

Section 1.7

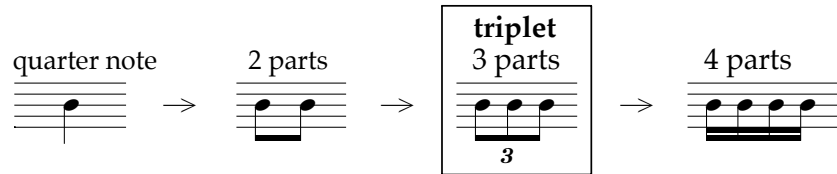
TUPLETS/GROUPLETS

**Tuplets
Grouplets**

The standard rhythmic values divide into 2 parts, then 4 parts, then 8 parts, and so on (see 1.4 Rhythmic Values). **Tuplets** (also called **grouplets**) fill in the gaps **between** these ratios. The word tuplets may be pronounced “tuplets” or “tooplets.”

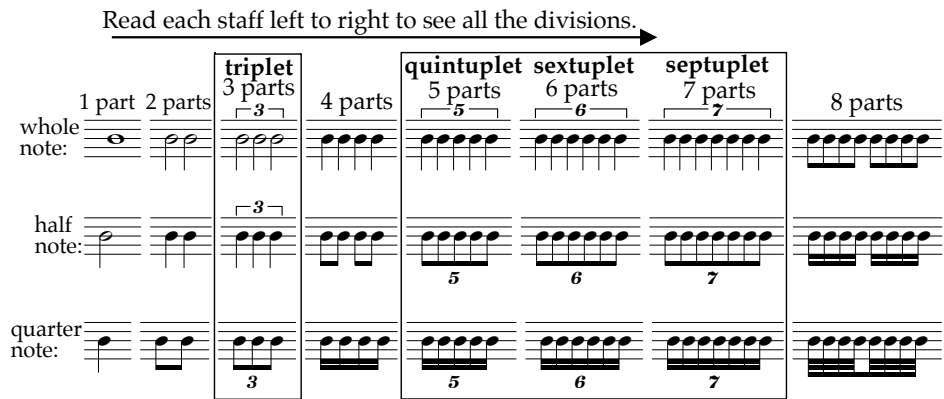
Tuplets

Tuplets divide a rhythmic value into **three equal parts**, rather than two or four. The triplet uses the rhythmic value for a two-part division, the next **longer** duration. In the example below, the eighth note (a two-part division) is the next longer duration, so the triplet uses eighth notes.



**Quintuplets
Sextuplets
Septuplets**

In **simple time signatures** (see 1.5 Simple Meter), tuplets/grouplets always use the next longer rhythmic value. **Quintuplets** (five equal parts), **sextuplets** (six equal parts), and **septuplets** (seven equal parts) all use the rhythmic value for a four-part division.



Tuplet brackets

Tuplet brackets should be used with the number on the notehead side when there isn't a beam (half notes, quarter notes, whole notes). Only tuplets that use half note and quarter note rhythmic values in the example above have brackets.

Duplets and quadruplets (compound time signatures)

In compound time signatures (see 1.6 **Compound and Asymmetric Meter**), **duplets** and **quadruplets** look like the corresponding simple meter beat division.

Duplets:

Quadruplets:

Duplets and quadruplets as dotted values

Duplets and **quadruplets** in compound time signatures may also be notated as ordinary dotted rhythmic values. In the example below, **six** sixteenths per beat divided into **two** halves gives **three** sixteenths for each half of the beat.

Groups of 3 tied sixteenths = dotted eighths = duplet eighths

Nonstandard tuplets

Nonstandard tuplets or tuplets that may be unclear are sometimes indicated with an explicit ratio. Extremely rarely, tuplets may also be nested.

5:4 = 5 in the space normally taken by 4

OR showing the rhythmic value (5:4):