

Ah, the music... Everyone listens to it all day long, but you, you want to play it, and first welcome to you in the big family of musicians.

Any respected musician has theoretical basics of music, that's what I'm going to offer you in these courses, but I made it a little more alive than a simple course, a little more colorful so that you won't fall into deep boredom. With these few basics through my lessons, and with repetitive work (I advise you 15 min per day, several days in the week, and one to two lessons per week max), I assure you that you will be ready to play an instrument.

Today, in this first lesson, you will find information on the staff, on the clefs, as well as first pieces of information on the notes. My advice is to master these first basics, this will permit you to continue the other courses serenely.

1. The staff

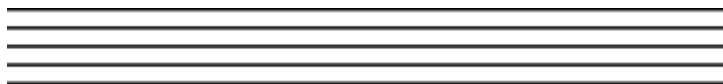
Composed of 5 horizontal lines, and therefore of 4 interlines, the staff is what allows the musician to know which note to play, at which pitch the note should be played.

Notes can be on the staff, under the staff, or above the staff. If the note is above or below the staff, we just add one or more lines for the note in question.

The notes on the staff can be on a line or on a interline.

The staff is read from top to bottom, as well as from left to right.

If you play the piano, you will notice that there is a brace bringing together 2 staves, we speak then of SYSTEM. This system is read by reading the 2 staves at the same time. There are then several notes on the same vertical "line", we then speak of chords, but we will see that in another lesson, each thing in its time.



This is a staff.



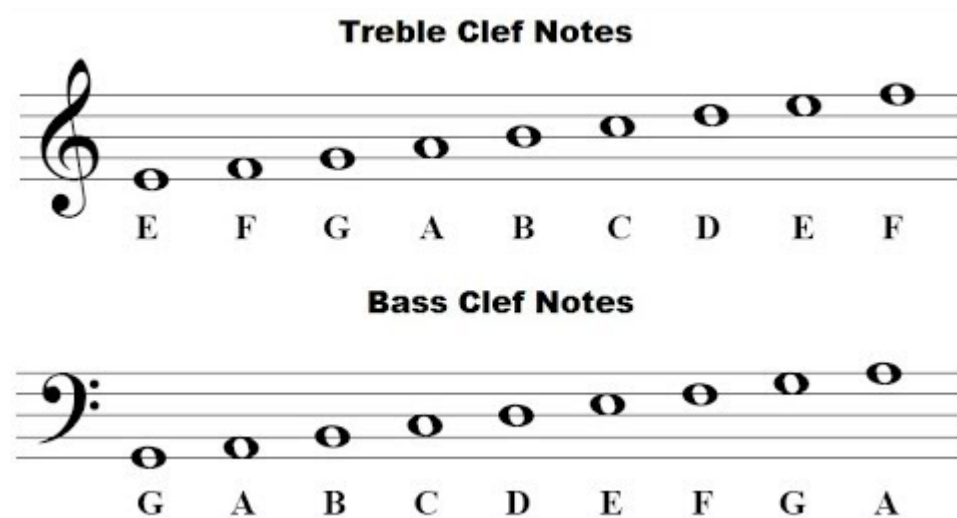
This is a system of staves.

To be more totally clear, you may have heard of the word "score". The score, it is all the staves that are composing the song.

2. The notes

There are 7: C, D, E, F, G, A, and B.

However, when we make a range, we repeat the 1st note: C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C.



Here is an example with the treble clef and the bass clef, that I introduce just after in the document.

My advice : Learn the order of the notes by heart, in the ascending and descending order, because it corresponds to the alphabet of the musicians: if you do not know the notes, you will not go very far ...

3. The clefs

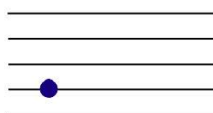
A clef is a small sign placed at the start of the staff, with the armor (which we will define in another course), which indicates the pitch of the notes associated with each line.

There are 2 clefs that musicians use very regularly, especially pianists: the treble clef and the bass clef. They indicate the pitch of the note.

- The treble clef

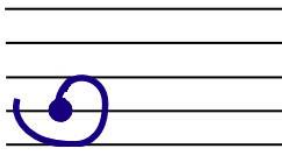
Why do we call this key so? Well, quite simple : it's because it's dedicated to the treble instruments, as well as to the right hand of the piano.

How to draw a treble clef?

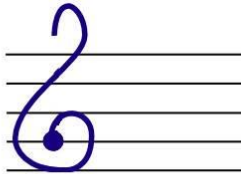


First we start by pointing to the 2nd line, this is where the ground is located.

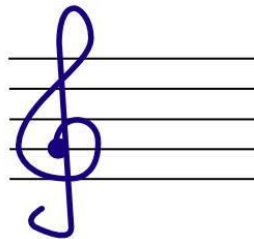
We draw a line that goes around the point clockwise:



Then we make a loop that goes beyond the scope:



To finish the drawing of our fabulous treble clef, you have to go back through the center, so by the first point you drew, then we finish with a small loop under the staff.



Admittedly, we will notice that music editing software does not exactly do these steps, that is why they do not point exactly the 2nd line, but it is equivalent.

- The bass clef

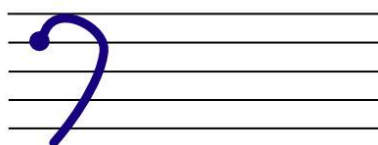
It is used to designate bass instruments, or for the left hand on the piano.

How to draw the bass clef ?

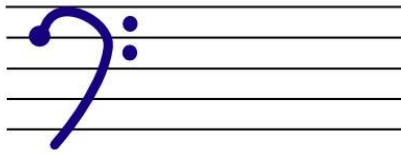


First we point to the 4th line, this is where the F is located.

Then we draw a curve clockwise:



We finally draw 2 points, on either side of the 4th line:



My advice : Before going next, learn to read perfectly the notes corresponding to each of these keys, especially if you are a pianist, it will be more useful for you and will allow you a more fluid reading (and therefore faster learning) of your favorite songs!

4. For the pianists

Pianists have no easy task, since they have to read both clefs at the same time. Indeed, and in the general case, what will be on the staff with the bass clef will be played with the left hand, and therefore the rest on the right hand.



In the vast majority of cases, the system will be as above.

Conclusion: THE TIPS TO REMEMBER

- The staff is made up of 5 horizontal lines and 4 line spaces
- Notes can be on, under, and above the staff
- The notes are located on the lines or in the spaces
- The staff is read like a novel: from left to right and from top to bottom
- There are 7 notes: C, D, E, F, G, A, B
- The 2 most used keys are the Treble Clef and the Bass Clef
- These keys let you know the pitch of the sound