

Time Signatures Part 2

In Part 1 we looked at time signatures based on the quarter note. However, sometimes you will see time signatures that tell you that the eighth note gets one beat.

In this case there are 3 beats for measure, and the eighth note gets 1 beat:



6/8 is another common eighth note time signature:



9/8 is one we see from time to time:



Time signatures are not limited to quarter or eighth notes, they can also be based on the half note. In this case, the whole note only gets two beats.



Remember 4/4 time was referred to as “Common” time? Another way of showing 2/2 is by showing it as “Cut” time. This is commonly seen in jazz charts.



You might see 3/2 or 4/2 time signatures as well, but 2/2 is the most often seen.