

2. Rhythm (Grade 2) - Part 1

Time Signature with Minim Beats

The time signatures we met at Grade 1 all have the bottom number 4, meaning that the beat is measured in **crotchets**.

$\frac{2}{4}$ = two  beats in a bar

$\frac{3}{4}$ = three  beats in a bar

$\frac{4}{4}$ = four  beats in a bar

We are now going to meet some time signatures that have the bottom number 2, which means that the beat is measured in minims.



Diagram illustrating the 2/2 time signature. The top staff shows two minims (half notes) in a bar, labeled '1' and '2' above them. The bottom staff shows two crotchets (quarter notes) in a bar, labeled '1' and '2' above them. Red arrows point from the labels 'No. of beats' and 'Type of beat' to the respective parts of the notation.

2/2 means: 2 minims in a bar



Diagram illustrating the 3/2 time signature. The top staff shows three minims (half notes) in a bar, labeled '1', '2', and '3' above them. The bottom staff shows three crotchets (quarter notes) in a bar, labeled '1', '2', and '3' above them. Red arrows point from the labels 'No. of beats' and 'Type of beat' to the respective parts of the notation.

3/2 means: 3 minims in a bar



Diagram illustrating the 4/2 time signature. The top staff shows four minims (half notes) in a bar, labeled '1', '2', '3', and '4' above them. The bottom staff shows four crotchets (quarter notes) in a bar, labeled '1', '2', '3', and '4' above them. Red arrows point from the labels 'No. of beats' and 'Type of beat' to the respective parts of the notation.

4/2 means: 4 minims in a bar

Exercise 2

Circle the correct time signature for each of these rhythms.

Smart tip Number the minim beats below the music to help.



a $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{3}{2}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{4}{2}$

b $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{3}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{2}$

c $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{2}$ C $\frac{4}{2}$

d $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{3}{2}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{4}{2}$

Exercise 3

Number the minim beats and then add one note in each box to complete each bar.

a $\frac{2}{2}$
 Beats: 1 2

b $\frac{3}{2}$
 Beats:

c C
 Beats:

d $\frac{4}{2}$
 Beats:

e $\frac{4}{2}$
 Beats:

f $\frac{2}{2}$
 Beats:

g $\frac{3}{2}$
 Beats:

h $\frac{4}{2}$
 Beats:

