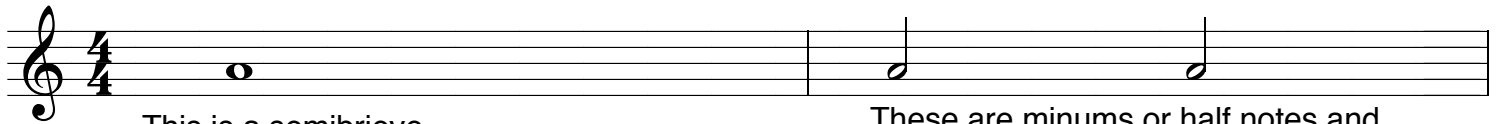


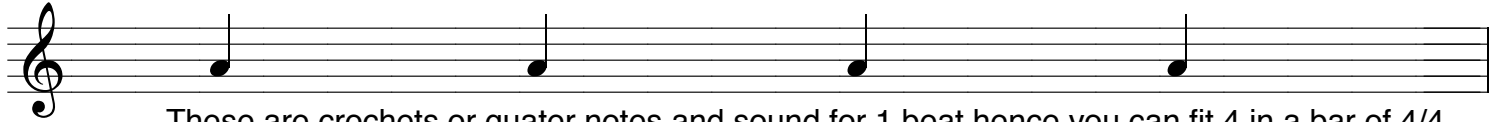
Notation Basics

Here are some of the basics of notation for you to study



This is a semibreve or whole note it sounds for 4 beats

These are minims or half notes and sound for 2 beats hence you can fit two in a bar of 4/4. The stems on notes can go up or down depending on pitch i.e. on or below the middle line they go up; on or above the middle line they go down.



These are crotchets or quarter notes and sound for 1 beat hence you can fit 4 in a bar of 4/4. That's actually what the bottom number in the 4/4 timing signature is referring to.

Quavers are fractions of a beat. Usually music doesn't get busier than semiquavers



This is a quaver or eighth note it sounds for half a beat.

If there are two or more quavers together then they will be grouped with a beam replacing the tail into 1 or 2 beat groupings normally. The first pair above = 1 beat and the group of 4 = 2 beats

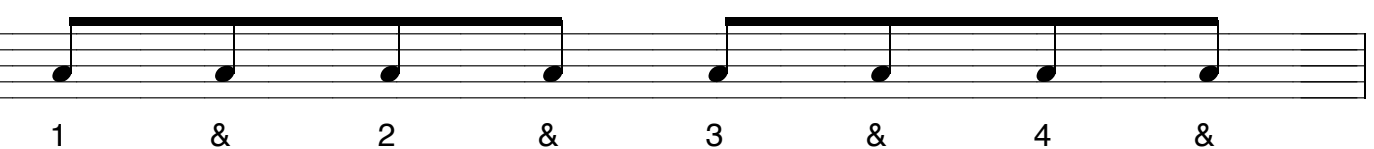
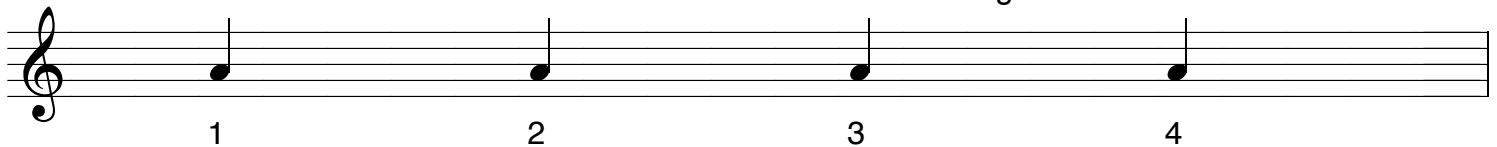
This is a semiquaver or 16th note and sounds for a quarter of a beat

When semiquavers occur they are always grouped into single beats

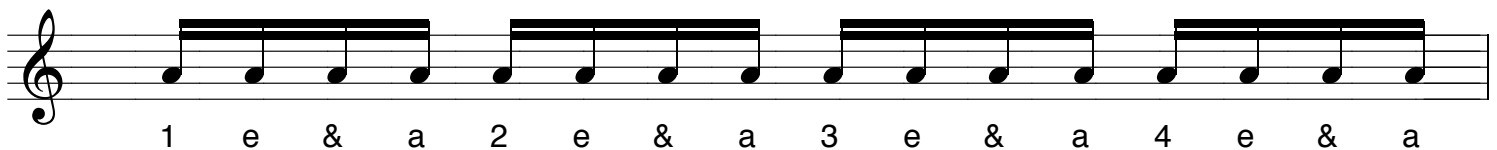
There are smaller notes called demisemiquavers which are 32nd notes and sound for a 16th of a beat but you don't see them used very often. Incidentally the four example bars above aren't full.

It's good to have a counting system for notes.

There are a few different variations I've come across but the following is common:-



Pronounced 1 'and' 2 etc.



Pronounced 1 'ee' 'and' 'ah' etc.

Sometimes the following note counting system is used in schools:-

Tah Owl Tah Owl Tah Owl Tah Owl

Tee Mag - Tee pie Tee Mag - Tee pie Tee Mag - Tee pie Tee Mag - Tee pie

Tig - a Kook - a - bu - rra Tig - a Kook - a - bu - rra Tig - a Kook - a - bu - rra Tig - a Kook - a - bu - rra

Sometimes you have triplets in music. Below are triplets which you can hear the timing of by saying:-

Pin - ap - ple Pin - ap - ple Pin - ap - ple Pin - ap - ple

Double triplets happen sometimes as well.

These are 6 notes per beat and feature in the drums for the 'Hawai Five O' theme for example :o)

You might pronounce the following phrase like this:-

Tah 1 Owl Tee 2 Mag - Tee & pie Tig - a 3 e - Tig & a - rra Tah 4 Owl

Tee 1 Mag Tig - a & a 2 Kook - a Tig - a 2 Kook - a Tee & Mag Tah 3 Owl Tig - a 4 e - Kook - a Tee & Mag

Sadly, our Magpies and Kookaburras got chopped in half :o)