Identifying Time Signature

1. First, identify which of the bars is rhythmically easiest.

Example:

Bar 1   Bar 2

Bar 1 is easier than Bar 2

2. Determine the smallest duration.

Example:

Demi-semi quaver (32nd note) is the smallest duration

3. Count how many of the smallest durations are in the bar.
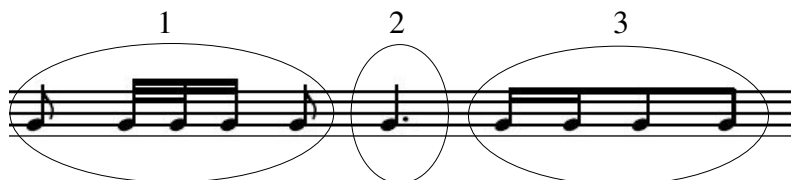
Example:

$$4 \;+\; 1+1+2+4 \;+\; 12 \;+\; 2+2+4+4 = 36$$

4. The time signature is an equivalent to the *count* over *smallest duration.*

Example: $\dfrac{36}{32}$

5. Find how many groups of notes there are (duple, triple, quadruple time).

Example:

6. Reduce both numbers by the factor turning either the top or the bottom number into the smallest multiple of groups.

Example: Divide 36 and 32 by 4 resulting in 9 and 8.   **Time Signature** $\dfrac{9}{8}$