

Counting Out Simple Rhythms

(in 4/4 with mostly quarters and eighths)

This sheet will help us practice how to “count out” the rhythms we see. Under each note, indicate what beat it falls on. If no note falls on a particular beat, indicate it in parentheses.

Here’s an example of what I mean.

Add “+” when needed to count eighth notes.

1 (2) 3 4 1 (2) + 3 + 4 +

(Note that these problems aren’t designed to be particularly musical. For examples of rhythmic passages that actually sound like real music see our “Rhythmic Anthology.”)

1.

1 2 (3) 4 1 (2) (3) 4 (1) 2 3 (4) 1 (2) (3) (4)

2.

(1) (2) 3 (4) (1) 2 3 (4) 1 (2) 3 4 (1) (2) 3 (4)

3.

1 2 3 (4) (1) 2 (3) (4) 1 2 (3) 4 1 (2) (3) (4)

4.

(1) 2 (3) (4) 1 (2) (3) (4) (1) 2 3 4 1 2 (3) (4)

5.

1 2 + 3 + 4 1 + (2) + 3 4 1 (2) 3 (+) 4 1 (2) (3) (4)

(more...)

6.

(1) (2) + 3 (4) + 1 + 2 (3) 4 + 1 (+) 2 (+) 3 (+) 4 (+) 1 2 3 (4)

7.

1 + 2 + (3) (4) 1 + 2 (3) (4) + (1) 2 (3) (4) + 1 + (2) 3 + (4)

8.

(1) (2) + (3) 4 (1) 2 (3) (4) + (1) (2) 3 (4) + (1) 2 3 (4)