

In the first lesson, we were able to see the staff, the notes, as well as the 2 most used clefs: the treble clef and the bass clef. Today, in this course, we'll see more pieces of information about notes, what measure bars are, and then we'll explore some rhythms. Finally, we will see the time signature, what they are used for and how to read them.

1. The notes

As we saw in the previous lesson, there are 7 notes: C, D, E, F, G, A, and B.

It is the English notation, but for instance, in French, the notes don't have the same name. Here is the equivalence :

Notes in French	Notes in English
Do	C
Ré	D
Mi	E
Fa	F
Sol	G
La	A
Si	B

This is just for your general knowledge, but I think it is also interesting for you.

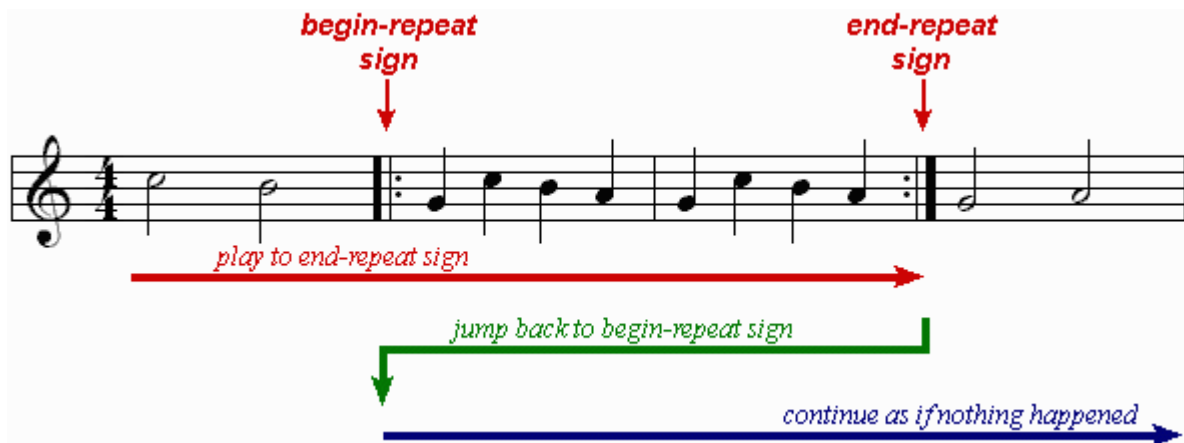
2. Measure

The measure is the division of a piece of music into equal parts. This division is indicated by bar lines.



All these are measures, with different time signatures.

It is possible to see strange bars in the pieces: these are the repeat bars.



They indicate that the passage between the 2 repeat bars will be played a second time.










Finally, at the end of each song, there is what is called a double bar, which we can see below:








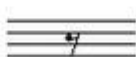




This double bar indicates the end of the song, it can be preceded by a high point, that we will see in a future lesson.

3. Rhythms

Now, to know how to play the notes of the score, we need to know the main rhythms:

Symbol	Rhythm Name	Notation Name
	ta	Quarter Note
	ti-ti	2 Eighth Notes
	---	Quarter Note Rest
	tika-tika	4 Sixteenth Notes
	too	Half Note
	ti-tika	Eighth Note 2 Sixteenth Notes
	tika-ti	2 Sixteenth Notes Eighth Note
	tum-ti	Dotted Quarter Note Eighth Note
	syn-co-pa	Eighth Note, Quarter Note, Eighth Note
	tim-ka	Dotted Eighth Note Sixteenth Note

Name	Note	Rest	Length
Whole Note			4 beats
Half Note			2 beats
Quarter Note			1 beat
Eighth Note			1/2 beat
Sixteenth Note			1/4 beat




























Small precision, but not the least: the sigh, the pause and the half-pause are symbols representing silences. The rest are symbols with notes.

There are 2 parts in the pulsations: the metronome, which indicates when time takes place, and the counter-time, which indicates the 2nd half of time.

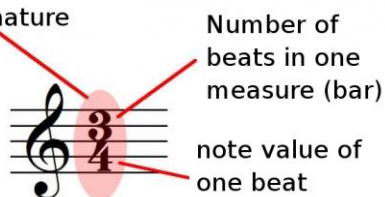
On the staff, to indicate when the time takes place, we use pulse bars : a pulse is the indicator of a time, it is associated with the tempo and the different movements, which we will see in another course.

4. Time signature

As you can guess, the measure may contain a different number of beats. To access this information, we use so-called time signatures.

Type Of Beat	Duple Time	Triple Time	Quadruple Time
Crotchet Beat	$\frac{2}{4}$  	$\frac{3}{4}$   	$\frac{4}{4}$    
Minim Beat	$\frac{2}{2}$  	$\frac{3}{2}$   	$\frac{4}{2}$    
Quaver Beat	$\frac{2}{8}$  	$\frac{3}{8}$   	$\frac{4}{8}$    



Time signature



As you can see on this picture, the numerator indicates the number of beats in the measure (the number of pulses), while the denominator indicates the unit of time: 4 will be for quarter note, 2 for half note, 1 for whole note, 8 for the eighth note...

This unit of time allows us to know how to beat the measure: the pulse will be on the quarter note, on the eighth note, on the half note or on the whole note depending on the number indicated.

For example, the (4/4) will be a measure of 4 beats, beaten with the quarter note; while a measure of (2/2) will be a measure of 2 beats, beaten with the half note !

NB 1: The time signature  (2/2) can also be written  (crossed out C), and the measure indicator figures (4/4) can also be written with a capital C, as on the score piece below :



NB 2: In a measure at (2/2), time is no longer the quarter note but the half note. This poses no problem of interpretation, a 2/2 is not different from a 2/4 for that but obliges to acquire other automatisms. The quarter note is not the only rhythmic value that can materialize a beat. In this case, it will be the half note, which will help us prepare for the course on the ternary, to come, where the tempo can be a dotted half note or a dotted quarter note.

Conclusion: THE TIPS TO REMEMBER

- There are different notations for notes, depending on the country: French notation, as well as Anglo-Saxon, international notation.
- The measure is the division of a piece of music into equal parts, and this division is indicated by bar lines.
- There are repeat bars, indicating that a passage must be played a second time.
- There is a double bar, indicating the end of the song.
- There are many rhythms. We were able to see the binary rhythms in this course, but there are the ternary rhythms, which we will see in another course.
- The time signatures permit to know how much times there is per measurement and what is the unit of time (quarter note, half note, etc.).