

WEEK 4 LESSON

INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC NOTATION

Rudiments of music refers to the various things that are useful in understanding how music is composed, read, interpreted and performed. One needs to understand these basic things for proper musicianship. To understand this, you will need to understand how music is written. This is called notation of music.

Notation of music

Notation of music is simply the writing of music sound using various symbols and signs.

Let's say you composed music the other day. And now you're finding it difficult to remember it. If you had written it down, all you needed to do was get the paper right? Now we write down words or jot and copy notes in class so that we can remember them. The same way, it is possible to write down musical sounds, not just the words of the songs. You need to remember the tune as well as the words of the song you're writing down. It is necessary to write music down for many reasons. When we write music sounds down, it helps us remember it. People can write musical sound and send to others as a way of showing them what we have composed. In doing this we make use of several things such as musical alphabets, clef signature, staff, musical notes etc.

Clef signature

Clef signature is a symbol written at the beginning of a piece of music which helps to give names to the lines and spaces of a staff. There are two major types of clef signature



Treble clef



Bass clef

Another name for treble clef is G clef while another name for bass clef is F clef

STAFF

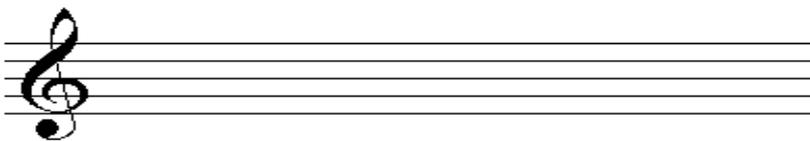
Staff is five lines and four spaces on which music is written.



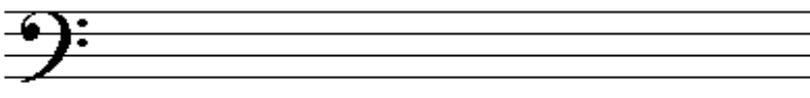
Types of staff

There are two types of staff namely: treble staff and bass staff.

1. TREBLE STAFF



2. BASS STAFF



Steps on how to draw treble and bass staff



Great staff

Great staff is the combination of the treble and bass staff with the middle C at the centre. The treble staff stays above while the bass staff is kept below. A great staff is also called **great stave** or **grand stave**.

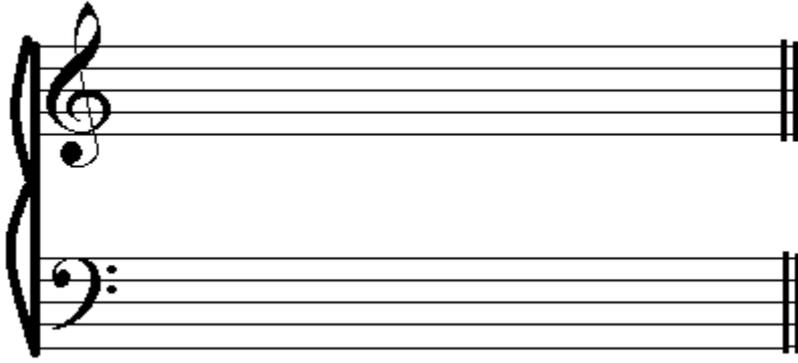
Procedure to constructing a great staff

STEP 1: Draw a treble staff with double bar lines at the end.

STEP 2: Draw a bass staff below it with a double bar line at the end.

STEP 3: Use a straight line to connect them together on the left side.

STEP 4: Attach a brace or bracket to the straight line.



Great staff is used to write music for the piano or for four voices. Where it is used to write music for four voices, soprano and alto take the treble staff while tenor and bass take the bass staff.