

# andy thurston | drum tuition

## The Rhythm Tree

The rhythm tree below shows the value and spacing of notes. From the top line down, these are called: *whole note*; *half note*; *half note triplet*; *quarter note*; *quarter note triplet*; *eighth note*; *eighth note triplet*; *sixteenth note*; *sixteenth note triplet*; and *thirty-second notes*. Notes falling in the same position in the bar align vertically (e.g. the second *half note* and third *quarter note* both fall on the third beat of the bar).

The diagram illustrates the 'Rhythm Tree' for a 4/4 time signature. It consists of 10 horizontal staves, each representing a different note value. The notes are aligned vertically across the staves to show their relative positions within a 4-beat bar. Brackets and numbers (3 and 6) indicate triplet groupings.

- Whole Note (4 beats):** A single whole note spanning the entire 4-beat bar.
- Half Note (2 beats):** Two half notes, each spanning 2 beats.
- Half Note Triplet:** A bracket under three half notes, with a '3' below it, indicating they fit within 2 beats.
- Quarter Note (1 beat):** Four quarter notes, each spanning 1 beat.
- Quarter Note Triplet:** Brackets under three quarter notes, with a '3' below each, indicating they fit within 1 beat.
- Eighth Note (half a beat):** Eight eighth notes, each spanning half a beat.
- Eighth Note Triplet:** Brackets under three eighth notes, with a '3' below each, indicating they fit within half a beat.
- Sixteenth Note (quarter of a beat):** Sixteen sixteenth notes, each spanning a quarter of a beat.
- Sixteenth Note Triplet:** Brackets under three sixteenth notes, with a '3' below each, indicating they fit within a quarter of a beat.
- Thirty-second Note (eighth of a beat):** Thirty-second notes, each spanning an eighth of a beat.