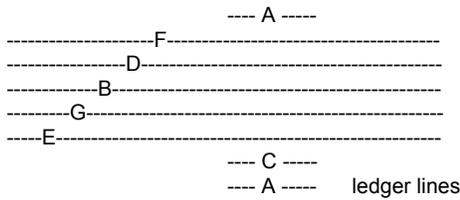


STANDARD NOTATION

Five lines lines = every good boy deserves favor, E G B D F
 spaces = F A C E



Time values of notes – whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth, etc

- ♩ whole note = four beats = four quarter notes
- ♪ half note = two beats = two quarter notes
- ♩ quarter note = one beat = two eighth notes
- ♪ eighth note = one-half beat = two sixteenth notes
- ♩ sixteenth note = four per beat, two sixteenth notes per eighth note

When counting out time, quarter notes are counted on the downbeats or numbers themselves, ie: 1, 2, 3, 4, repeat. Eighth notes have one-half the time value of a quarter note, and are counted on the upbeats or “ands”..... 1 *and* 2 *and* 3 *and* 4 *and*

Time signatures: 4/4 count 1 -- 2 -- 3 – 4 emphasis on the “one” beat
 3/4 count 1 -- 2 – 3 waltz time
 2/4 count 1 – 2

The upper number tells you how many beats per measure, and the lower number tells you what note value will get one full beat. So 4/4 means four beats per measure, with a quarter note getting one beat. 4/4 is the most common time signature, used for most rock & roll, jazz, and blues. 3/4 time is used for waltzes or polkas, and is often called the “oom-pah-pah” rhythm. Other times signatures are often used too, such as 6/8 (Nights in White Satin) which gets six beats per measure, each one being an eighth note. You could also think of 6/8 as “3/4 time, twice as fast” with an accent on the first and fourth notes.



There is also something called a triplet, where three notes occur in the space of one quarter note, dividing the duration into thirds. Count them out as “**one** – trip – let, **two** – trip – let, **three** – trip – let” and so forth, with each phrase lasting one beat. One common occurrence for triplets is in a blues turnaround or embellishment. There are a total of twelve triplet notes in a four beat measure (4/4 time).

For music written on a staff, the number of sharp symbols indicates the key: (hint: count corners)

one sharp = G two sharps = D three sharps = A four sharps = E no sharps = C

There is an easy way to remember this: just count the number of sharp corners in the letter. G has one sharp corner, and has one sharp on the musical staff. “D” has two sharp corners, and two sharps on the staff. “A” has three sharp corners, and three sharps on the staff. “E” has four corners, so is written with four sharps. The letter “C” has zero sharp corners. Trust me, it works. Knowing this trick will help to quickly identify the key of the song if no chord symbols are provided. If in doubt, look up the “Circle of Fifths” in your Guitar Handbook.