **tie** combines rhythmic values together. For example, two eighth notes tied together make a rhythmic value equal to one quarter note. Ties connect notes of the **same pitch**. Ties never connect rests.



**Augmentation
dots (dotted
rhythmic values)**

An **augmentation dot** on any note or rest adds half the duration. The rhythmic value is said to be “**dotted**.” For example, a dotted half note equals a half note plus a quarter note, since a quarter note is half of a half note. Similarly, a dotted quarter note equals a quarter note plus an eighth note, since an eighth note is half of a quarter note.



**Double-dotted
notes**

A **second augmentation dot** (if present), adds half the first dot’s value. Rhythmic values with two dots are “**double-dotted**.” For example, a double-dotted half note equals a half note plus a quarter note (for the first dot) plus an eighth note (half of a quarter note, for the second dot). Double-dotted notes are 1.75 times as long (1+0.5+0.25) as the undotted value.

