

The general rule is that the blacker the note with the greater the number of "tails", the faster goes the melody. In places where many fast notes appear together, a bar connects the "tails" together. Eighth-notes have a single bar, sixteenth-notes have a double bar, etc.



These timing values are:

whole note



whole rest



half note



half rest



quarter note



quarter rest



eighth note



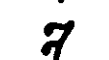
eighth rest



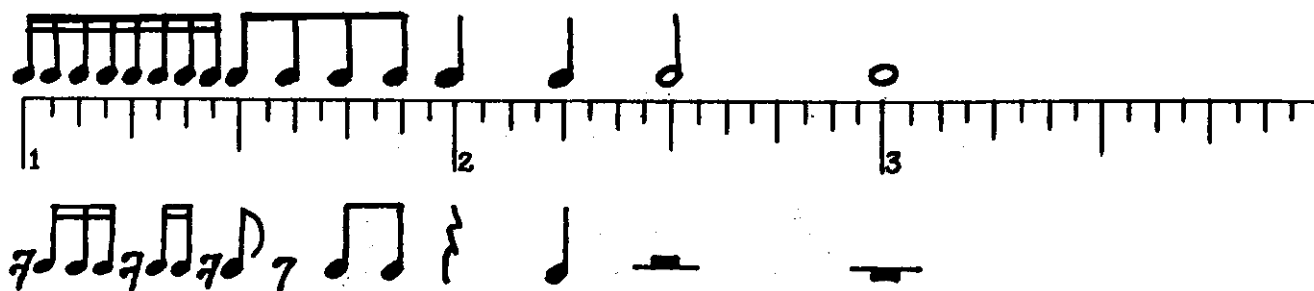
sixteenth note



sixteenth rest



Another way to visualize this is by referring to the common foot ruler:



Take your time with the music. If fingering appears to be the problem, tune your instrument down a whole step. The slacked tuning will facilitate pressing the strings to the fretboard. The song commentaries are written to provide musical insight on how the songs are constructed. By no means do they need to be understood completely in order to play the music. Their purpose is to help you understand the composition musically, and to provide a foundation for subsequent study of music theory — should you so desire. There is no substitution for accurate performance. It is this upon which you should focus your efforts.