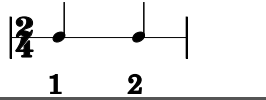
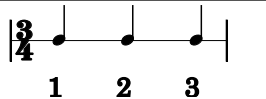
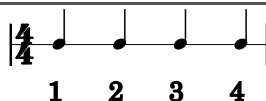
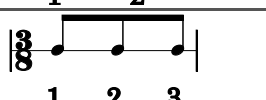
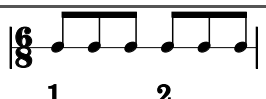
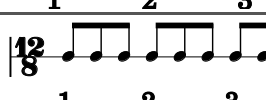
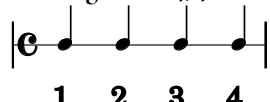


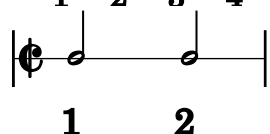
Time signatures chart

Simple · compound · odd · musictheoryprint.com

TIME SIGNATURE, ONE BAR	TYPE AND BEATS	HOW TO COUNT	STRONG AND WEAK	TYPICAL USE
SIMPLE TIME				
	2/4 Simple duple 2 beats, each a quarter note	1 2 1 & 2 &	STRONG, weak	Marches, polkas
	3/4 Simple triple 3 beats, each a quarter note	1 2 3 1 & 2 & 3 &	STRONG, weak, weak	Waltzes, minuets, mazurkas
	4/4 or C Simple quadruple 4 beats, each a quarter note	1 2 3 4 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	STRONG, weak, medium, weak	Pop, rock, blues, much classical music
	2/2 or cut C Simple duple 2 beats, each a half note	1 2 1 & 2 &	STRONG, weak	Marches, fast orchestral music
	3/8 Simple triple 3 beats, each an eighth note	1 2 3 fast: ONE in a bar	STRONG, weak, weak	Quick, light dances
COMPOUND TIME				
	6/8 Compound duple 2 beats, each a dotted quarter (3 eighths)	1 la li 2 la li or 1 2 3 4 5 6	STRONG, weak (stress on 1, lighter on 4)	Jigs, tarantellas, barcarolles, marches
	9/8 Compound triple 3 beats, each a dotted quarter	1 la li 2 la li 3 la li	STRONG, weak, weak	Slip jigs; rare elsewhere
	12/8 Compound quadruple 4 beats, each a dotted quarter	1 la li 2 la li 3 la li 4 la li	STRONG, weak, medium, weak	Slow blues, doo-wop, some jigs
ODD (IRREGULAR) TIME				
	5/4 Irregular (quintuple) 5 quarter notes, grouped 3+2 or 2+3	1 2 3 1 2 or 1 2 1 2 3	STRONG, weak, weak, medium, weak (3+2)	Holst's Mars, Take Five
	7/8 Irregular (septuple) 7 eighths: 2+2+3, 3+2+2 or 2+3+2	1 2 1 2 1 2 3	STRONG, weak, medium, weak, medium, weak, weak (2+2+3)	Balkan dances, progressive rock

Two signs for 4/4 and 2/2

 **C** = 4/4, common time. Four quarter-note beats per bar.

 **cut C** = 2/2, cut time (alla breve). Two half-note beats per bar.

How to read any time signature

- Bottom number:** the note that is counted (2 half, 4 quarter, 8 eighth, 16 sixteenth).
- Top number 2, 3 or 4:** simple time. Count the top number; each beat splits in two.
- Top number 6, 9 or 12:** compound time. Count the top number ÷ 3; each beat is a dotted note that splits in three.
- Any other top number (5, 7 ...):** odd time. Count in groups of 2 and 3.

Meaning of the numbers and the types (simple, compound, irregular): [Wikipedia, "Time signature"](#) and ["Metre \(music\)"](#) (CC BY-SA 4.0). Demonstration tempi are for listening. musictheoryprint.com/charts/time-signatures-chart