FREE SAMPLE · CASE 1

Piano Note Detective

Measure & Time-Signature Inspector

Bar lines, time signatures and broken measures: count the beats in every bar of 2/4, 3/4 and 4/4, mend the bars that do not add up, and conduct the beat with your hand.

IN THIS FREE SAMPLE

- Case 1: bar lines
- Find where each bar ends
- Check bars of 4/4
- Answers with reasons

1. **Read the time signature**
2. **Count each bar**
3. **Find the bar that does not fit**
4. **Conduct and check**

Digital download · Print at 100% on US Letter · For beginners who count whole, half and quarter notes · Four sittings of about 15 minutes · With a grown-up

How the case file works

Four cases, about 15 minutes each.

For a beginner who already counts whole, half and quarter notes and their rests. A measure (or bar) is one box of beats between bar lines; the time signature's top number says how many beats each one holds. This book uses 2/4, 3/4 and 4/4 only, where a quarter note gets one beat.

EACH CASE

The story	Read it aloud together. It says what the detective is looking for.
Learn	The rule for this case, with a picture. Point at it while you read it.
Tasks	Short tasks that use the rule. Each one has a single right answer (except play tasks).
Clue	The last task gives a clue for the final question.

YOU NEED

- A pencil
- Hands for clapping and conducting
- Four short sittings, one case each

GOOD TO KNOW

- Count each bar out loud from 1. When you reach the top number, the bar is full.
- Measure and bar mean the same thing.
- No other time signatures in this book: 6/8 and others come much later. Real pieces can begin with a short pickup bar. This book does not use pickup bars, but some bars have too many or too few beats on purpose, for the detective to find and fix.

NOT A METHOD BOOK

Rhythm-reading practice for beginners, not music lessons. Note reading and keyboard practice only: no sharps, flats or key signatures.

Case 1: Where Do the Bar Lines Go?

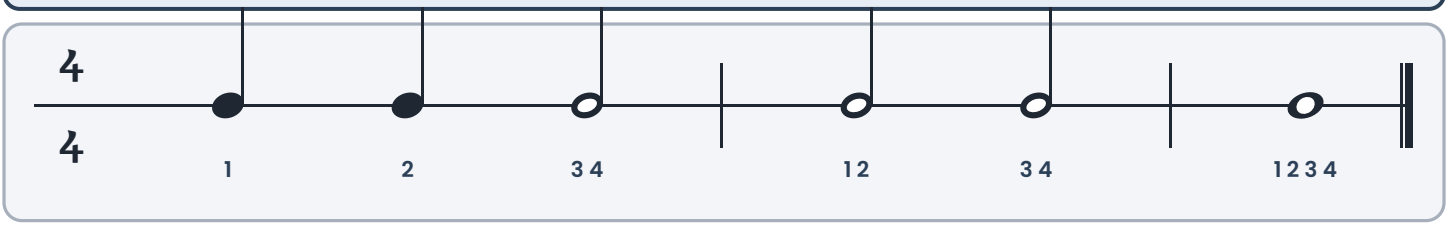
Bar lines split music into bars that each hold the same number of beats

THE STORY

The school band's music is locked in a cabinet with a four-digit code. The conductor left measure puzzles on the stand; every answer is one digit of the code.

LEARN

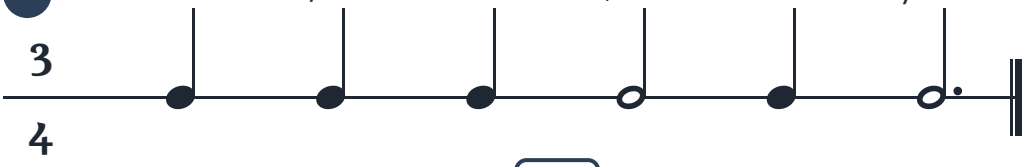
- A bar line splits music into bars (also called measures).
- In 4/4 every bar holds four beats; in 3/4, three.
- A final bar line (a thin line and a thick line) ends the piece.



1 This music is in 4/4 but has no bar lines. Draw them, then write how many bars there are.

Draw the bar lines. Number of bars: ☐

2 This music is in 3/4. Draw the bar lines, then write how many bars there are.

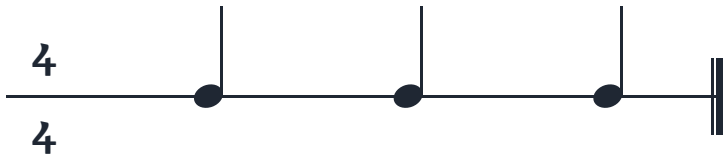


Draw the bar lines. Number of bars: ☐

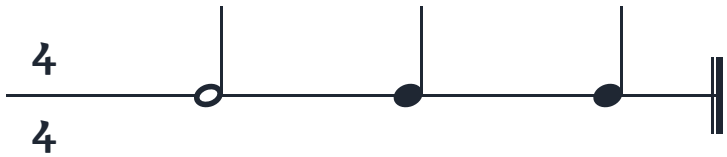
Case 1: Where Do the Bar Lines Go? (continued)

