e-z theory: Minims

In these exercises you will learn about note values and how they work.

♩ 1   In the last worksheet, we learned that a semibreve

𝅝

has the same value as 4 crotchets.

𝅝   =   ♩ + ♩ + ♩ + ♩

♩ 2   Now we are going to learn about a new note.

It is called a **minim**.

It looks like a **semibreve** and a **crotchet** combined into one:

𝅝 𝅗𝅥 𝅗𝅥

It has a note head that looks like a **semibreve**, but it has a **stem**.

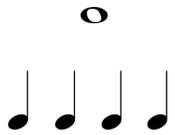This tells us that it has a different value or length. Can you guess what that is?

If you were right, you would have said that it is **two beats** in value or length. So, if we cut up a **semibreve** into two, we get **two minims.**

If we squash **two crotchets** together, we get one **minim**.
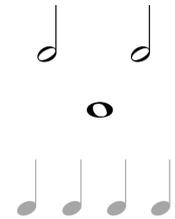
♩ 3   A semibreve, therefore, can be cut up not only into four crotchets:

𝅝

♩ ♩ ♩ ♩

but also into two minims:
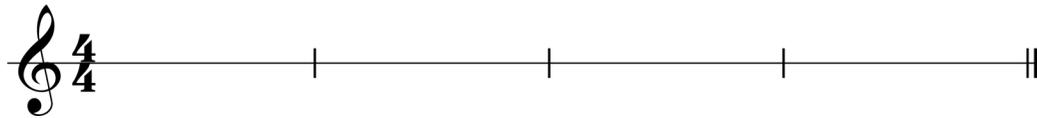
𝅗𝅥   𝅗𝅥

𝅝

♩ ♩ ♩ ♩

♩ 4   If two minims have the same value as a semibreve,

how many crotchet beats do we count for a **minim**?
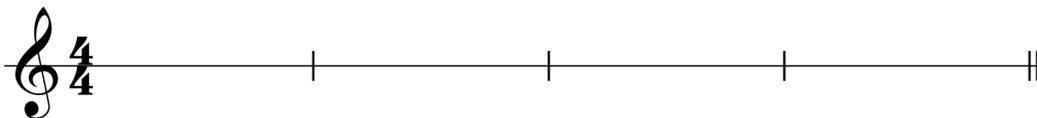
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♩ 5   On the staves below and on the next page, write
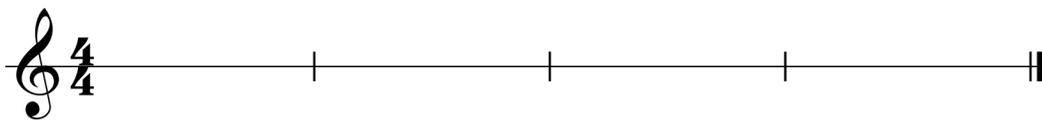
1. A line of **minims**, putting two into each bar:

2. A line that has 2 minims in bar 1 and bar 3 and four crotchets in bar 2 and bar 4:

3. A line that has 1 **semibreve**, 2 **minims** and 8 **crotchets**:

♩ 6   ## The Note Tree

If we look at all the notes we have learned until now, you will see that:

1. a **semibreve** is the longest note, which has a value of four **crotchet** beats

2. a **minim** is half the length of a **semibreve**. This has two **crotchet** beats.

4. a **crotchet** is half the length of a **minim**.

5. a **crotchet** is a quarter the length of a **semibreve**.

If we put all these together as a picture or diagram, you will see an interesting pattern.

Semibreve	𝅝	4 crotchet beats
Minim	𝅗𝅥 𝅗𝅥	2 crotchet beats
Crotchet	♩ ♩ ♩ ♩	1 crotchet beat

We can call this a **Note Tree** because its shape is a little like that of a tree.

In the next section, we are going to add another line to our note tree.

This will go underneath the line of **crotchets**.

Can you guess how long the value of these new notes is going to be?

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