

Note Duration

The length of time that a note is played is called its **note duration**, which is determined by the type of note. The **whole note** is the left- most note in the image to the right. It has the longest duration in modern music. The **half note**, to the right of the whole note, has half the duration of a whole note. The **quarter note**, to the right of the half note, has half the duration of a half note. Notes smaller than quarter notes have flags. The **eighth note**, to the right of the quarter note has one flag and is worth half the duration of the quarter note. The **sixteenth note**, the right-most note in the image has one-half the value of an eighth note. It is possible to have notes with three or more flags, they are seldom used.



The following chart displays the relationship of all five note types discussed in this lesson.

