

Time Signatures


What do the bottom and top numbers of a time signature mean?

2—The top number tells you how many beats in a measure.

4—The bottom number tells you what kind of a note gets 1 beat. In this case, the 4 stands for $\frac{1}{4}$ which means a QUARTER NOTE gets 1 beat. If there is a 4 on the bottom of any time signature, it always means that a quarter note gets 1 beat.

If you are asked what the numbers mean in this time signature, this is what you should write:

2—2 beats in a measure.

4— = 1 beat