

THEORY 3

TIME SIGNATURES

TOP NUMBER = NUMBER OF BEATS PER MEASURE
 BOTTOM NUMBER = WHICH NOTE REPRESENTS THE BEAT

SIMPLE METER = THE BEAT CAN BE DIVIDED BY 2
 COMPOUND METER = THE BEAT CAN BE DIVIDED BY 3

Beats per Bar	Simple Time Signature	Beat	Compound Time Signature	Beat
2 (duple)	2 2	half note	6 8	dotted quarter note
	2 4	quarter note		
3 (triple)	3 2	half note	9 8	dotted quarter note
	3 4	quarter note		
	3 8	eighth note		
	if a piece is so quick that the feeling is of one beat in a bar, then the triple meter (usually 3/2 or 3/8) is compound (i.e. may be divided into three)			
4 (quadruple)	4 2	half note	12 8	dotted quarter note
	4 4	quarter note		

DUPLE SIMPLE

2 2
2 4

DUPLE COMPOUND

6
8

TRIPLE SIMPLE

3 3 3
2 4 8

TRIPLE COMPOUND

9
8

QUADRUPLE SIMPLE

4 4
2 4

QUADRUPLE COMPOUND

12
8