

i

Compound time: duple, triple and quadruple

We know that simple time signatures can be described as duple, triple or quadruple, depending on whether they have two, three or four beats in a bar (see p. 7). The same applies in compound time.

6 (two dotted-crotchet beats in a bar) = compound duple time

9 (three dotted-crotchet beats in a bar) = compound triple time

12 (four dotted-crotchet beats in a bar) = compound quadruple time

Exercise 9 For each of these bars, add the time signature and then tick (✓) one box to show if it is simple or compound, and one box to show if it is duple or triple or quadruple.

a 

simple compound
 duple triple quadruple

b 

simple compound
 duple triple quadruple

c 

simple compound
 duple triple quadruple

d 

simple compound
 duple triple quadruple

e 

simple compound
 duple triple quadruple