

- Calculate the lowest common multiple between the two time signatures – in this case, 20/4 – and create that as the time signature
- When all of the music has been inputted, delete the 20/4 time signature and drag the first note rightwards until there's enough space for a replacement time signature
- Type the 4/4 and 5/4 using text – to do this you'll need to create a new text style (see above)
- Add the extra barlines using the vertical line from the **Create ▶ Line** dialog.

This method has the advantage of ensuring that systems end at coinciding barlines.

If simultaneous time signatures always have barlines in different places, adopt the same procedure, but remove the barlines in one staff (see **Hiding barlines on some staves only** in  **2.3 Barlines**), then use the vertical line from the **Staff lines** pane in the **Create ▶ Line** dialog to draw in suitable barlines where you want them.

Alternating time signatures

To write music in e.g. alternating 2/4 and 3/4 time, signaled by a 2/4 3/4 composite time signature:

- Input a 2/4 time signature and copy it to alternate bars
- Do the same for a 3/4 time signature in the remaining bars
- Input the music
- Then delete all the time signatures except the initial 2/4 (saying **No** when asked if you want to rewrite the music)
- Finally write a 3/4 time signature immediately after the initial 2/4 using text, as described in **Multiple time signatures** above.

Modifying time signatures

You can copy and delete time signatures like other objects. You can also drag time signatures left and right to move them – even to fairly silly places. We don't recommend you drag time signatures out of the bar they belong to.

Big time signatures etc.

Big time signatures between staves are often used in large modern scores where the meter changes frequently.

On the **Time signatures** page of the **House Style ▶ Engraving Rules** dialog (shortcut **Ctrl+Shift+E** or **⌘⌘E**), click either **Time signatures (large)** or the even larger **Time signatures (huge)**. These are actually text styles that time signatures can use instead. These affect all time signatures throughout the score.

To alter the size, font and positioning of big time signatures, click **Edit Text Style**;  **3.10 Edit Text Styles**. This also lets you adjust which staves big time signatures go above.

The other exciting **House Style ▶ Engraving Rules** option confers upon you the ability to adjust the default gap before time signatures.