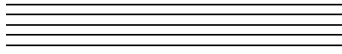


Music Theory

Note Reading, Time Signatures, Accents

A staff is made up of five horizontal lines and four spaces.



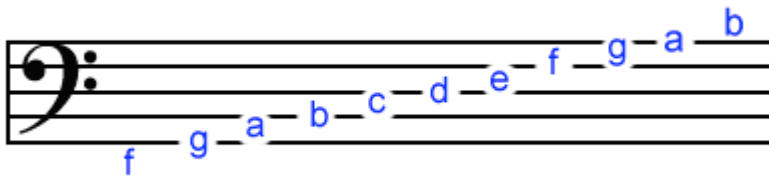
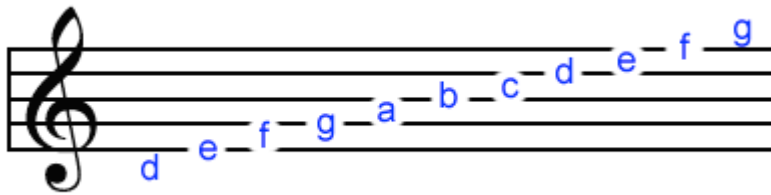
Pitches are named after the first seven letters of the alphabet (A B C D E F G).



A clef is a musical symbol placed at the beginning of the staff that determines the letter names of the lines and spaces.

The two main clefs are the *treble* and the *bass*:

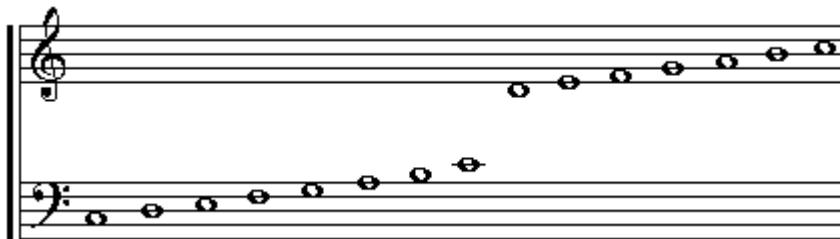
The Treble Clef starts on the G line of the Treble portion of the Staff.



The Bass Clef starts on the F of the Bass Portion of the Staff.

There is a Tenor or C Clef which straddles the Middle C between the Treble and Bass Clefs and looks like the letter K.

A grand staff is a combination of both the treble and bass clefs connected by a vertical line on the left side of the staves (plural staves). This is called a Brace or Bracket.



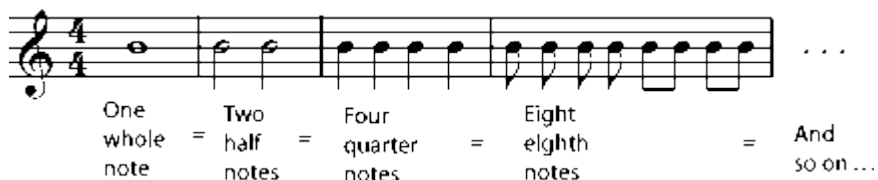
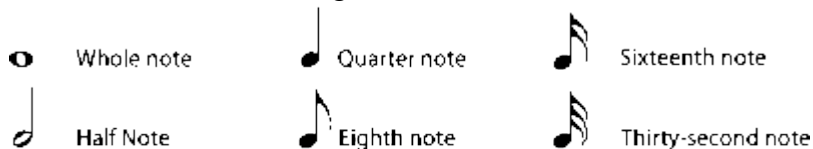
Ledger Lines are an extension of the staff. They are additional lines both above and below which are parallel to the staff. Each ledger line contains one note. We use these in Bagpipe Music for our note High A.



Note Values

Each note has a specific duration.

Most Common Note Lengths



Meter/ Time Signature

Meter is the regular recurring pattern of strong and weak beats of equal duration; also known as time. The meter or time signature in a musical composition is indicated by a fraction, and located at the beginning of a piece of music. The lower number of the fraction tells what kind of note receives one beat. The upper number tells how many beats are in a measure.

In Western music there are two types of meter, simple and compound. In simple meter the upper number is 2, 3, or 4. In Pipe Music we also have 5 and 6. Each beat is subdivided by two.



In compound meter the upper number is either 6, 9, or 12. A few tunes have 3 as a top figure. Each beat is a dotted note and subdivided into groups of three counts.



Metric Accents

Duple Time – Strong, Weak or Strong, Medium

Triple Time – Strong, Weak, Weak, or Strong, Medium, Weak

Quadruple Time – Strong, Weak, Medium, Weak

