The dotted quarter note
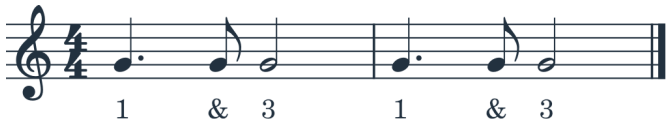
The dot returns — now on a quarter note. Same rule as always: **the dot adds half**, so 1 beat becomes **1½**. Its favorite partner is the eighth note: together they make music's famous **LONG-short**.

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE — AND HOW LONG IT LASTS



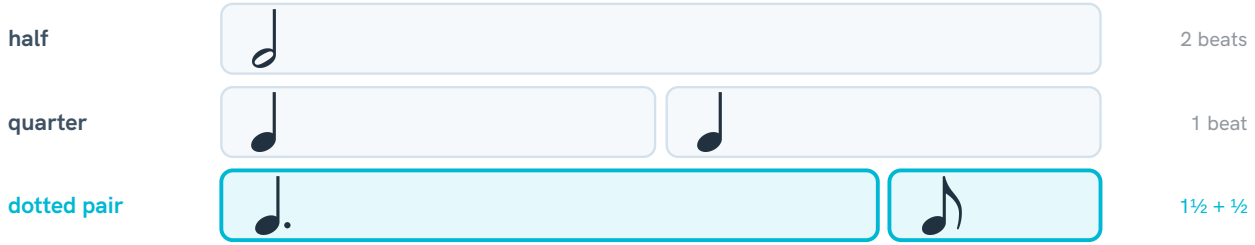
1½ beats

- **filled notehead + stem** — a quarter note, exactly as you learned it
- **the dot** — adds half the note's own length (1 + ½ = 1½)



Count "1-2-&-3": hold the dotted note through beat 2, snap the quick eighth on the "&", land on 3.

LONG-SHORT: THE DOTTED PAIR



Three ways to fill the same two beats: one half note, two even quarters — or the **dotted pair: LONG-short**. All three rows start together; the dotted quarter simply holds on longer before the quick eighth sneaks in.

HEAR IT IN A MELODY



Sound familiar? This is the opening of Dvořák's Largo from the New World Symphony — the melody the world knows as "Going Home."

TAP THE RHYTHM



The LONG-short tap: tap on "1", wait through "2", sneak the quick tap on the "&", land on "3". Repeat until it feels like a heartbeat.

Try it Say "HOLD-it-quick-LAND" while you clap the counting line above. The dotted quarter is patient, the eighth is eager — feel the lean from one into the other. That lean powers everything from anthems to lullabies.

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