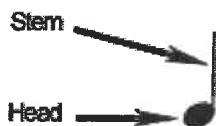


Examine the pictures below and the names of the various parts of the note:

A quarter note:

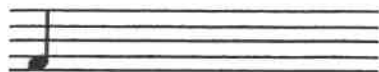


An eighth note:

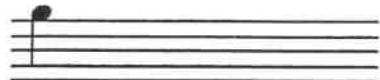


When drawing notes, it is common for the stem to be one octave in length. They should be placed on the right side of the note head and extend upwards if the note is below the middle/third

line of the staff.



When the note is above the third line of the staff, the stem is placed on the left side of the head and extends downward.



When the note is on the third line, the stem may extend upward or downward though most commonly notation prefers it to point downward.



Beams are used to join several notes together that have flags. They help in keeping the notes clear to read and legible. The notes usually have to have the same metrical time unit to be connected with **beams**. Example 2 shows an exception.

Beam connecting two 8th notes



Example 1



Example 2









The stems can sometimes be placed differently when using beams rather than flags. When the

majority of the notes are above the third line of the staff, the stems will extend downward. If the majority of notes are below the third line of the staff, the stems will extend upward.

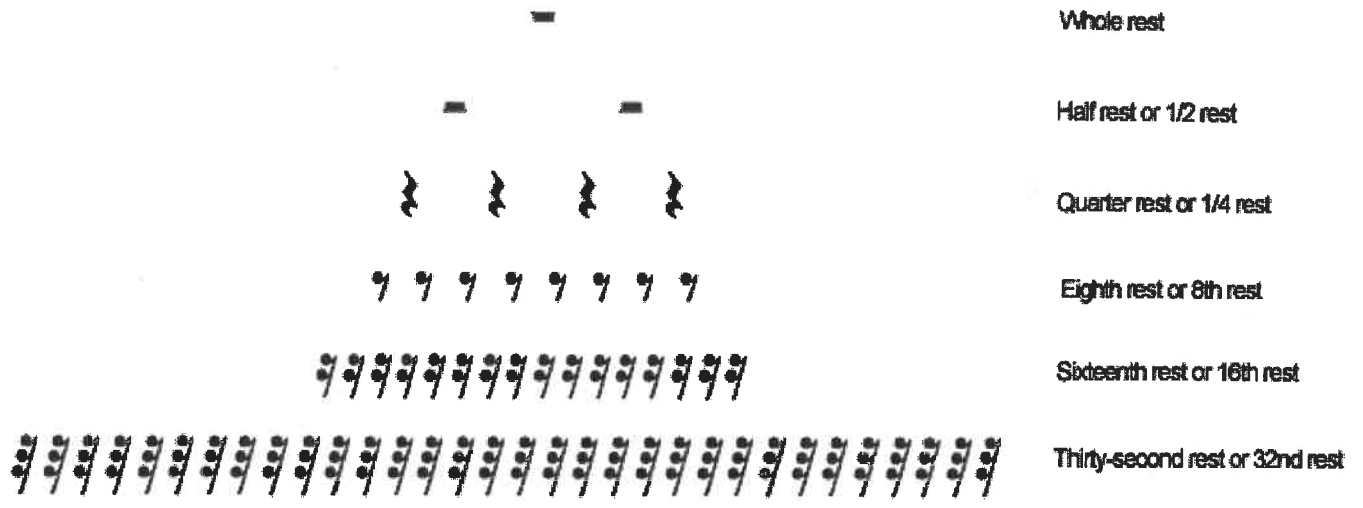


When all the notes are to be beamed together and the number of notes above the middle line of the staff equal the number below the middle line, the direction of the stems are determined by the note which is farthest from the middle line.

Take a look at the notes and their subdivisions, or how equally they can be divided up. Each row can be subdivided into the row below that. The bottom row has the same duration value as the top row, for example.

	Whole note
	Half note or 1/2 note
	Quarter note or 1/4 note
	Eighth note or 8th note
	Sixteenth note or 16th note
	Thirty-second note or 32nd note

Rests are musical symbols that indicate a duration of silence. Just like notes which represent sound of different lengths of time, there are matching rests that represent lengths of silence. For example, a quarter note of a tone has a silence counterpart of a quarter rest. There are also half rests, whole rests, eights rests, sixteenth rests, etc. When reading music, it is as important to correctly internally “hear” or understand the silence as the sound.



From looking at the above chart we see that a whole rest equals two half rests, a half rest equals two quarter rests, a quarter rest equals two eighth rests, and so on...