

Bandojo Song Sheet Help

Note Duration (Time Length)

Note Durations

Music notes are represented as colored circles (filled or unfilled) with numbers inside. *Duration* (how long a note plays) is indicated by several factors. For this discussion about time and rhythm, ignore the color and number, but pay attention to whether it is filled or unfilled.

Stems

Vertical lines that extend above or below note heads are called *stems*. These, along with fill, influence duration. Stem direction (up or down) is ignored. Placement to the left or right of the note head is also ignored.

① Whole Note

② Half Notes

① ② ③ ④ Quarter Notes

An **unfilled** circle (note head) with no stem is called a *whole note*. It's the whole thing.

An **unfilled** note head with a stem is called a *half note*, and its duration is half the length of the whole note.

A **filled** note head with a stem is a *quarter note*. Its duration is 1/4 that of the whole note. Four of these together have the same total duration as two half notes or one whole note.

Flags and Beams

① Quarter Note

② Eighth Notes

③ ③ ③ ③ Sixteenth Notes

② Eighth Notes

③ ③ ③ ③ Sixteenth Notes

The remaining levels of subdivision are notated with *flags* and *beams* attached to the stem. A note stem can have one or more flags. Each additional flag further divides a note by half.

One flag represents the 1/8th note.

Two flags represent the 1/16th note, etc.

Notes next to each other that have flags may, instead, connect to each other with beams. Beams do the same thing as flags, and sheet music will often use a combination of flags and beams.