

66

beginning of a song which tells the singer the number and kind of pulse notes per measure. (See Figure 76.)

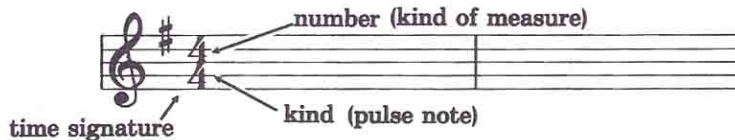


Figure 76

The top number, or the numerator, tells the number of pulses, or the kind of measure. The bottom number, or the denominator, tells the pulse note. As mentioned earlier, these two facts are the key to understanding the measure structure of a song. (See Figure 77.)

numerator—4—number of pulses per measure
denominator—4—kind of pulse note used

Figure 77

Fifteen different time signatures are used. These signatures are put together by using one of the six kinds of measures for the top number of the fraction (2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 12), and by using one of the three pulse notes for the bottom (♩, ♪, ♫). The notes are represented in the time signature by numbers: ♩—2; ♪—4; ♫—8. (See Figure 78.)

2 2 2	3 3 3	4 4 4	6 6	9 9	12 12
2 4 8	2 4 8	2 4 8	4 8	4 8	4 8

Figure 78

total of 15

Take another look at Figure 78 and notice that the 2, which represents a half note, was dropped in the last three groups of time signatures. The half note is not used in these groups because we naturally tend to sing a song more slowly and more deliberately when the half note is used for a pulse note. In the last