

A Little Bit About Rhythm



This is just a tiny introduction to the different ways music notes are written. The shape of a note determines its length, or number of 'beats'. Heaps more about this later on!

Note	Name	Number of Beats
	Semibreve	4
	Dotted Minim	3
	Minim	2
	Crotchet	1
	Quaver	$\frac{1}{2}$
	Two quavers joined	$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1$
	Four quavers joined	$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 2$

In music there are also symbols to show lengths of silence. These are called RESTS.

Rest	Name	Number of Beats
	Whole bar rest/Semibreve rest	Depends on time signature*
	Minim rest	2
	Crotchet rest	1
	Quaver rest	$\frac{1}{2}$

*See page 52 for info on time signatures

Here is a rhythm quiz. Add up the beats!

1. = _____

5. = _____

2. = _____

6. = _____

3. = _____

7. = _____

4. = _____

8. = _____

Introduction to Pitch Notation

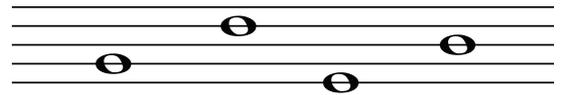


As well as rhythm, music has pitch - sounds that are high, middle or low. Pitch is shown on sets of 5 lines, called a 'staff' or 'stave'. We'll refer to it both ways throughout this book. Here are some semibreves on a staff:

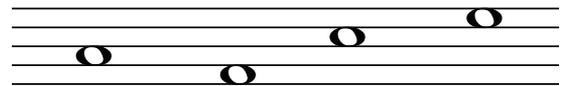


There are 5 lines in a staff. The bottom line is the 'first' line

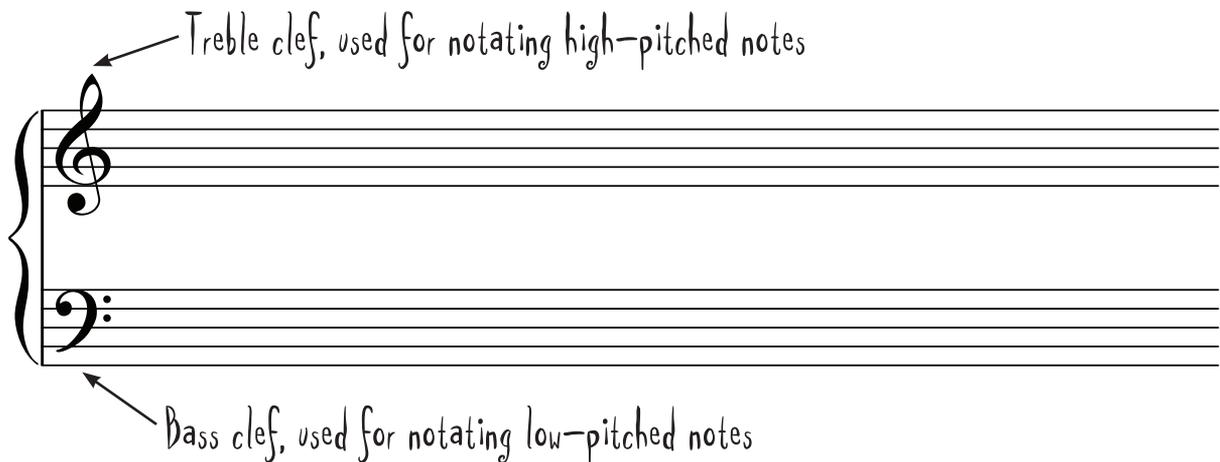
Notice how some of the notes are on the lines, (that is, the line goes through the middle of the note)



and some are in the spaces between the lines.



Piano music is actually written on two staves bracketed together, called a 'grand staff':



Draw some semibreves on the grand staff above. Put some in the treble, some in the bass, some on the lines and some in the spaces! (oh dear that actually nearly rhymes)



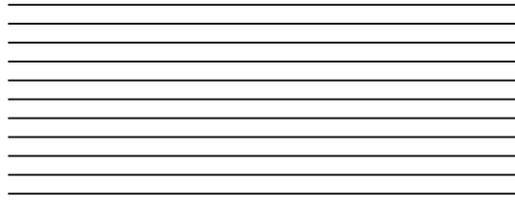
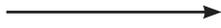
DID YOU KNOW... The higher the position of a note on the staff, the higher it will sound!

The Story of Middle C



Once upon a time, music used to be written on 11 lines, like this:

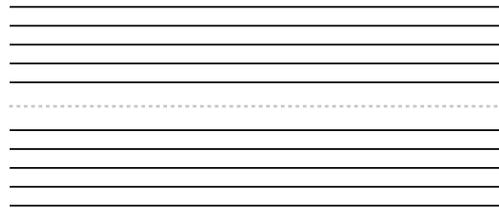
Middle C
lives here



The note named 'C' lived on the line right in the middle. It was called 'Middle C'.

