

Four versions of exactly the same music, all at exactly the same speed, but all look different. Note how the different appearance changes the way in which we may interpret the music. Also note that one may appear easier to initially read.

Three musical staves showing the same melody in different time signatures, all at a tempo of quarter note = 100. The first staff is in 3/2 time, the second in 3/4 time, and the third in 3/8 time. Each staff uses a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure.

This last version takes a wholly different approach and puts it in 2 beats to a bar with lots of beams. It may make phrasing clear, but is also harder to read. Of necessity, there is an additional rest at the end.

A musical staff in 6/16 time signature with a tempo marking of quarter note = 33. The melody is written with many beamed notes, and a triplet of eighth notes is present in the second measure. A final note is followed by a fermata.

Another example of exactly the same rhythm, but one is in 2/4 and another is in 6/8. Both are right. The choice is dependent on what ultimate feel the music should have.

Two musical staves showing the same rhythm in different time signatures. The first staff is in 2/4 time with a triplet of eighth notes. The second staff is in 6/8 time with a pair of eighth notes followed by a triplet of eighth notes.

And another example of exactly the same rhythm, but one is in 4/4 and another is in 2/4. Both again are right. The choice is dependent on what ultimate feel the music should have. 4/4 is arguably more 'flowing', while a two beat bar is arguably more angular.

Two musical staves showing the same rhythm in different time signatures. The first staff is in 4/4 time with a quintuplet of eighth notes. The second staff is in 2/4 time with a quintuplet of eighth notes followed by a triplet of eighth notes.