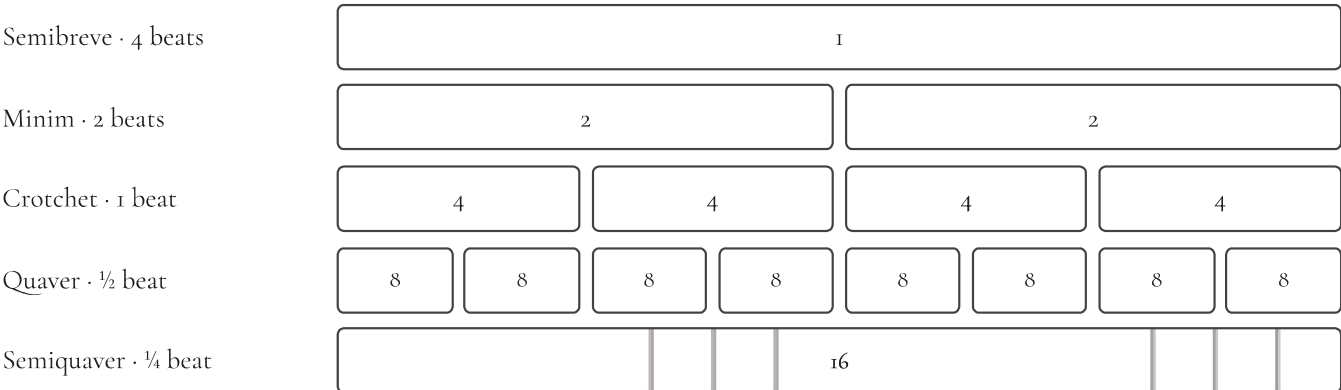


Note values

Every note value is worth exactly half the one above it. Read the tree downward and you can see the whole system at a glance — this is why music divides so neatly into two.

ONE BAR OF FOUR BEATS, DIVIDED

Each row is the same length



BRITISH NAME	AMERICAN	BEATS	REST	WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE
Semibreve	Whole note	4	Sits under a line	An open head, no stem.
Minim	Half note	2	Sits on a line	An open head with a stem.
Crotchet	Quarter note	1	Squiggle	A filled head with a stem.
Quaver	Eighth note	½	One flag	Filled head, stem, one tail.
Semiquaver	Sixteenth note	¼	Two flags	Filled head, stem, two tails.
Dotted minim	Dotted half	3	Rest plus dot	A dot adds half again.
Dotted crotchet	Dotted quarter	1½	Rest plus dot	Very common in swung tunes.

THE DOT RULE

A dot after a note adds half its value again. A 2-beat minim becomes 3; a 1-beat crotchet becomes 1½.

RESTS COUNT TOO

Every note value has a matching rest of the same length. Silence is written, not left out.