

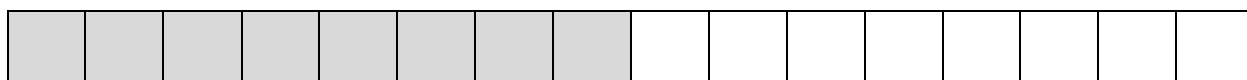


Fractions of an Inch

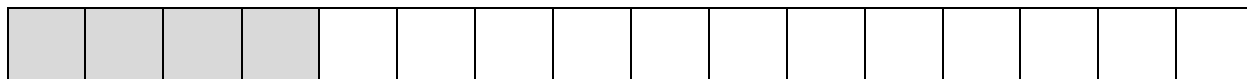
One (whole) inch (1"): On most tape measures, each inch is divided into 16 parts. One whole inch, written as a fraction, is $16/16$. The divided line below represents one inch (1") divided into 16ths.



One half inch ($1/2$ "):: One half of an inch is $8/16$ ". When we talk about fractions, we talk in **lowest terms**. So, $8/16$ " can be reduced to $1/2$ ". When you look at the diagram below, you can see that $8/16$ is one half of the line, or one half inch. In lowest terms, $8/16$ " is the same as $1/2$ ".



One quarter inch ($1/4$ "):: One quarter inch ($1/4$ "), or one fourth inch, is represented by the shaded squares below. You can see that one fourth is the same as $4/16$. When you reduce $4/16$ to lowest terms, it is $1/4$.



One eighth inch ($1/8$ "):: One eighth of an inch is also two sixteenths of an inch, or $2/16$ ", as you can see by the shaded squares below. When you reduce $2/16$ to lowest terms, it is $1/8$.



One sixteenth inch ($1/16$ "):: Look at the line below. One out of a possible 16 squares is shaded. $1/16$ " is the smallest fraction of an inch on most tape measures.

