








# [Simple Musical Time Signatures]

Simple Time Signatures		
Time Signature	Common Uses	Simple Drum Pattern
<p>4 4 or <b>C</b> (quadruple)</p>	<p><i>Common time:</i> Widely used in <a href="#">classical music</a> and most forms of <a href="#">popular music</a>. Most common time signature in <a href="#">rock</a>, <a href="#">blues</a>, <a href="#">country</a>, <a href="#">funk</a>, and <a href="#">pop</a>.<sup>[4]</sup></p>	
<p>2 2 or <b>C</b> (duple)</p>	<p><i>Alla breve, cut time:</i> Used for <a href="#">marches</a> and fast orchestral music.</p>	
<p>2 4 (duple)</p>	<p>Used for <a href="#">polkas</a>, <a href="#">galops</a>, <a href="#">marches</a>, and many styles of <a href="#">Latin music</a> (including <a href="#">bolero</a>, <a href="#">cumbia</a>, and <a href="#">merengue</a>).</p>	
<p>3 4 (triple)</p>	<p>Used for <a href="#">waltzes</a>, <a href="#">minuets</a>, <a href="#">scherzi</a>, <a href="#">polonaises</a>, <a href="#">mazurkas</a>, country &amp; western ballads, R&amp;B, and some pop.</p>	
<p>3 8 (triple)</p>	<p>Also used for the above but usually suggests higher tempo or shorter <a href="#">hypermeter</a>. Sometimes preferred for certain folk dances such as <a href="#">cachucha</a>.</p>	

## [Compound Musical Time Signatures]

Compound Time Signatures		
Time Signature	Common Uses	Simple Drum Pattern
<p>6 8 (duple)</p>	<p>Double jigs, jotas, zortzikos, polkas, sega, salegy, tarantella, marches, barcarolles, loures, and some rock music. <i>Anapestic tetrameter</i> poetry also fits into 6 8 time when said aloud.</p>	
<p>9 8 (triple)</p>	<p><i>Compound triple time</i>: Used in slip jigs; otherwise occurring rarely ("<a href="#">The Ride of the Valkyries</a>", Tchaikovsky's <i>Fourth Symphony</i>, and the final movement of J.S. Bach's <i>Violin Concerto in A minor</i> (BWV 1041) are familiar examples. Debussy's "<i>Clair de lune</i>" and the opening bars of <i>Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune</i> are also in 9 8).</p>	
<p>12 8 (quadruple)</p>	<p>Also common in slower blues (where it is called a <i>shuffle</i>) and doo-wop; also used more recently in rock music. Can also be heard in some jigs like "<i>The Irish Washerwoman</i>". This is also the time signature of <i>Scene by the Brook</i>, the second movement of Beethoven's <i>Pastoral Symphony</i>.</p>	