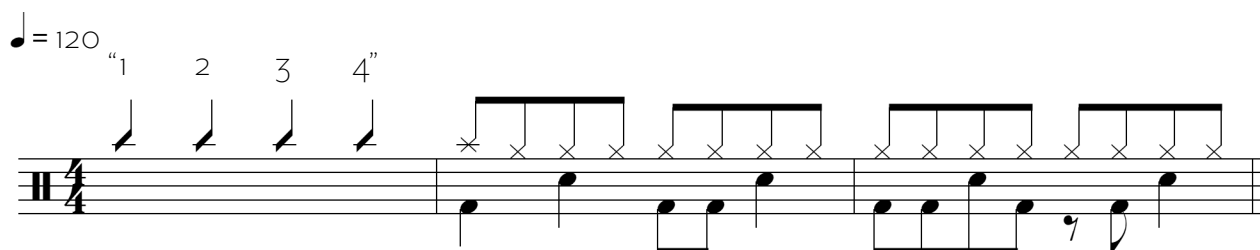


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# RHYTHM NOTATION

We have already heard the drummer set the tempo of a song by counting “1, 2, 3, 4!”. Typically, that regular pulse would be a series of crotchets or quarter notes. This note value is often used when describing the tempo or speed of music.



Music wouldn't be particularly exciting if only one note value was used. In fact, music is played with a mixture of different notes - some long, some short. They can be played in any order that you like.

The following table and exercise is taken from *Drumset for Beginners*. It shows the American and British name for each note and rest. The American name is easier to understand and is adopted throughout this series of books.

BRITISH NAME	AMERICAN NAME	NOTE	REST	VALUE (BEATS)
Semibreve	Whole			4
Minim	Half			2
Crotchet	Quarter			1
Quaver	Eighth			½ of 1
Semiquaver	Sixteenth			¼ of 1

# BAR LINES

## Bad drummer joke: three crotchets walk into a bar...

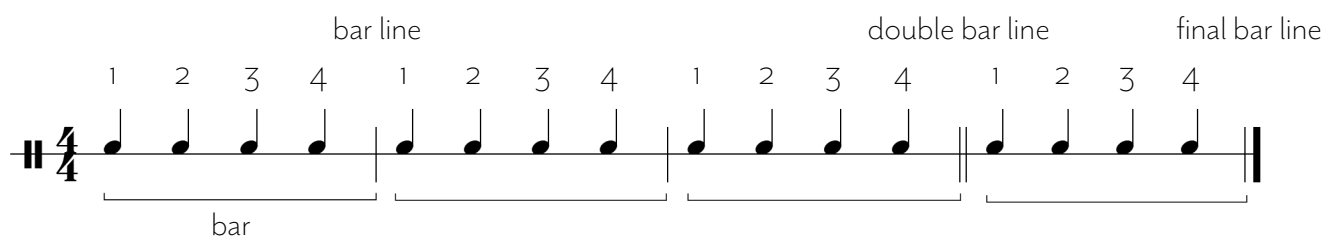
Music that is written down is a visual representation of something that is aural. That is to say it is a transcription of something that is audible. Therefore any written musical score must aim to be a true representation of the music. If it isn't, what chance have we got of playing it? In order to achieve this, any written piece of music must be as organised as possible.

**Recap:** Music that is written down is a visual representation of something that is aural. If we are happy to count music in the time signature of 4/4 (four evenly spaced quarter notes) then we must organise the written music in exactly the same way. This is achieved by a single thin vertical line called a bar-line.

**Top tip:** Each time that you encounter a bar-line, the count of the time signature resets back to "1".

There are several types of bar-lines. A **double bar-line** which is depicted by two thin vertical lines in close proximity to one another tells you two things; the first that you are about to start a new bar of music and the second that you have reached the end of that section within the music and are about to start a new one. This could be the end of a verse that leads into a chorus or vice versa.

Another type of bar-line is called the **end bar-line**, which is depicted again by two vertical lines in close proximity to one another, only this time the left line is thin and the right line is thicker. This symbol tells us that we have reached the end of the entire piece of music.



In *Drumset for Beginners: Jazz* Paul writes about a music term called an:

Anacrusis

[,anə'kru:sis] - noun

One or more unstressed note(s) before the first bar line of a piece or passage.

Music can sometimes start with an anacrusis - or pickup. This is where the music begins slightly before the first full bar. Examples of this can be heard and read on *You Cost Me Dear* and *Brinklow* from the aforementioned *Drumset for Beginners: Jazz*.

# READING EXERCISES

The reading exercises in this section are provided to help assist you in your understanding of rhythmic theory. They also serve to help improve your sight reading. For those of you working towards graded music examples, they can be used as practice pieces. The ability level of the solos range from RQF level one to level two (grades one to five).

## LEVEL ONE | GRADE ONE

