

Musical Symbols

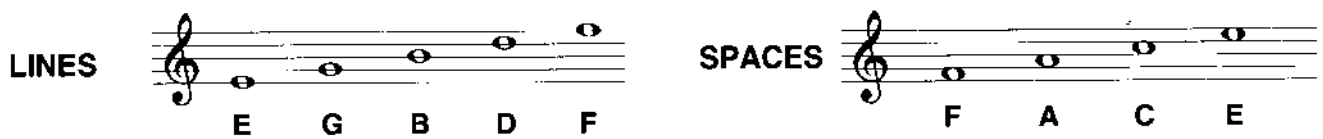
(This page and the example tunes on the following pages are taken from, "Ukulele Method Book 1" by Lil' Rev. Published by Hal Leonard.)

Music is written with notes on a **staff**. The staff has five lines and four spaces between the lines. Where a note is written on the staff determines its pitch (highness or lowness). At the beginning of the staff is a clef sign. Ukulele music is written in the treble clef.

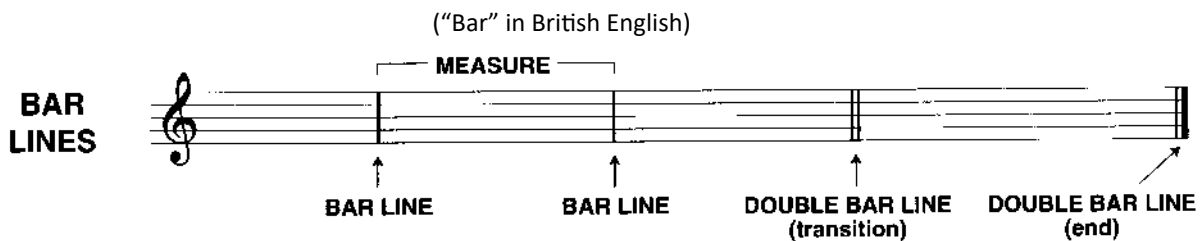


("Stave" in British English)

Each line and space of the staff has a letter name. The **lines** are (from bottom to top) E-G-B-D-F, which you can remember as "Every Good Boy Does Fine." The **spaces** are (from bottom to top) F-A-C-E, which spells "face."

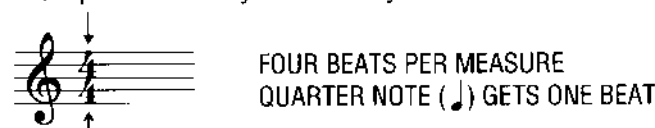


The staff is divided into several parts by bar lines. The space between two bar lines is called a **measure** (also known as a "bar"). At the end of a piece of music a double bar is placed on the staff.



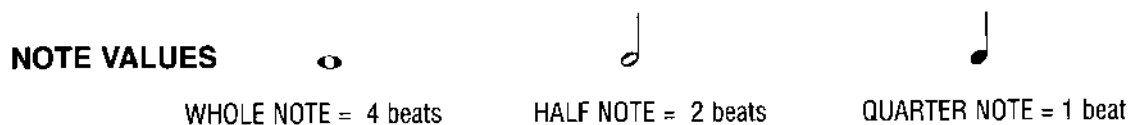
Each measure contains a group of **beats**. Beats are the steady pulse of music. You respond to the pulse or beat when you tap your foot.

The two numbers placed next to the clef sign are the **time signature**. The top number tells you how many beats are in one measure.








The bottom number of the time signature tells you what kind of note will receive one beat.

Notes indicate the length (number of counts) of a musical sound.



When different kinds of notes are placed on different lines or spaces, you will know the pitch of the note and how long to play the sound.

American / German note names	British note names	Note symbols	Note value
Whole note	Semibreve		4 beats
Half note	Minim		2 beats
Quarter note	Crotchet		1 beat
Eighth note	Quaver		1/2 of a beat
Sixteenth note	Semiquaver		1/4 of a beat

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB

9



- Hover 2nd finger over 2nd fret of 3rd string for 1st three bars.
- Do same again on second line

ODE TO JOY

Beethoven

11

The first line of musical notation is in 4/4 time. It consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter). The first three bars are identical. Chords are indicated above the staff: C (bar 1), G (bar 2), C (bar 3), G (bar 4). Below the staff is a fretboard diagram with three strings labeled T (top), A (middle), and B (bottom). The fingerings are: Bar 1: T(0), A(0), B(0); Bar 2: T(3), A(1), B(3); Bar 3: T(3), A(1), B(0); Bar 4: T(2), A(0), B(2).

The second line of musical notation continues the melody. It consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter). The first three bars are identical. Chords are indicated above the staff: C (bar 1), F (bar 2), C (bar 3), G (bar 4), C (bar 5). Below the staff is a fretboard diagram with three strings labeled T (top), A (middle), and B (bottom). The fingerings are: Bar 1: T(0), A(0), B(0); Bar 2: T(3), A(1), B(3); Bar 3: T(3), A(1), B(0); Bar 4: T(2), A(0), B(2); Bar 5: T(2), A(0), B(0).

- Note that the first three bars of each line are identical
- Bar 1. Keep 1st finger down, and add 3rd finger to play next two notes
- Hover 2nd finger after last beat of bar 2 as will be used in same place in bars 3 & 4

TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR

Children's Melody

15

TAB 0 0 3 3 | 0 0 3 | 1 1 0 0

4

2 2 0 | 3 3 1 1 | 0 0 2

7

3 3 1 1 | 0 0 2 | 0 0 3 3

10

0 0 3 | 1 1 0 0 | 2 2 0

- Prepare 3rd finger on 3rd fret of 2nd string in advance.
- Leave it there until bar 4. (Same for bars 9 and 10)

PICKUP NOTES

Sometimes a melody will begin before the first beat of the first measure. These notes are called **pickup notes** and they appear in a partial measure called the **pickup measure**. Always remember to count the missing beats before playing your first pickup note. When a song begins with pickup notes, the last measure will be short the exact number of beats used as pickups.

In formal music theory known as an "Anacrusis"

The pickup measure in this exercise has only one quarter note. Count "1-2-3-" silently before playing the quarter note on beat 4. Notice that the last measure is short by one beat to balance out the one-beat pickup note.

16

The following pickup measure has two quarter notes. Count "1-2-" silently before playing beats 3 and 4.

17

DOTTED NOTES

When you see a **dotted note**, hold that note 50% longer than you would normally hold it. For example, a dotted half note (♩.) lasts as long as a half note plus a quarter note. A dot adds half the value of the note.

Watch for the dotted half notes on this one.

18

OH! SUSANNA

Stephen C. Foster

9

C

I come from A - la - ba - ma with a ban - jo on my

T
A
B

0 0 3 3 0 3 0 0 2 0 0 2 0

G7 C

knee. We're goin' to Lou - si - an - a, our

2 2 0 3 3 0 3 0 0

G7 C F

love for to see. Oh Su - san - na oh

0 0 2 2 0 1 1 0 0 0

C G7 C

don't you cry for me. We're goin' to Lou - si -

3 3 0 0 2 2 0 3 3 0

G7 C

an - a just to strum a - while you see.

3 0 0 2 0 0 2 2 0

AURA LEE

Traditional

25

5

9

13

- Use 2nd finger on 3rd fret of 2nd string and 3rd finger 3rd fret of 1st string
- After playing first note, move 2nd finger to 2nd fret of 1st string
- Bar 2, 6 & 14: Use 4th finger for 5th fret

Aura Lee: Suggested Fingering of 1st bar