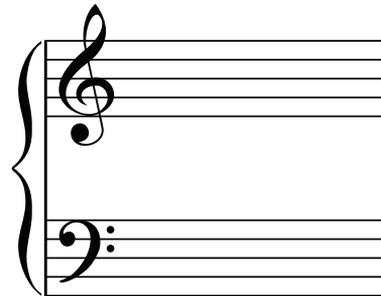
Many people found it very confusing looking at 11 lines all the time, and found it even more confusing trying to find Middle C. Then one day, somebody came up with the idea of taking out the middle line, leaving 2 sets of 5 lines.

Now the line
for Middle C
is invisible!



This was much easier to look at! Then look what happened:

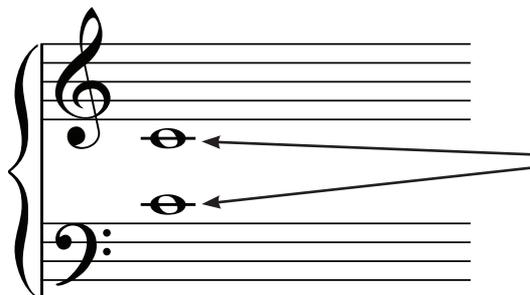
The two sets of lines were moved even further apart; the top set was given a treble clef and the bottom set a bass clef, leaving space for Middle C in between. And so the grand staff was born!



Grand staff

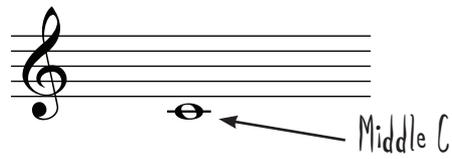


It was decided that Middle C would need its own short line, called a 'leger line'. Middle C is always written close to either bass or treble, never floating in between.

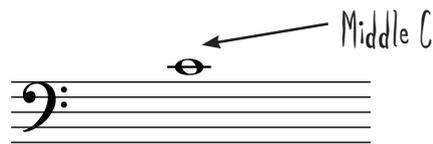


These notes are both
Middle Cs – they sound
exactly the same!

Some instruments, like the flute, are high-pitched, which means they mostly play notes above Middle C. These instruments only need treble clef to show their notes:



Other instruments, like the trombone, are low-pitched, which means they mostly play notes below Middle C. These instruments only need bass clef to show their notes:



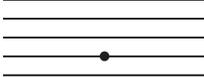
A piano has the largest range of sounds of any musical instrument, so it needs a 'grand staff' to show all the notes. You will notice that the names of the notes are the same as the first seven letters of the alphabet, repeated over and over again:

A diagram showing a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a piano keyboard. The grand staff has a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. A sequence of notes is written across both staves, starting from the bass clef and moving up to the treble clef. The notes are labeled with letters: F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G. The note C is labeled as "Middle C" with an arrow. Below the grand staff is a piano keyboard diagram with keys labeled with the same sequence of letters: F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G. Arrows connect the notes on the grand staff to the corresponding keys on the keyboard.

FACT: The piano keyboard has even more keys than this, but we've run out of room on the grand staff! Extremely high or extremely low notes are written using 'leger lines'. (see p.12)

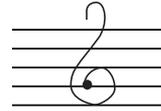
Drawing Treble and Bass Clefs



Treble clef starts on the line where G lives , then winds around like this



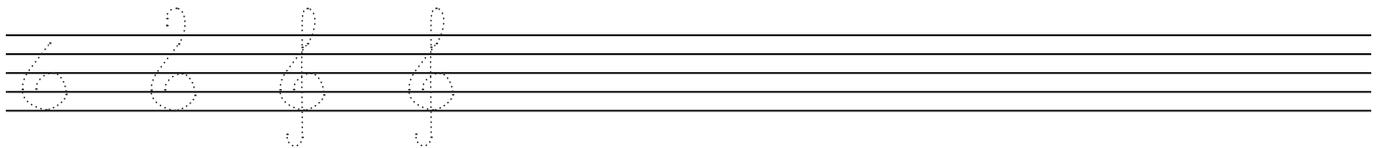
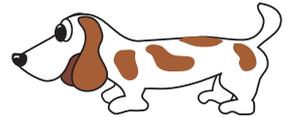
. Then it goes up and makes a loop above the staff



and as it comes

down it intersects on the 4th line . (Very important!)

Trace these treble clefs and then draw some of your own.

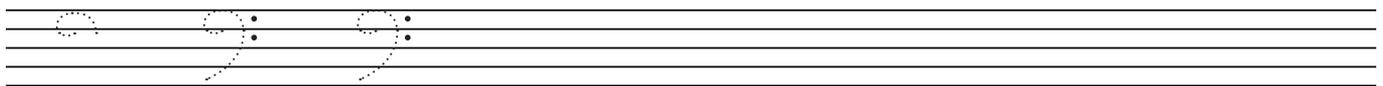


The bass clef starts on the line where F lives , then curls around like a

backwards 'c' , stopping just before the bottom line. Then two dots are added

either side of the fourth line . (Also very important!)

