

BEGINNING MUSICAL TERMS & DEFINITIONS

Personal Progress Tracker

Level 1

Be Able To Hear And Sing:

DO-RE

RE-DO

DO-MI

MI-DO

Pitch

SOLFEGE: *do re mi fa sol la ti do* a system of reading musical notes by assigning a different syllable to each note.

Rhythm

EIGHTH NOTE:  .5 beats

QUARTER NOTE:  1 beat

HALF NOTE:  2 beats

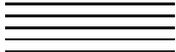
WHOLE NOTE:  whole measure, 4 beats

Terms

PITCH: the highness or lowness of sound

BEAT: the steady pulse of music

RHYTHM: the division of steady beat

STAFF:  horizontal lines and spaces on which music is written

INTERVAL: the distance between two notes

Level 2

Be Able To Hear And Sing:

DO-SO

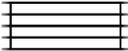
SO-DO

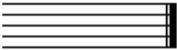
MI-SO

SO-MI

Rhythm

BARLINE:  vertical lines that separate measures

MEASURE:  music between two bar lines

DOUBLE BAR LINE:  Shows the end of the song

EIGHTH REST:  .5 beats of silence

QUARTER REST:  1 beat of silence

HALF REST:   2 beats of silence

WHOLE REST:   whole measure, 4 beats of silence

DOT:  adds half the value of the previous note to the total value

TWO EIGHTH NOTES:  same as 
(eighth notes are usually beamed in sets of two, which would add up 1 beat)

Terms

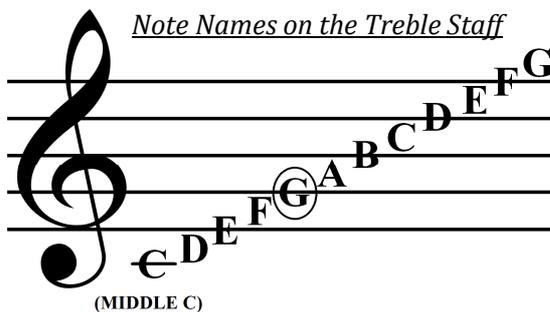
REPEAT SIGN:   return to the beginning or previous repeat sign at the beginning of a section

Level 3

Be Able To Hear And Sing:

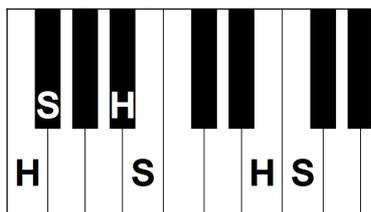
DO-FA

FA-DO

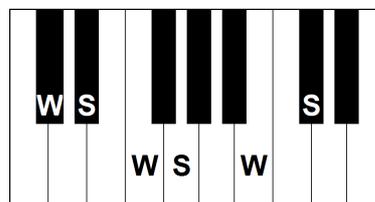


Pitch

HALF STEP: the distance from any key on the keyboard to the very “next key above or below, whether black or white” (in the example, each H to S is one half step) *Guitar half steps = one fret left or right.*



WHOLE STEP: the distance from any key on the keyboard to “two keys to the left or right whether black or white” (in the example, each W to S is one whole step) *Guitar whole steps = one fret left or right.*



Terms

TIME SIGNATURE: top number: number of beats per measure
bottom note: which type of note gets the beat
(the example shows seven different time signatures)

TWO-FOUR TIME: The time signature with two beats per measure when the quarter note gets the beat.



THREE-FOUR TIME: The time signature with three beats per measure when the quarter note gets the beat.



FOUR-FOUR TIME: The time signature with four beats per measure when the quarter note gets the beat.



DOTTED HALF NOTE: 3 beats

DOTTED HALF REST: 3 beats of silence

DYNAMICS: the volume of the music

FORTE: *f* loud

MEZZO PIANO: *mp* medium soft

MEZZO FORTE: *mf* medium loud

PIANO: *p* soft

CRESCENDO: *cresc.* to get louder

DECRESCENDO: *decresc.* to get softer

Level 4

Terms

TREBLE OR G CLEF:



The symbol used for notes in the higher pitch range.

BASS OR F CLEF:



The symbol used for notes in the lower pitch range.

ARTICULATION:

the style in which you perform the notes

TIE:



combines the value of two notes of the same pitch together

ACCENT:



to emphasize a note

FERMATA:



hold the note and watch the conductor

LEGATO:

legato

smooth and connected, shown with a slur

STACCATO:

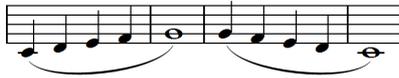


short and detached

SLUR:



a curved line drawn over or under two or more notes of different pitches that indicates legato (*remember: it is a tie if the notes are on the same pitch*)



TEMPO:

the speed of the music

ACCELERANDO:

accel.

to get faster

RITARDANDO:

rit. ---

gradually get slower

KEY SIGNATURE:



sharps or flats at the beginning of music that tell you where DO is. (Usually located right after the clef)

This example shows three different key signatures.

Be Able To Hear And Sing:

DO-DO'

DO-DO'

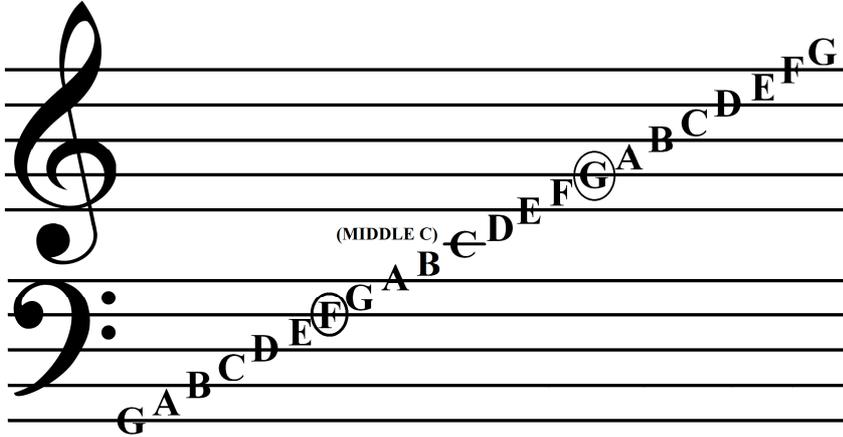
DO'-DO

Bonus

Pitch

SKILL TO KNOW: Be able to sight read and dictate anything from DO to DO'.

SKILL TO KNOW: Know all the note names on both treble and bass clef. (See example here)



SKILL TO KNOW: Tell where all half steps are in the solfege scale. (MI-FA and TI-DO)

ORDER OF HALF/WHOLE STEPS: In a major scale, the order of steps is **W W H W W W H**

SKILL TO KNOW: Tell where all whole steps and half steps are in the solfege scale. (MI-FA and TI-DO)

DO-RE RE-MI MI-FA FA-SO SO-LA LA-TI TI-DO
(WHOLE STEPS are underlined, HALF STEPS are not underlined.)

SKILL TO KNOW: Know how a key signature works or be able to identify DO in any key signature.

LOCATION OF DO FOR SHARPED KEY SIGNATURES



LOCATION OF DO FOR FLATTED KEY SIGNATURES



