

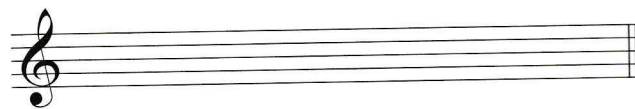
Rudiments of music

The staff

Music is written on a grid of five lines called a *staff*.

At the beginning of each staff is placed a special symbol called a *clef* to describe the approximate range of the instrument for which the music is written.

This example shows a *treble clef*, generally used for melody instruments.

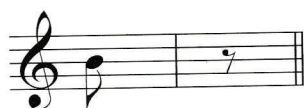


The staff is divided into equal sections of time, called *bars* or *measures*, by *barlines*.

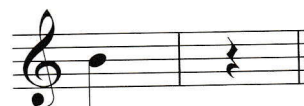


Note values

Different symbols are used to show the time value of *notes*, and each *note value* has an equivalent symbol for a rest, representing silence.



The **eighth note**, often used to signify a half beat, is written with a solid head and a stem with a tail. The eighth-note rest is also shown.



The **quarter note**, often used to signify one beat, is written with a solid head and a stem. The quarter-note rest is also shown.



The **half note** is worth two quarter notes. It is written with a hollow head and a stem. The half-note rest is placed on the middle line.



The **whole note** is worth two half notes. It is written with a hollow head. The whole-note rest hangs from the fourth line.

Other note values

Note values can be increased by half by adding a dot after the note head. Here a half note and quarter note are together worth a *dotted half note*.



Grouping eighth notes

Where two or more eighth notes follow each other, they can be joined by a *beam* from stem to stem.

