













16th, 32nds, and Infinity

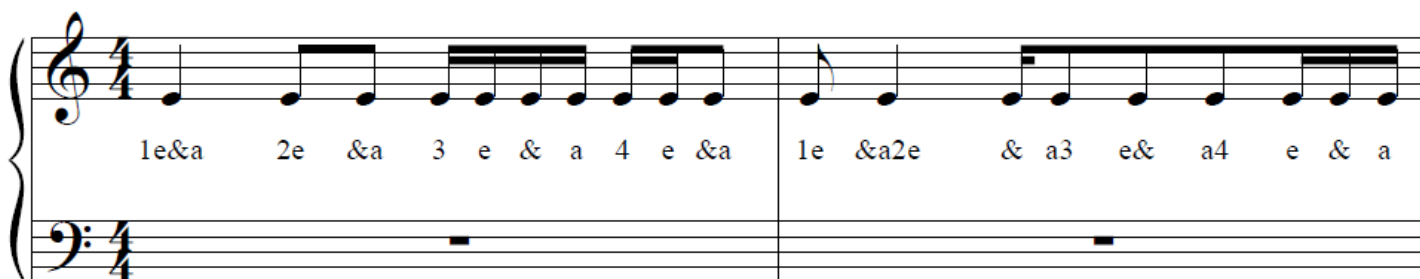
Notes can be very short! Quarter notes have no flag and are worth an entire beat. Each time a flag is added, the note is half as big (twice as fast), and the name is the fraction that is half as big. So, 1 flag is an eighth note, 2 flags is a sixteenth note, 3 flags is a thirty-second note, 4 flags is a sixty-fourth, and so on.

When we count with only quarter notes, we count "1,2,3...". When we add eighth notes, we 'sub-divide' each beat, so each eighth note has its own place by counting "1&2&3&...". With sixteenths, we count "1e&a2e&a..."

We rarely see notes smaller than 16ths, so there is no standard counting for 32nd notes and smaller.

1 e & a	2 e & a	3 e & a	4 e & a
			
			
			

Usually, when several short notes are strung together, bars connect them, replacing the flags. 1 bar = 1 flag, etc. Here's an example of how to count a passage with 16th notes:



1e&a 2e &a 3 e & a 4 e &a | 1e &a2e & a3 e& a4 e & a