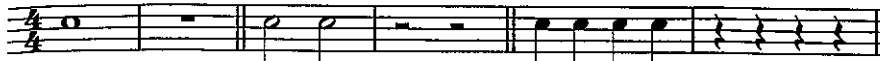


Lesson 9: Rests

In this lesson you will learn about rests.

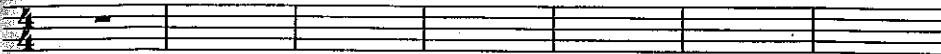
Any rhythmic value can be represented by either a note or a *rest*. A rest is a silence of a certain duration. First let's consider rests that last for the duration of a whole note, half note, or quarter note.

Rests

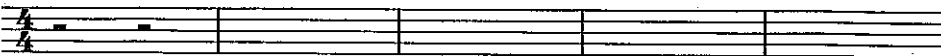


The whole-note and half-note rests are written using the same shape, but the whole-note rest hangs below the fourth line of the staff and the half-note rest sits on the middle line. The squiggly quarter-note rest lies between the lowest and highest spaces of the staff. Use the staves below to practice writing whole-note, half-note, and quarter-note rests.

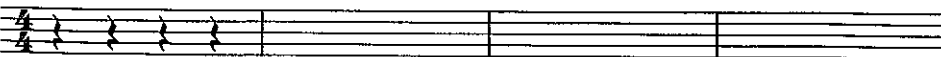
Write whole-note rests



Write half-note rests



Write quarter-note rests



Note that in $\frac{4}{4}$ meter, two quarter-note rests on beats 1-2 and 3-4 are normally combined into a single half-note rest. Half-note rests, however, are not used to span beats 2-3.

Correct



Incorrect



Using half-note and quarter-note rests

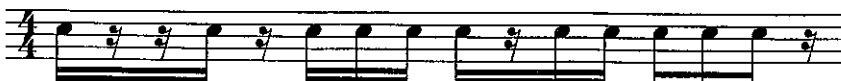


The eighth-note rest is a diagonal straight line with a short flag attached at the top. The sixteenth-note rest is formed the same way, but with a double flag.

Eighth-note rests



Sixteenth-note rests

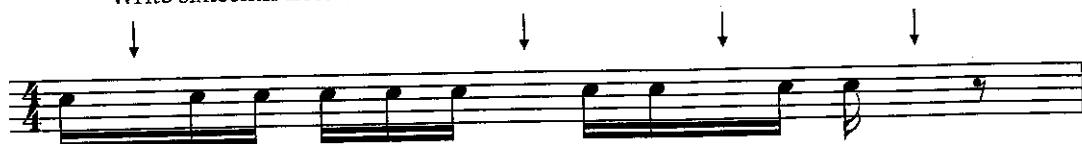


Use the staves below to practice writing eighth-note and sixteenth-note rests.

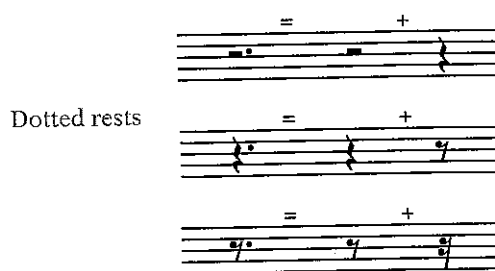
Write eighth-note rests



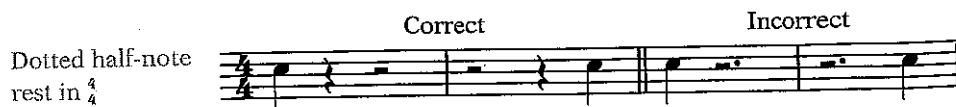
Write sixteenth-note rests



As with notes, adding a dot to a rest increases its length by half.



In practice, the dotted half-note rest is not used in $\frac{4}{4}$ meter, because a half-note rest and a separate quarter-note rest better respect the accent on the third beat of the measure.



Note that while rests may be dotted, they may not be tied.