The Sixteenth Note

four to a beat — the beat sliced fine: 1 - e - & - a

Meet the quickest note in your music so far. A sixteenth note lasts a quarter of a beat — four of them fit inside one steady tap. The secret to playing them well is in your counting mouth, not your fingers: keep the tap rock-steady and fill it evenly with **"1 - e - & - a"**.

One sixteenth

¼ beat · two flags



An eighth note wears **one** flag; the sixteenth wears **two**. Each extra flag cuts the length in half.

Four friends

one whole beat · double beam



In groups the flags become **two beams**. Four sixteenths share a single beat — say **"1 - e - & - a"**. Mixed groups and hooks: Handout 393.

The math

everything divides by two

1 quarter = **2 eighths** = **4 sixteenths**. The beat never changes speed — the notes just slice it finer. Fast notes are **small steps, not a faster walk**.

THE SLICING MEASURE



TAP & COUNT





Try it Tap a slow steady beat with your left hand and say each line out loud before you play it. If the beat ever speeds up when the sixteenths arrive, you have found the classic trap — **small notes always tempt the beat to run**. Say "1-e-&-a" like a robot, and the robot wins.

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