

Let's Read Music: Violin

II, 1/4 Notes/Rests and A

This lesson sheet focuses on reading quarter (1/4) notes and rests. These are very basic symbols of rhythm. Recognizing them will be your first step in learning to read music.

Goal: recognize quarter notes and quarter rests, relate the quarter note to the bottom number of time signatures, recognize the treble clef, and read the pitch of A on the treble clef.

 This is a quarter note, which is made by dividing a whole note (♩) into four equal notes (whole notes will be discussed in more detail later). Also pictured is the quarter rest, which tells you when not to play. When you think of quarter notes, think of the fraction of the same name, $\frac{1}{4}$. Notice the bottom number of the fraction and relate it to the bottom number of the following time signatures:

a. Two-Four $\frac{2}{4}$ b. Three-Four $\frac{3}{4}$ c. Four-Four $\frac{4}{4}$

When the bottom number is four, that means that quarter notes (a fraction which has the same bottom number) will equal a full beat. Since we know that the top number of the time signature tells us how many beats are in a measure, then we also know that:

a. Two-Four $\frac{2}{4}$ has two quarter notes in every measure.

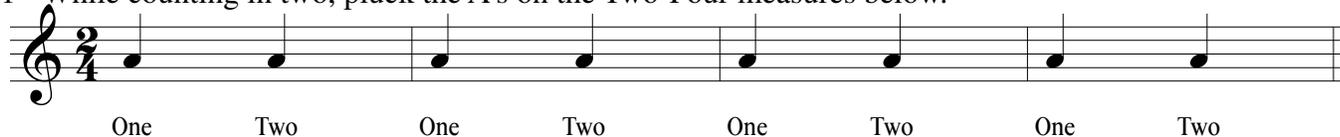
b. Three-Four $\frac{3}{4}$ has three quarter notes in every measure.

c. Four-Four $\frac{4}{4}$ has four quarter notes in every measure.



The symbol on the left of this measure is the Treble Clef. The violin will use this symbol as a reference for reading music. The first pitch we will read on it will be the pitch of A. This A will be just below the lowest line on the measure (as shown by the quarter note). This will be the open A string on the violin.

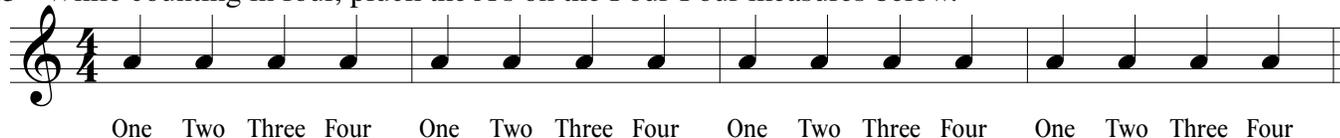
Exercise 2.1 - While counting in two, pluck the A's on the Two-Four measures below.



Exercise 2.2 - While counting in three, pluck the A's on the Three-Four measures below.



Exercise 2.3 - While counting in four, pluck the A's on the Four-Four measures below.

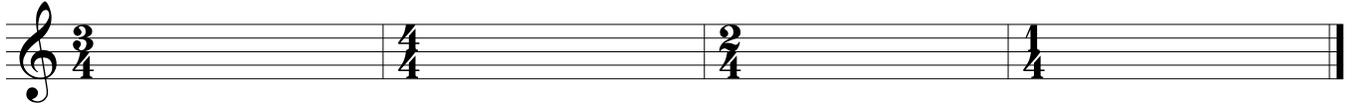


Exercise 2.4 - While counting in four, pluck the A's on the Four-Four measures below, but don't pluck the quarter rests.

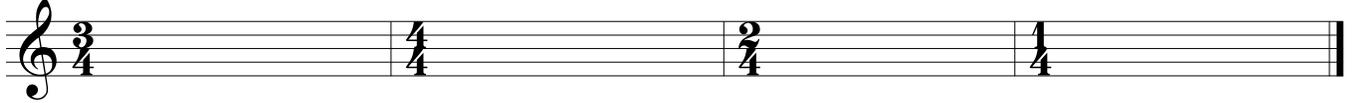


Coursework

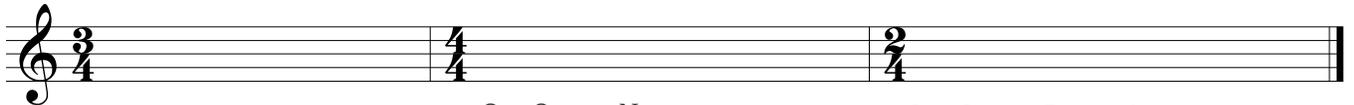
Coursework 2.1 - For the following time signatures, draw the correct number of quarter notes, on A, for each measure.



Coursework 2.2 - For the following time signatures, draw the correct number of quarter rests for each measure.



Coursework 2.3 - For the following time signatures, draw the quarter notes, on A, and quarter rests.



Two Quarter Notes and
One Quarter Rest.

One Quarter Note,
One Quarter Rest,
One Quarter Note, and
One Quarter Rest.

One Quarter Rest and
One Quarter Note.

Creativity Exercise: Fill out the following four measures with your own assortment of quarter notes (on A) and quarter rests. To be performed for teacher at next lesson.

