

# Music Theory - The Basics



Treble Clef

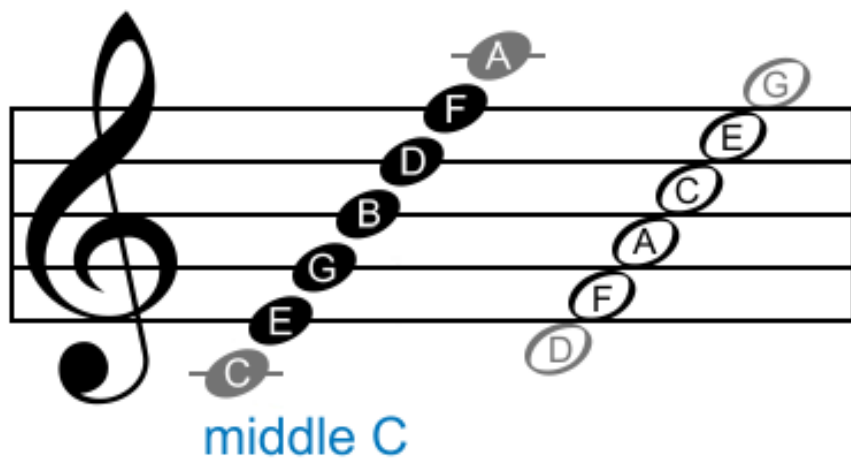


Bass Clef



Staff

When we place a clef on the staff, it assigns an individual **pitch** to certain lines or spaces.

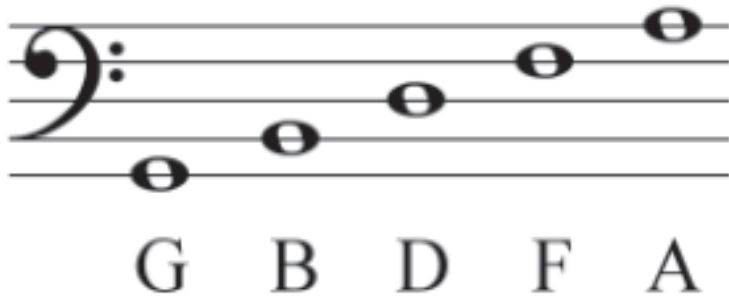


Treble Clef

Lines: **E**very **G**ood **B**oy  
**D**eserves **F**udge

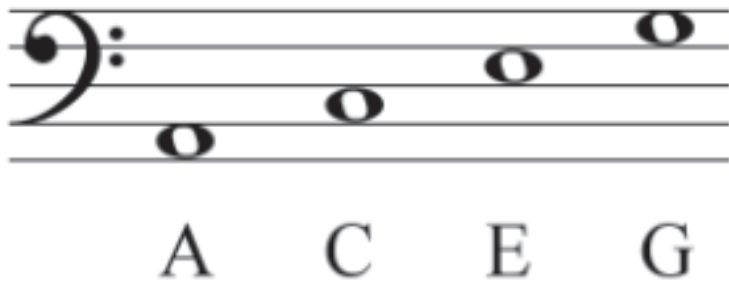
Spaces: **F**-**A**-**C**-**E**

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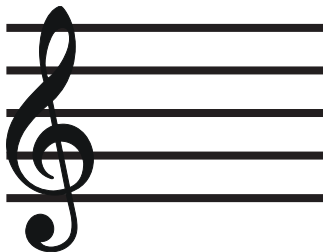
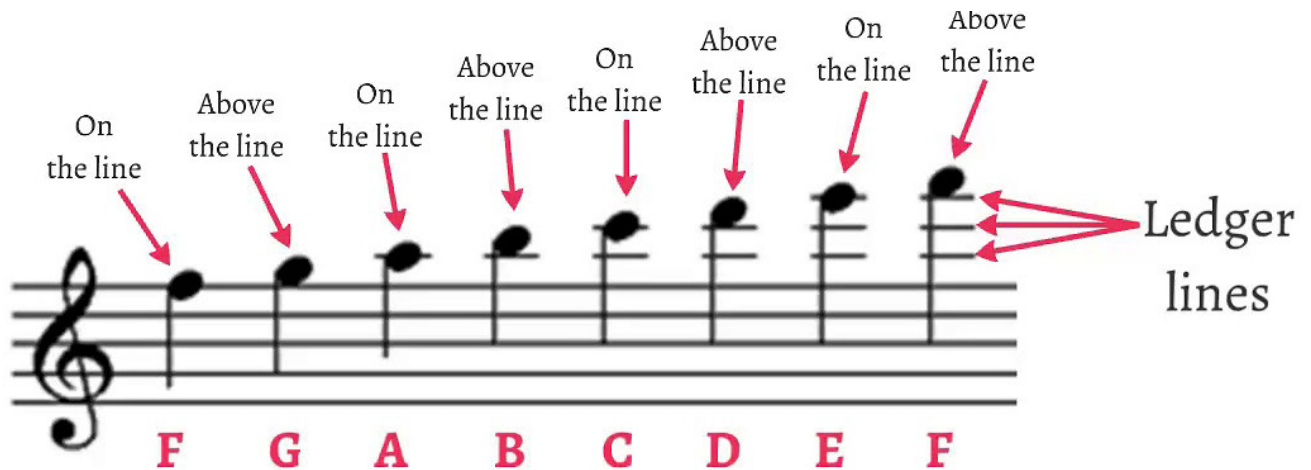
Bass Clef

Lines: **G**ood **B**oys **D**eserve  
Fudge **A**lways

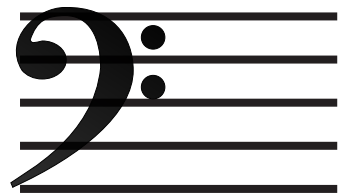


Spaces: **A**ll **C**ows **E**at **G**rass

As we move up the staff, we add **ledger lines** to continue the sequence of notes.



