



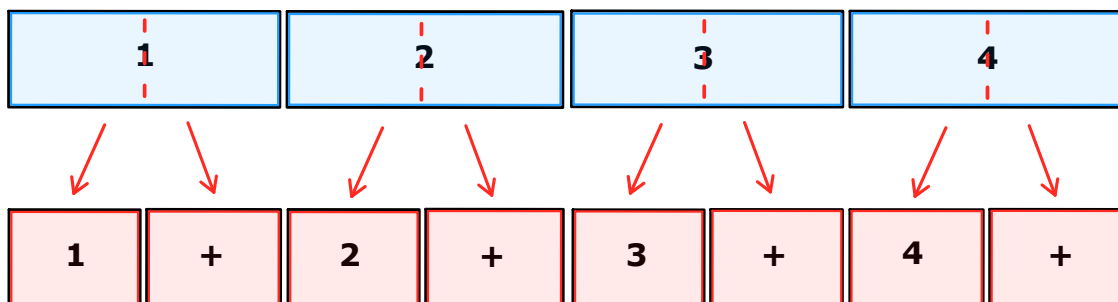
EIGHTH NOTES

Now we will move to probably the most common note in music, the EIGHTH NOTE. As you count out quarter notes ("1, 2, 3, 4"), begin to notice the empty spaces in between each count. We will be adding an extra note in each one of those empty spaces, which will be our EIGHTH NOTE.

You'll see in just a minute that we get eighth notes by dividing a quarter note in half. It is very important that you learn to "hear" in your head where the extra subdivisions are in between the clicks.

Let's divide the quarter note in half and that will give us two EIGHTH NOTES. If each quarter note gets 1 beat, when we divide that we get two eighth notes, each receiving 1/2 of a beat. This is counted by saying "AND" in between the counts. For example, "1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and."

Quarter Note (1 beat)



Eighth Note (1/2 beat)

Be sure to notice on the diagram that each pair of smaller, subdivided notes takes up the same amount of space as the larger note that it came from.



Count It Out Loud - Eighth Notes

It is very important that we get comfortable knowing how to count the subdivisions OUT LOUD as a reference for ourselves. The easier you can do this, the more possibilities and ideas will open up to you as you play. Eighth notes are counted:

“one and two and three and four and”

Rests

You will notice that some spaces appear to be blank, with nothing written to play. These spaces are called “RESTS” and you don’t play anything there. Rests are common in music.

It is very important to note that while you don’t play anything during a rest, you still need to follow the count normally. **The count must remain constant whether notes are played or not.**