



Let's say I asked you to count out 8 measures. You take off counting and then about half-way through, you suddenly realize you can't remember which measure you are on! It could be the 4th, the 5th...maybe the 6th?

We will soon learn to use groups of measures and it's important to learn how to count them. Repeating the same count over and over can quickly become confusing. To help with this, we'll use a handy trick.

**Instead of counting:** "1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4"

**We would count:** "1, 2, 3, 4, 2, 2, 3, 4, 3, 2, 3, 4, 4, 2, 3, 4"

When we add the measure count to the beginning of each new measure, it makes it easy to keep track of where we are as we play.

15 minutes per day

## Lesson 11 - "Hands On" Exercises

- Using the method we just learned, try counting 4 measures. At first it might help to count on your fingers, also.
  - Now try counting out 8 measures.
  - Play an 8th note beat for 4 measures, counting each measure as shown.
  - Play an 8th note beat for 8 measures, counting each measure as shown.
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### Why It Matters

Knowing how to count measures is a simple thing, but it is a vital skill to have as we move forward. It will also be something you'll use for the rest of your life as you interact with other musicians.