

CREATING MUSIC WITH TONIC-SOLFA NOTATION

One of the ways we create music is by singing tonic-solfa notes. Tonic solfa notes are syllables sung to musical sounds which are used to create music or learn music. A modulator is used to perform singing exercises with tonic-solfa notes.

A Modulator

This is the arrangement of tonic-solfa notes in ascending and descending order.

DOH'
TI
LAH
SOH
FAH
MI
RAY
DOH

The syllables are **doh**, **ray**, **mi**, **fah**, **soh**, **lah**, **ti**, **doh'**. They are eight in number. To sing a musical passage, you need to know how to read values of tonic solfa. Look at the table below:

HOW IT IS WRITTEN	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF BEATS
d :	Tonic solfa syllable with a colon (no hyphen)	One beat
d: -	Tonic solfa syllable with 1 colon and 1 hyphen	Two beats
d: - : -	Tonic solfa syllable with 2 colons and 2 hyphens	Three beats
d: - : - : -	Tonic solfa syllable with 3 colons and 3 hyphens	Four beats

To help us learn this faster, make one beat to last for one second, two beats to last for two seconds, three beats to last for three seconds and four beats to last for four seconds.

Clapping rhythm

Let us clap the following rhythms following their beat values. The beat values have been added below each musical note. Let us say each beat value will last for a second. So, follow each musical note, clapping each beat for a second, two beats for two seconds and four beats for four seconds.

Musical notes	d : d : r : d m : r : d : -
Beat values	1 1 1 1 1 1 2
Musical notes	m : - : r : - d : - : - : -
Beat values	2 2 4

Also, try to sing the melody of the musical notes after clapping the rhythm.

Let us compose a song using the following lyrics:

Nigeria is a good country

Most blessed among the nations

I'll do my best in loyalty

To serve my nation

To be able to compose suitable melody for the above lyrics, read it the poem audibly to yourself three times in speech rhythm. Clap the rhythm of the poem as you recite it to rhythm. Let us consider the following melody for the words:

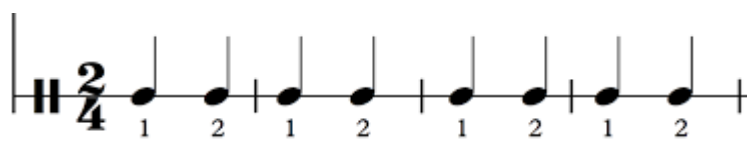
NIGERIA

s | d' : d' : s : s | l : s : m : m | f : r : l : s | f : - : m
 Ni-ge- ria is a good count-ry, most blessed a -mong the na - tions
 s | d' : d' : s : s | l : s : m : m | f : l : s : f | m : - : - ||
 I'll do my best in lo - ya - ty to serve my na - - tion.

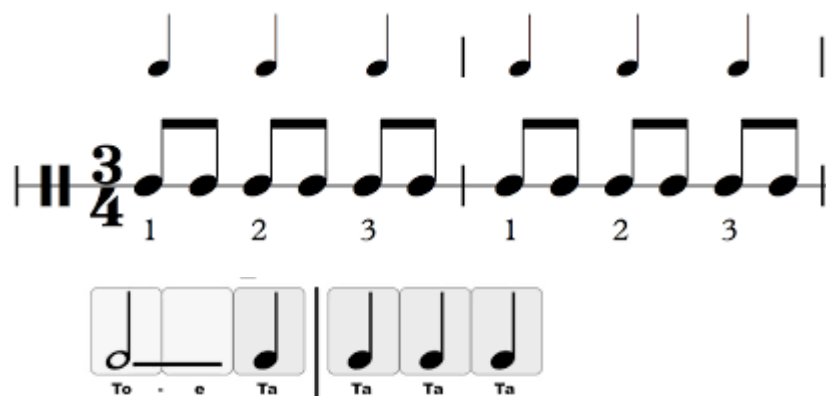
Types of rhythm

Some pieces of music moves in twos, some in threes and some in fours. Hence, we have $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, and $\frac{4}{4}$

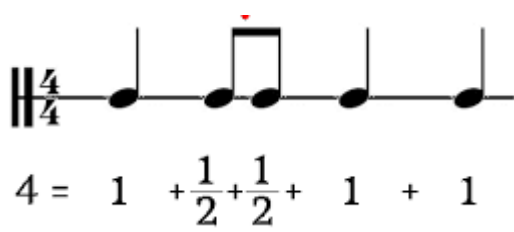
Rhythms in $\frac{2}{4}$



Rhythms in $\frac{3}{4}$



Rhythms in $\frac{4}{4}$



Offbeats

