

DEAN GILES MUSIC EDUCATION

Study Sheet 3 Counting Systems



Counting Systems help us to acquire an Inner Clock. The Inner Clock is one of the most important skills a musician can develop. Playing your instrument in time with a solid and steady pulse is crucial to a good performance.

Counting in a Quarter Note Meter.

If the bottom number of the time signature is **4**, we are in a quarter note meter. The quarter note gets the count. So.....

Counting quarter notes in a quarter note meter is: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 etc..
We will count up as high as the top number of the time signature tells us to.

Eighth Note Counting, Quarter Note Meter: 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 + etc.
The verbal count is "One And Two And Three And Four And" etc..
Each one of these counts represents $\frac{1}{2}$ of a count. Two eights = one quarter.

Sixteenth Note Counting, Quarter Note Meter:
1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 e + a etc..
The verbal count is
"One E And Ah Two E And Ah Three E And Ah Four E And Ah" etc..
Each one of these counts represents $\frac{1}{4}$ of a count. Four Sixteenths = one quarter.

Counting in a Eighth Note Meter.

The bottom number of the time signature is **8**, we are in a eighth note meter.

The eighth note gets the count. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 etc..

Sixteenth notes are counted 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + etc..

The quarter note receives two counts in an eighth note meter.

Counting in a Half Note Meter.

The bottom number of the time signature is **2**.

Count Half Notes 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 etc..

Count Quarter Notes 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Count Eighth Notes 1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 e + a etc..

Identifying the Counting's

Speaking the numbers "1 2 3 4" is called "One Part Counting".
Counting "One And Two And" etc is called "Two Part Counting".
"One E And Ah Two E And Ah" etc is called "Four Part Counting".
Groups of three in Music are called "Triplets".
I use "1TT 2TT 3TT 4TT" for "Three Part Counting".

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