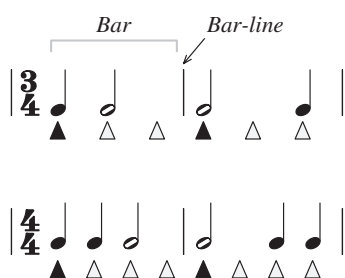


Music Fact Sheet

Reading the Dots

These pages contain some brief reminders of basic note-reading skills. For all its imprecision, traditional notation remains the most practical and widely understood way of writing music data. If you are keen to get started, skip over this section and come back to it if you have difficulty with the music in the sequences. Theory on its own can be a chore; however, if you use notation regularly you'll find the skills will come naturally.

RHYTHM



Rhythm, quite simply, is the effect produced by the interaction of a steady **beat** (pulse) overlaid by the individual lengths of each note. This beat is given by the metronome on the sequencer and is grouped into **bars**, often of 3 or 4 beats.

In music notation, bars are shown by vertical lines across the music called **bar-lines**. Any note on the first beat of each bar (the one that immediately follows each bar-line) is usually played with a stronger pulse than the others.

In the music itself the beat may actually be played by an instrument such as the kick drum, but often it is more subtle and is only *felt* through the accurate placing of each individual note rather than being specifically audible.

The number of beats contained in each bar is shown by the upper figure of the **time signature** (eg $\frac{3}{4}$ – three beats in a bar). The lower figure, usually 4, means that the beat consists of quarter-notes. An 8 at the bottom would indicate a pulse written in eighth-notes.

In music notation, **note lengths** are distinguished by different shapes of notes. The sequencer's grid, more helpfully, displays the actual lengths:



Groups of eighth- and sixteenth-notes are usually beamed together into one-beat units.

	Note				Rest (Notated silence)
	Whole	(Semibreve)	—		—
	Half	(Minim)	—		—
	Quarter	(Crotchet)			z
	Eighth	(Quaver)			7
	Sixteenth	(Semiquaver)			7
BEAT	1	2	3	4	

English note lengths (*minim, crotchet, etc*) are shown here for reference, but sequencers have adopted the more logical system of half-notes and quarter-notes found in most other countries and used throughout this book.