

COUNTING MUSIC 1: WHOLE NOTES, HALF NOTES, QUARTER NOTES AND UPBEAT

We have already mentioned the terms *upbeat* and *grace note*, but before we continue we should explain a bit more about counting music, in other words about the *bar* or *measure*. The bar in music is simply a way to keep time. We have whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, eighths, sixteenths, etc.



A whole note lasts for four counts. So does a whole rest.



A half note lasts for two counts. So does a half rest.



A quarter note lasts one count. So does a quarter rest.



An eighth note lasts for half a count and so does an eighth rest.



A sixteenth note lasts for quarter a count, so does a sixteenth rest.



With more flags on the note, we can shorten it to one-thirty-secondst etc. In four four time, there are 4 quarter notes, one whole note or two half notes.

Up to now we have been using four four time, (common measure). Since jazz and tap usually work with groups of eight counts we have also used two groups of two four four bars.

We count quarter notes by their number: 1, 2, 3, and 4.

With two eighth notes, (together one quarter) the first is counted with the number of the quarter note, the second with the word '*and*'.

With four sixteenth notes, (together one quarter) the first is counted with the number of the quarter note and the next three with the sounds '*te ne te*'.

SYNCOPIATION AND UPBEAT

In tap dance and jazz, the accent is not always on the 'one' (down beat) but often on the second or even on the last *te* from *te ne te*.

Putting accents in music in places you wouldn't expect them is called *syncopation*.

The accented notes are called *syncopes*.

grace note en downbeat

It can happen that a movement needs a preparation, like picking up the foot before a *brush* or a *shuffle*. In this case, we put the '*and*', the second eighth before the count we mean.

We call this preparation count the *upbeat*. We have already used this. If the *upbeat* is shorter, the last sixteenth of the last count, then we use *te*. If the *upbeat* is even shorter, then we call it a *grace note*. A *downbeat* is the first beat of the measure.



A *heel drop* is when the heel is put down while the ball of the foot is already resting on the floor.