

## MUSICAL NOTES, RESTS AND DOTTED NOTES

**Music notes are symbols written to represent the duration of a musical sound.** Duration simply means how long something should last. Every sound has its own duration. Some sound has short durations while others have long duration. The duration of a musical sound can be as long as four seconds while some may just be two seconds and so on. Music is usually a combination of various duration of sounds. These durations are measured in number of beats. These durations have been represented by symbols. These symbols will help you to know the value of musical notes. Below is a table showing musical notes, their symbols and their values

MUSICAL NOTES	AMERICAN NAME	SYMBOL	BEAT VALUES
Semibreve	Whole note		Four beats
Minim	Half note		Two beats
Crotchet	Quarter note		One beat
Quaver	Eighth note		Half beat
Semiquaver	Sixteenth note		Quarter beat
Demisemiquaver	Thirty-second note		One-eighth beat

## Rest in music

The same way we have musical notes that denote the musical sounds we play, we also have signs that indicate silence. **Rest is a period of silence in music.** If we could have B on the keyboard sounding for the duration of a semibreve, say four seconds, we could also have a semibreve rest denoting four seconds of silence before playing the next note. Thus, every musical note has an equivalent rest. So, the same duration the musical note will have for a particular sound will determine its duration of silence for its rest sign. Below are musical rest signs and their name

MUSICAL REST	REST SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION	DURATION
Semibreve rest		A shaded rectangle hanging under a line	Four beat
Minim rest		A shaded rectangle resting on top of a line	Two beat
Crotchet rest		A shape that looks like 3	1 beat
Quaver rest		A shape like the number 7	1/2 of a beat
Semiquaver rest		Looks like F written to the left	1/4 of a beat
Demisemiquaver		Looks like a semiquaver with an extra line	1/16 of a beat

## DOTTED NOTES

**A dotted note is a note that has a dot added at its right side.** If a dot is added to a note, it means half of the value of the note has been added. For example a crotchet has two quavers as its halves. A dotted crotchet would mean a crotchet plus a quaver since a quaver is exactly half of a crotchet.



See the table below for more.

DOTTED MUSICAL NOTE	ITS VALUE	EQUAL THREE NOTES
Dotted semibreve 		
Dotted Minim 		
Dotted Crotchet 		
Dotted quaver 		
Dotted semiquaver 		

From the above, a dotted crotchet is equal to three quavers (since the first crotchet is already equal to two quavers) and a dotted minim is equal to three crotchets and so on.

Less common, is a musical note with two dots. The last dot adds half of the note value indicated by the first dot as shown below.



This is applicable to other musical notes as may be given in any musical piece.

## DOTTED RESTS

**Dotted rests function in the same way as dotted notes. A dotted rest is a rest that has a dot added at its right side.** If a dot is added to a rest, it means half of the value of the rest has been added. For example a crotchet rest has quaver rest as its half of its value (two quavers rests make a crotchet rest). A dotted crotchet rest would mean a crotchet rest plus a quaver rest (since quaver rest is exactly half of a crotchet rest.)