

# CHAPTER XII

## SIMPLE (COMMON) METER

### Simple Duple Meter, the "Two-Beat"




Measures in duple meter contain two beats. The most commonly used two-beat meters are  $\frac{2}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{8}$ , and  $\frac{4}{4}$ , and of these, we will probably encounter  $\frac{2}{4}$  more frequently than the others. Practice all three in order to familiarize yourself with both the smaller and larger rhythmic values.

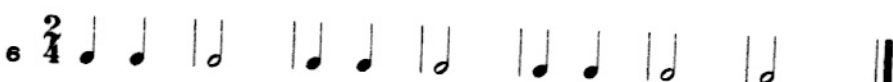
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#### PREPARATORY EXERCISES


Repeat each exercise several times, always conducting the "two-beat" pattern until it feels natural. Then proceed to the regular duple-meter exercises. For both preparatory and regular exercises, begin rather slowly, approximately  $\text{♩} = 60$ ,  $\text{♩} = 60$ , or  $\text{♩} = 60$  (the basic unit = 60), increasing the speed each time you complete an exercise until you reach an eventual speed of  $\text{♩} = 120$ ,  $\text{♩} = 120$ , or  $\text{♩} = 120$  (the basic unit = 120).





5  $\frac{2}{4}$  


6  $\frac{2}{4}$  


7  $\frac{2}{4}$  

8  $\frac{2}{4}$  

9  $\frac{2}{4}$  

10  $\frac{2}{4}$  

11  $\frac{2}{4}$  

12  $\frac{2}{4}$  

**REGULAR EXERCISES**

All exercises should be conducted while they are performed.

There are two quarter notes to each beat. Remember that  $\text{♩} = \text{♩} \text{ ♩}$ ,  $\text{♩} = \text{♩} \text{ ♩}$ .

1  $\frac{2}{4}$  


2  $\frac{2}{4}$  


3  $\frac{2}{4}$  

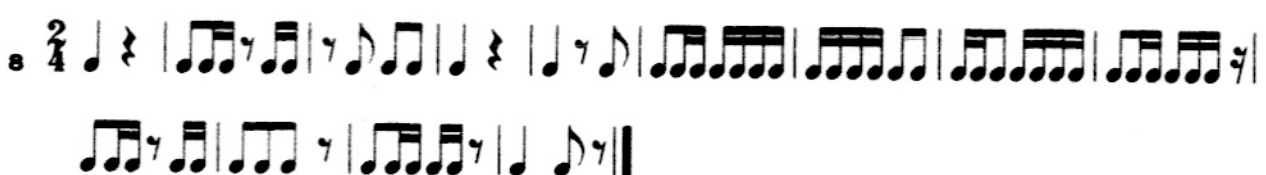
4  $\frac{2}{4}$  

5  $\frac{2}{4}$  

Sixteenth notes are not difficult if you remember that  $\text{♩} = \text{♩♩♩}$  and  $\text{♩} = \text{♩♩}$  or  $\text{♩♩}$ .

6  $\frac{2}{4}$  

7  $\frac{2}{4}$  

8  $\frac{2}{4}$  

In the next four exercises the half note receives one beat;  $\text{♩} = \text{♩} \text{♩}$ ,  $\text{♩} = \text{♩} \text{♩}$ ,  $\text{♩} = \text{♩♩♩}$ .

9  $\frac{2}{2}$  

10  $\frac{2}{2}$  

11  $\frac{2}{2}$  

12  $\frac{2}{2}$  

