

Notes on Note Reading

Each note on the staff tells you two things about itself: 1) what it sounds like (the pitch of the note, and the string it is played on and 2) how long the note should last (the duration of the note).

Where the note lays on the staff (which line or space) tells you what string to play and what the note will sound like.

What the note looks like tells you how long the note should last.

Rests tell you how long silence lasts when it is included within the music.

In 4/4 time signature, there are 4 quarter notes in each measure, or the mathematical equivalent of 4 beats. There are many ways this can look. Here are a few examples. Underneath each note is the rest of corresponding value. All of these notes are written to be played on the "F" string above middle C. The length of the note changes depending on the way the note head looks and whether or not there is a stem attached.

 quarter note and quarter rest each gets one beat	 half note and half rest each gets two beats	 whole rest and whole note each gets 4 beats

The note values of these notes is the same as the line above. Notice that the notes themselves look the same. The difference now is where the notes are placed on the staff, they're not only "F" but you'll also find some "C"s here. Remember, C is red. F is black (or sometimes kind of blue).