3 Does each bar of 4/4 hold four beats? Circle yes or no.

1. yes no

2.  yes no

3. yes no

4.  yes no

CLUE 1

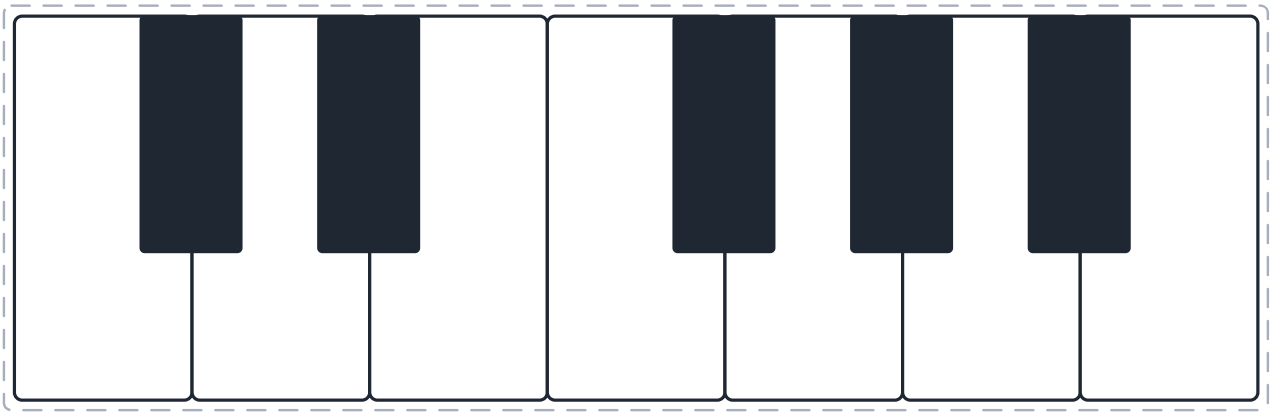
The first digit of the code is the number of bars in task 1.

Clue: _____ Copy it onto the answer line of the final question.

Paper keyboard

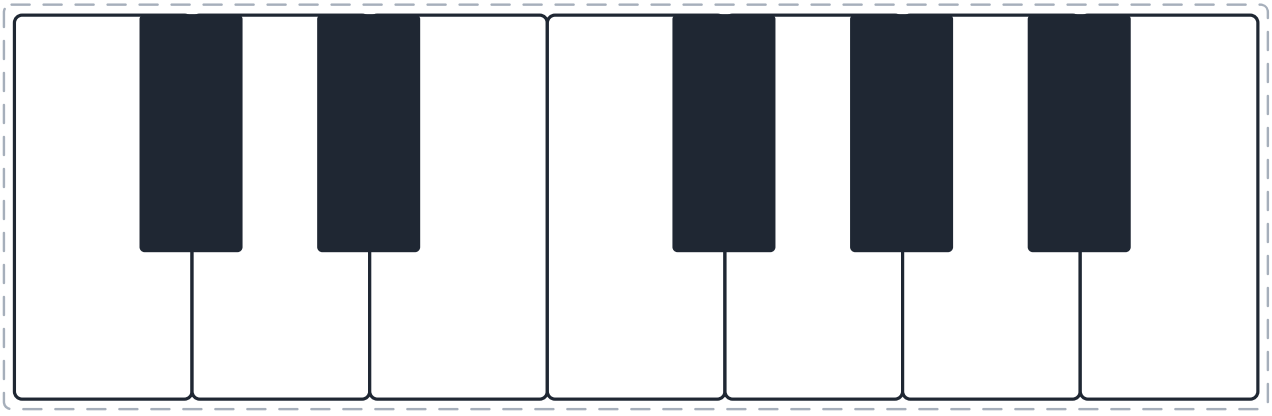
Cut out the rows and tape them in order, low to high. White keys are about as wide as a real piano's.

Low



Middle

High



Only Middle C is labeled: finding the other keys is the detective's job. Tape the rows edge to edge (low on the left) to make one long keyboard.

Case 1 answers

Every answer comes with its reason. Read the reasons aloud: they teach.

CASE 1 · WHERE DO THE BAR LINES GO?

Task 1	3 bars: q q h | h q q | w
PND15-C1-T1	Count 4 beats, then draw a bar line: 1 + 1 + 2 | 2 + 1 + 1 | 4.
Task 2	3 bars: q q q | h q | h.
PND15-C1-T2	Count 3 beats, then draw a bar line: 1 + 1 + 1 | 2 + 1 | 3.
Task 3	1 yes · 2 no · 3 yes · 4 yes
PND15-C1-T3	2 + 2 = 4 beats: right. 1 + 1 + 1 = 3 beats: not 4. 4 = 4 beats: right. 2 + 1 + 1 = 4 beats: right.
Clue 1	3 (the answer to item 1 of task 1)

THE FULL CASE FILE

The full Measure & Time-Signature Inspector has three more cases: reading 2/4, 3/4 and 4/4, repairing broken bars, and conducting maps, with a notebook, the final question, hints and a certificate.