

## Time Signatures

A time signature goes at the beginning of a piece of music and indicates how many beats are in each bar and what kind of beats they are. The number at the top of a time signature tells you how many beats are in a bar, the number on the bottom refers to the type of beats.

### Bottom Numbers:

- 1 Semibreve
- 2 Minim
- 4 Crotchet
- 8 Quaver
- 16 Semi-quavers

The diagram illustrates three time signatures and their corresponding note values:

- 4/4:** Labeled "Four crotchet beats per bar", showing four quarter notes in a bar.
- 3/2:** Labeled "Three minim beats per bar", showing three half notes in a bar.
- 6/8:** Labeled "Six quaver beats per bar", showing six eighth notes in a bar.

## Grouping

Notes values in a bar are grouped according to certain rules. This makes it easier to read and write music, especially when it comes to rhythm.

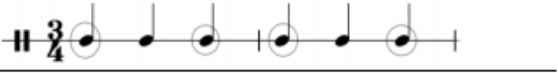

How note values are grouped depends on the number at the bottom of the time signature.

The diagram illustrates grouping rules for notes and rests in different time signatures:

- 3/4 and 4/4:** In 3/4 and 4/4, everything in the bar (including rests) is organized or grouped into groups of crotchets. The examples show groups of 3 and 4 crotchets respectively.
- 6/8:** In 6/8, the notes are organized into groups of dotted crotchets. The examples show groups of 2 and 3 dotted crotchets.
- 4/4:** Grouping rules apply to rests too. The examples show rests grouped as half notes or quarter notes.

## Strong and Weak Beats

Certain beats of the bars are stronger than the others. This depends on the time signature.

$\frac{3}{4}$ - beats one and three	
$\frac{4}{4}$ - beats one and three	
$\frac{6}{8}$ - the first of each group of three quavers	