

GENERAL SIMPLE RHYTHMIC NOTATION PRINCIPLES

- WHEN EDITING RHYTHMIC NOTATION, ***THE CORRECT SOLUTION SHOULD ULTIMATELY SOUND THE SAME AS THE ORIGINAL RHYTHM WHENEVER POSSIBLE.*** CHANGE THE ORIGINAL RHYTHM ONLY WHEN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY!
- All measures MUST contain the correct number of values, either as rests or as notes!
- Avoid tied notes unless absolutely necessary – use the largest note values possible.
- Never use tied rests, but use the largest rest values possible, EXCEPT in specific cases shown below.
- Avoid dotted rests unless absolutely necessary in simple meter (4/4, 3/4, 2/4, etc.); dotted notes are perfectly acceptable.
- Remember that rests should be considered more complex than notes, and often require special care.

4/4 (Common) Meter

- Whenever a measure includes rest values, try to maintain the “halfway” point in the measure (this is never necessary when the entire measure is simply a whole rest). Examples (in one complete measure of 4/4):
 - Quarter note, quarter rest, quarter rest, quarter note, INSTEAD of quarter note, half rest, quarter note.
 - Half rest, quarter rest, quarter note, INSTEAD of quarter rest, half rest, quarter note, OR, dotted half rest, quarter note (remember, avoid dotted rests unless absolutely necessary).

3/4 Meter

- Remember, dotted notes are perfectly acceptable, but avoid dotted rests unless absolutely necessary.
- WHOLE RESTS should be used for a full measure of rest in 3/4 meter, HOWEVER, use a DOTTED HALF NOTE for a note value lasting the entire measure!
- NEVER use a whole note in 3/4 meter (although a whole rest is preferred in the situation above).
- NEVER use half rests in 3/4 meter! Example (in one complete measure of 3/4):
 - Quarter rest, quarter rest, quarter note, INSTEAD of half rest, quarter note.

Eighth Notes and Rests

- **Generally much more complicated – try to indicate/maintain the half-way point of the measure in 4/4 meter with notes and rests! Tied notes will be used much more often to follow this rule.**
- With COMBINATIONS of rests and notes, USUALLY try to delineate each beat. Example (in 4/4, 3/4 meter, etc.):

- Quarter rest, eighth rest, eighth note, INSTEAD of eighth rest, quarter rest, eighth note; HOWEVER, it is OK to use eighth rest, dotted quarter note.
- Use BEAMED eighth notes instead of flagged eighth notes whenever possible.
- **In 4/4 meter, NEVER beam more than four eighth notes together, and NEVER beam eighth notes together that cross the halfway point in the measure!**