


## LESSON 64

## BEAT VALUES IN 4 4 TIME

These beat values are the fundamental building blocks of rhythm. Rhythm being one of the big three elements in music - along with Harmony and Melody.


What these represent are basically 'place holders' for sound durations. All these beat values could be played as any chord or any single note - it doesn't matter - the duration of how long they last is the important bit.


Each example is one bar of 4 4 (a.k.a. COMMON TIME) this is a TIME SIGNATURE. Time signatures are a whole subject in themselves, but for now, know that 4 4 timing is the most used.


$\frac{4}{4}$  |  | = whole note (semibreve)  
count 1 2 3 4

$\frac{4}{4}$  |  | = 1/2 notes (minims)  
count 1 2 3 4

$\frac{4}{4}$  |  | = 1/4 notes (crotchets)  
count 1 2 3 4

$\frac{4}{4}$  |  | = 1/8th notes (quavers)  
count 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +  
(and) (and)

$\frac{4}{4}$  |  | = 1/8th note triplets  
(quaver triplets)  
count 1 ta ta 2 ta ta 3 ta ta 4 ta ta

$\frac{4}{4}$  |  | = 1/16th notes  
(semiquavers)  
count 1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 e + a  
(1 ne an na 2 e an na ...)

Grab a METRONOME and set the click to 80 b.p.m. (beats per minute) and practise playing a chord, note or scale with each rhythm. Count out aloud while playing. You need to totally familiarize yourself with all these basic rhythmic building blocks.