

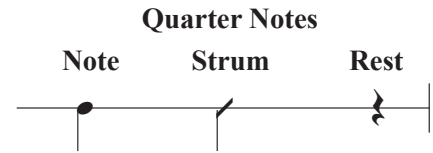
# Lesson 2

## Rhythm

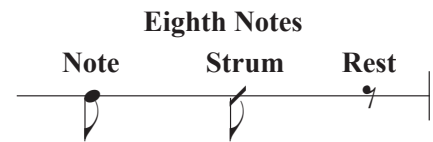
In Lesson 1, we learned about the beat. We also learned to read symbols that told us to strum a chord on the beat and let it ring for one beat or for the whole measure. This is called **rhythm**. Rhythm simply tells us *when* to strum those chords and *how long* to let them ring out *based on the beat*. Beats are the reference points.

Notes or strums that ring for one beat are called a **quarter notes**.

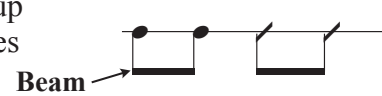
Essentially, that's what the bottom number in a  $\frac{4}{4}$  time signature is telling you. While the top "4" tells you that there are 4 beats in a measure, the bottom "4", an abbreviation for  $(\frac{1}{4})$ , tells you that the quarter note is the value of the beat. In other words, each beat must add up to a quarter note.



Since a quarter note lasts for one beat, then logically, a note lasting only *half* a beat is called an **eighth note**, since half of a quarter is an eighth.

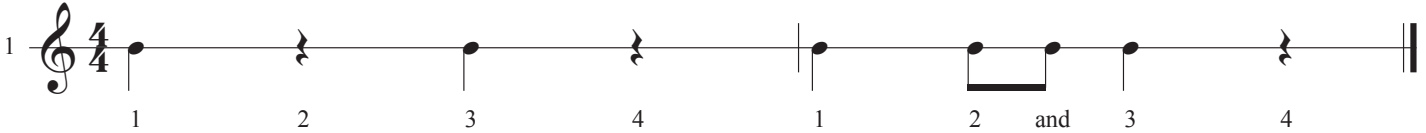



Since eighth notes last for only half a beat, and in  $\frac{4}{4}$ , each beat must add up to a quarter note, we can fit two eighth notes in one beat. Two eighth notes are **beamed** together so that you know they both belong to one beat.





When playing two eighth notes, the first one is played right on the beat and the second one is played exactly at the halfway point between that beat and the next beat. When counting eighth notes, the first one is called by whatever beat it lands on, for example, "one" or "two." The second eighth note is always called "and."


Clap and count the following rhythm exercises. Pat your lap on the rests.


1 

2 

3 

4 

5 

6 

7 