





NOTE VALUES

As well as looking at the pitch of notes on the staff, we need to also think about some of the other elements needed to create a piece of music. Another important consideration is the **length** or **duration** of the notes. Notes can be written several different ways and each tells us how many counts or beats to hold them on for.

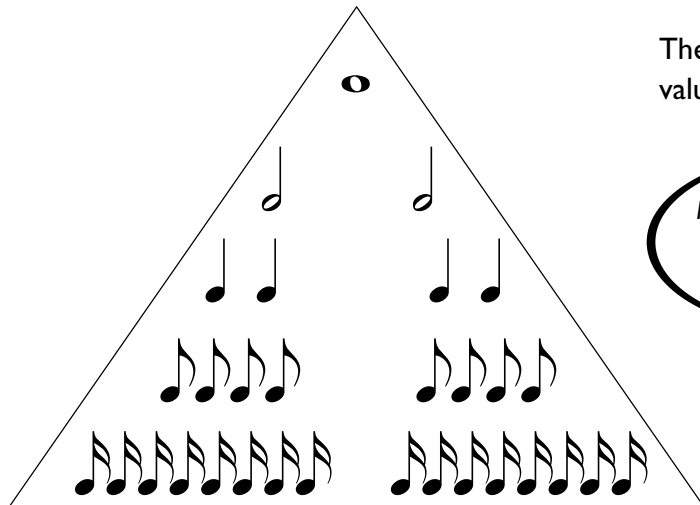
Here is a semibreve  it is worth 4 beats

minim  it is worth 2 beats

crotchet  it is worth 1 beat

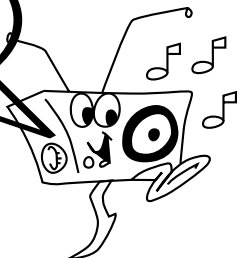
quaver - not the edible kind I'm afraid!  it is worth 1/2 beat



semi-quaver  it is worth 1/4 beat








The note pyramid shows how the note values can be worked out.

For example can you see that there are 2 minims in a semibreve?



- Note: When two or more quavers or semi-quavers are written together they can be joined up like this :  or 

Now try these questions:

1. How many crotchets are there in a semibreve - **2** **3** or **4** ?
2. Complete this sentence: A _____ is a two count note.
3. True or false - a semiquaver is worth 1 beat? _____
4. True or false -  +  +  +  =  _____
5. Complete this sentence : A _____ is worth a 1/4 beat.

DOTTED NOTES





Both **dots** and **ties** increase the value of notes.

A dot written after a note increases its value by half as much again.




For example: a crotchet  = 1 beat


therefore a dotted crotchet  =  +  = 1 1/2 beats
1 + 1/2

A minim  = 2 beats therefore a dotted minim  =  +  = 3 beats

Now see if you can work out how much these notes are worth:


A dotted crotchet  = _____ quavers?

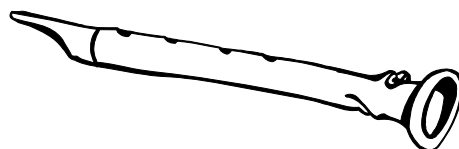
A dotted minim  = _____ crotchets?

How many semi-quavers  are there in a dotted quaver  ? _____

How many crotchets  are there in a dotted crotchet  ? _____

A crotchet  + a dotted crotchet  + a quaver  + a crotchet  = _____

A dot above or below  a note means that you should play the note staccato - so don't confuse it with a dot after a note!



Did you know that staccato is an Italian musical term telling you that the notes are short and detached?