

Berklee**Shares.com**<sup>TM</sup>

**FREE** music lessons from  
**Berklee College of Music**

## **Berklee Music Theory: Book 1**

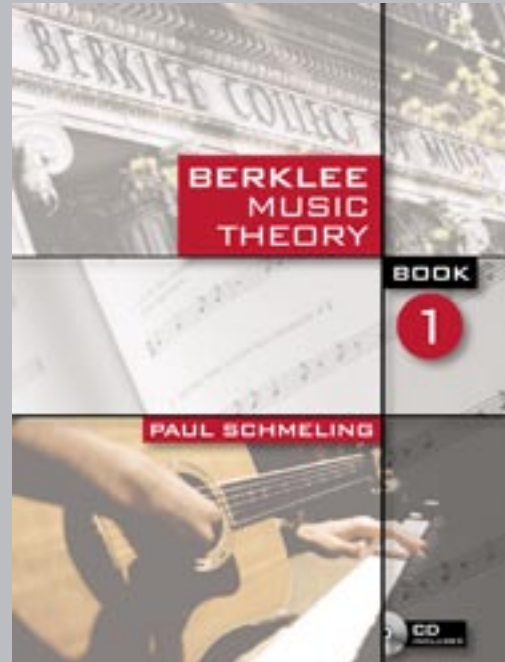
Paul Schmeling

Lesson 2

Notes

Click CD icons to listen to  
CD tracks from book.  
Press ESC to cancel sound.

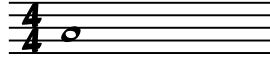
Check out [Berkleeshares.com](http://Berkleeshares.com) for more lessons  
just like this one.



## Lesson 2. Notes

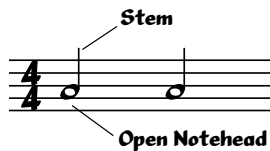
**Notes** are the building blocks of music. A note's length (**duration**) is measured in beats.

**Whole notes** last for four beats, which is a whole measure in  $\frac{4}{4}$  meter. The symbol for a whole note is an open notehead.



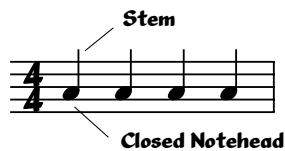
- 2 On track 2, the piano plays whole notes and the metronome (click track) plays every beat. Listen carefully to hear both instruments.

**Half notes** last for half as long as whole notes: two beats in  $\frac{4}{4}$  time. Their symbol is an open notehead with a vertical line called a stem.



- 3 On track 3, the piano plays half notes and the metronome plays every beat.

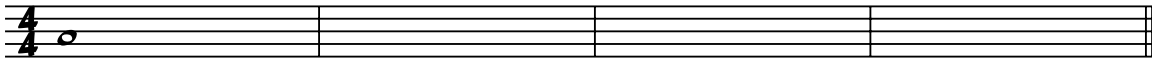
**Quarter notes** last for a quarter of a whole note: one beat. Their symbol is a closed notehead with a stem.



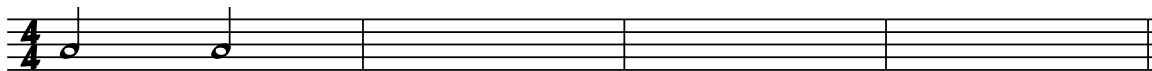
- 4 On track 4, the piano and the metronome play quarter notes, that is, every beat together.

## Practice

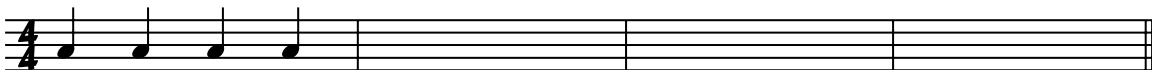
1. Practice writing one whole note in each measure. Notice the oval shape (not a circle) and its placement at the beginning of the measure.



2. Practice writing half notes in the measures provided.



3. Practice writing quarter notes in the measures provided.



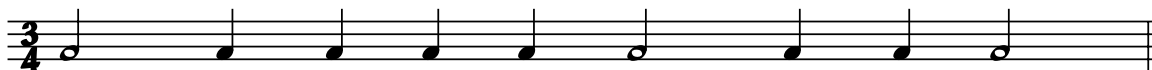
4. Circle the measure that has the correct number of beats.



5. Add bar lines to make three measures of  $\frac{4}{4}$ . All measures should be the same size.



6. Add bar lines to make four measures of  $\frac{3}{4}$ . All measures should be the same size.



7. Add bar lines to make six measures of  $\frac{2}{4}$ . All measures should be the same size.

