

Compound Meters Counting Tutorial

In compound meters, such as 6/8, 9/8, 12/8, and 3/8, the eighth notes are grouped in threes, giving the dotted-quarter note the beat when the music is fast. At slower speeds, the eighth note will usually get the beat. Below are some common rhythms found in compound meters. The numbers above each note tell the beats within the measure on which the notes are positioned.

1-2-3-4-5-6 1-2-3 4-5-6 1-2 3 4-5 6

1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 + 3 4 5 + 6 1 2 3 4-5-6

1-2-3 4-5-6 7-8-9 1-2-3-4-5-6 7-8-9 1-2-3 4-5-6-7-8-9

10 1-2 3 4-5 6 7 8 9 1 2+ 3 4 5+ 6 7-8 9 1 + 2 + 3 4 5 + 6 + 7-8-9