Trace and draw some bass clefs here.



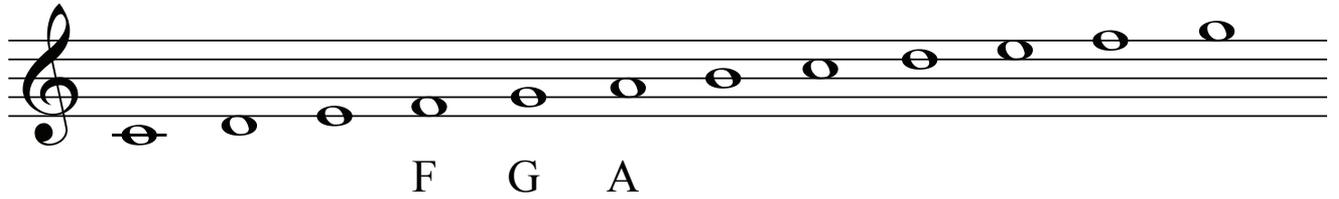
HERE'S A THOUGHT... The treble clef used to be called the G clef and the bass clef used to be called the F clef. Can you figure out why?



Treble Clef Notes



You can work out the names of all the notes in the treble from G. Fill in the rest!



Quick Quiz:

How many are named F? ____ Which F is on a line, the lower F or the higher F? _____

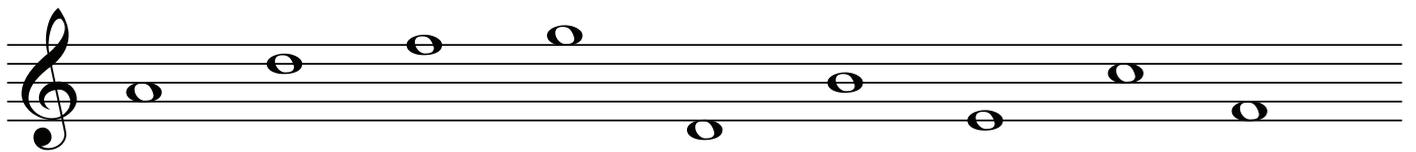
Name 4 different notes that live in spaces. ____ _

There are 2 notes named E, the lower E is on a _____, the higher E is in a _____.

There are 2 notes named D, the lower D is in a _____, the higher D is on a _____.

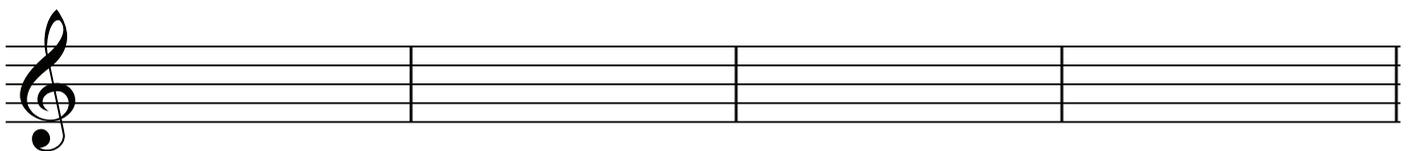
(P.S. If the note is sitting above or hanging below the staff, it's still 'in a space')

Can you name these notes? (Without peeking at the top of the page???)



.....

And now, can you write these notes? Draw a new treble clef in every bar!

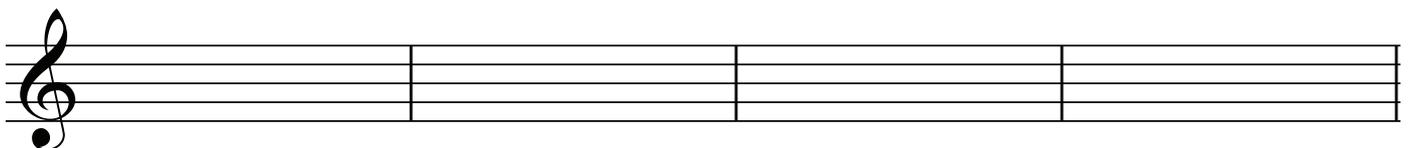


F on a line

G in a space

A in a space

D on a line



G on a line

C on a line

E in a space

D in a space

Bass Clef Notes



Similarly, you can work out the names of all the bass notes from F on the fourth line...

E F G



Name these notes. (Remember that F lives on the fourth line – you can work out all the other notes from there!)

.....

And now, draw a bass clef in each new bar and write the following notes:

A in a space

D on a line

A on a line

C in a space

B in a space

F on a line

G on a line

E in a space

QUICK REVISION:

Draw Middle C for treble clef here:

Draw Middle C for bass clef here:

