

There is a query from the class about ties, so I thought I'd go a little deeper into this section:

Some examples:



7 semiquavers 5 crotchets 5 semiquavers

Write down the total length of the following notes. In each case, your answer must be expressed as a total of the smallest division. (A bit like a lowest common denominator in maths...)



_____ _____ _____ 9 semiquavers _____ _____

Remember that a tie is a useful way for us to create notes of any length we want. This is necessary because regular note lengths are such as crotchets, minims, quavers, etc and sometimes we want to write a note which is 4-and-a-half quavers, or 3 crotchets, or 5 quavers in length to name some examples.

In the first example, you see that the note consists of: 

a crotchet tied to a quaver tied to a semiquaver

This tied note makes use of crotchet, quaver and semiquaver divisions. If you count up the total from each of these 3 perspectives, you get:

Counting crotchets:	<u>1 crotchet</u> plus <u>$\frac{1}{2}$ crotchet</u> plus <u>$\frac{1}{4}$ crotchet</u>	Total: <u>$1 \frac{3}{4}$ crotchets</u>
Counting quavers:	<u>2 quavers</u> plus <u>1 quaver</u> plus <u>$\frac{1}{2}$ quaver</u>	Total: <u>$3 \frac{1}{2}$ quavers</u>
Counting semiquavers:	<u>4 semiquavers</u> plus <u>2 semiquavers</u> plus <u>1 semiquaver</u>	Total: <u>7 semiquavers</u>

When calculating the length of a note in its own right, it is common to express the total from the perspective of the smallest division. That is why I have given the total as 7 semiquavers. (NB when expressing a note's length in terms of beats, then it is more common to use halves, quarters and so on. We will be using this form more and more as time goes on, but for the above example, we use the first form.)

Have another try at the above, using the same kind of breakdown of the tied notes as I have done above. Good luck! Keep trying, and keep asking questions if you get stuck!