The half note

One note, **two counts**: the **half note**. Its secret is the **hollow notehead** — an open head means a longer, ringing note.

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE — AND HOW LONG IT LASTS



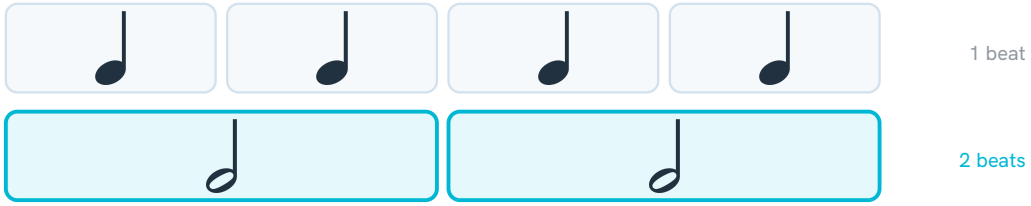
2 beats

- **hollow notehead** — open = let it ring
- **stem** — same as the quarter — the head does the talking



Play on "1" and "3", hold **through** "2" and "4" — keep counting while it rings.

TWO QUARTERS IN ONE NOTE



Both rows fill the same bar: **one half note lasts exactly as long as two quarter notes**.

HEAR IT IN A MELODY



Step-hold, step-hold: half notes give a melody room to breathe.

TAP THE RHYTHM



Tap only when a note **starts** — but keep counting every number aloud. The gray counts are the half note still ringing: no tap there!

Try it Step-hold: take a step on "1", freeze on "2". That freeze is the half note's second beat — silent in your feet, but **still ringing at the piano**. Don't lift the key early!

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