The Treble clef is also known as the "G" Clef because the spiral circles around the G line on the staff.



The Bass clef is also known as the "F" Clef because the two dots surround the F line on the staff

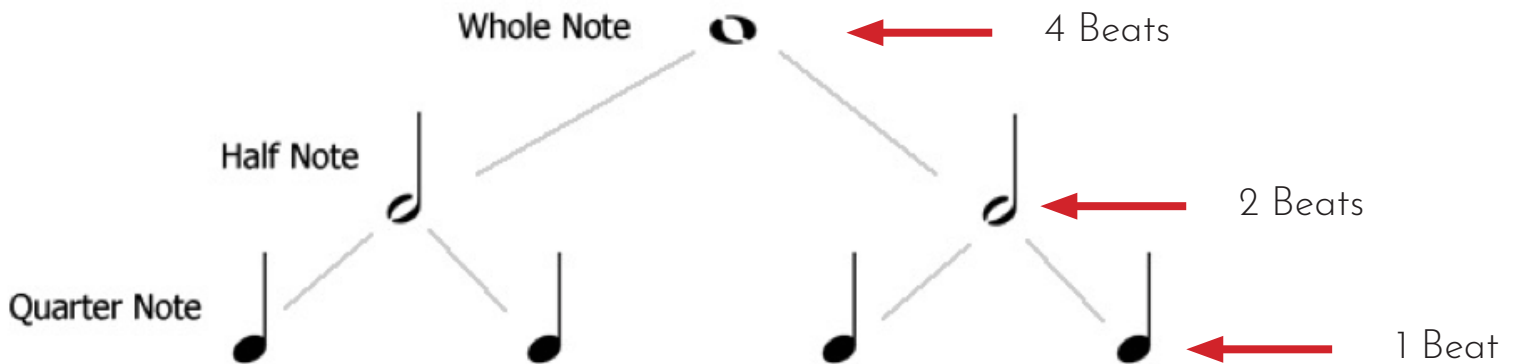
The placement of a note on the staff indicates what pitch is to be played and the note head indications how long that pitch will be played for.



Note Head

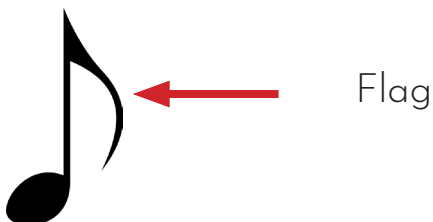
Stem

In music, time is measured by **beats**. Different note heads indicate different amounts of beats.



Some notes will have a **flag** added to them.

A flag halves the value of the note.



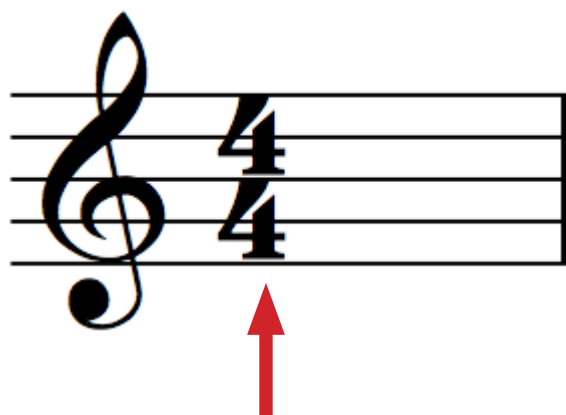
Flag

Without the flag on this note, it would be a quarter note. With the flag added, its value is note halved and it is called an **eighth note**.

It is called an eighth note because 8 eighth notes are needed to equal a whole note.



In music, time is indicated on the staff by the **Time Signature**. The time signature is placed after the clef on the staff.



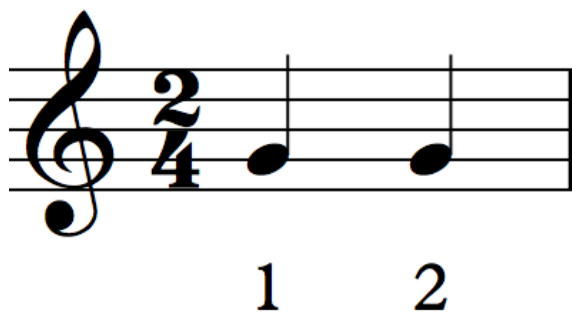
Time Signature

There is always a top and bottom number in the time signature, and each number represents something different.

The top number represents how many beats are in a measure and the bottom number tells us which note will represent one beat.

This time signature is called 4/4 time or common time. It tells us that there will be **4 beats** in each measure (top number) and that the **quarter note** will represent one beat (bottom number). We know that the quarter note will represent this because we need four quarter notes to equal four beats.

Other common time signatures are 2/4 time and 3/4 time.



Two beats per measure (top number), the quarter note will represent one beat (bottom number).



Three beats per measure (top number), the quarter note will represent one beat (bottom number).