

Sixteenth Rests

A sixteenth rest takes up the same amount of time as a sixteenth note. The only difference is that you do not play on a sixteenth rest. In 4/4 time a sixteenth rest means to rest for one quarter of a count.

Example: (Notice where the downbeats and upbeats occur.)

The image shows two musical staves in 4/4 time. Each staff contains four measures of music. Above each staff, the counts '1 e + a', '2 e + a', '3 e + a', and '4 e + a' are written. The notes are eighth notes, and the rests are sixteenth rests. Downward arrows indicate downbeats on the first and third counts of each measure, and upward arrows indicate upbeats on the second and fourth counts. The first staff shows a descending eighth-note pattern, and the second staff shows an ascending eighth-note pattern.

Example 1 is played the same way eighth notes are played, like this:

The image shows a single musical staff in 4/4 time with eight eighth notes. Downward arrows are placed under the first, third, fifth, and seventh notes, while upward arrows are placed under the second, fourth, sixth, and eighth notes.

Example 2: Since none of the downbeats or upbeats are played in this example, the notes must be played off of the downbeats and upbeats. That is to say that immediately after the numbers (1,2, 3, 4) we play "e," and immediately after the "and" count (+), we play "a." Therefore, it is very important to feel the downbeats and upbeats even though they are not actually played. **Your foot is your conductor!**