




## Respecting the Barline


Time signatures give us an exact number of beats per measure. A note can fall in one measure and continue into the next, but it must be split into two tied notes. In the example below, the first line incorrectly places a half note in a measure that doesn't have room for it. The second line shows the correct notation: splitting the half note into two tied quarter notes, so that each measure has the correct number of beats.

**Incorrect**  $\frac{4}{4}$  

**Correct**  $\frac{4}{4}$  

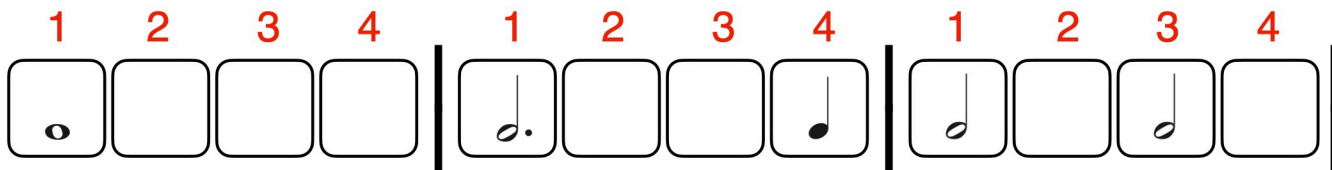
A four-beat note *can* exist in 3/4 time, but it can't be written as a whole note. The correct notation is a dotted-half note tied to a quarter note on the first beat of the next measure. This way the barline clearly marks the end of a measure.

**Incorrect**  $\frac{3}{4}$  

**Correct**  $\frac{3}{4}$  

## Counting the Beat

Now that we have repeating patterns of beats, we'll dispense with rhythm syllables for whole, dotted-half, half, and quarter notes. From now on, we'll replace those syllables with the beat numbers. Try clapping the rhythms below while counting the beats aloud.

$\frac{4}{4}$  

$\frac{3}{4}$  