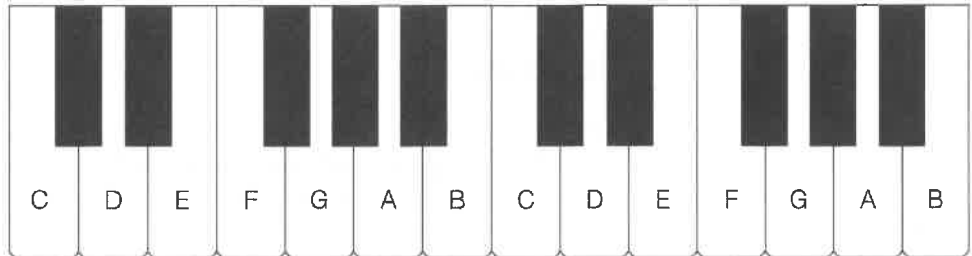


Naming White Keys

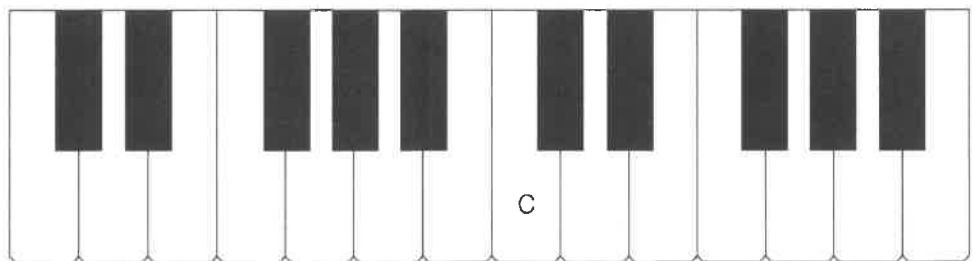
The first seven **letters** of the alphabet are used to identify keys: A–B–C–D–E–F–G. Notice that after the note G we start the alphabet again with A–B–C–D–E–F–G.

The relationship between two notes that have the same name is called an **octave**. For example, from C to the next C is called an octave: CDEFGABC. The second C is an octave higher than the first. We say the second C is in a higher register.



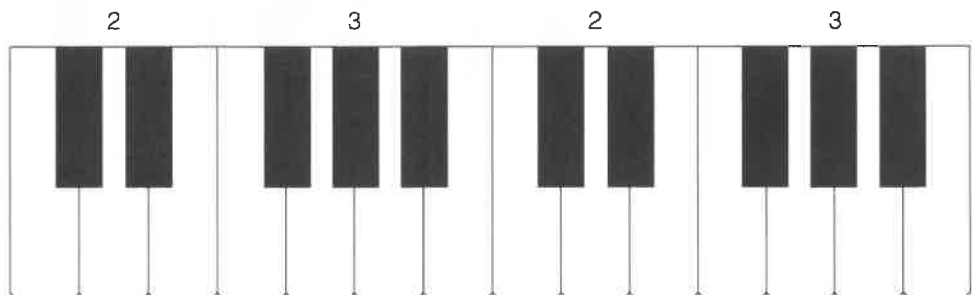
Key patterns of the keyboard are consistent.

You can find a C on the piano just to the left of any group of two black keys.



Naming Black Keys

Notice the way the black keys are grouped on the keyboard. From the left side of the keyboard, only the first group has one black key. The others have two black keys or three black keys.



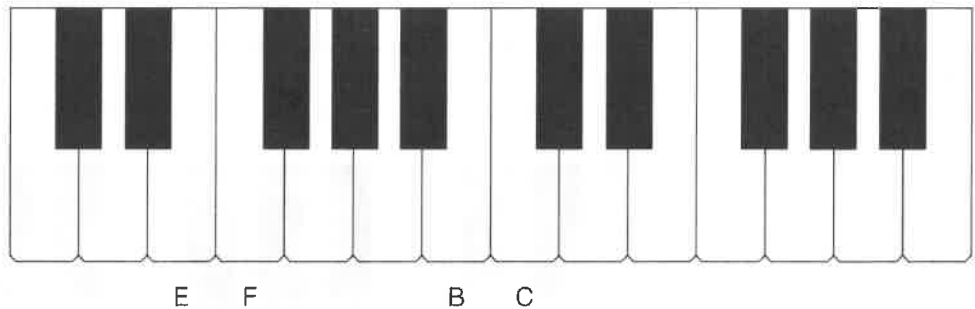
2.2 Whole-Step and Half-Step Intervals at the Keyboard

Interval

An **interval** is the musical distance between two pitches.

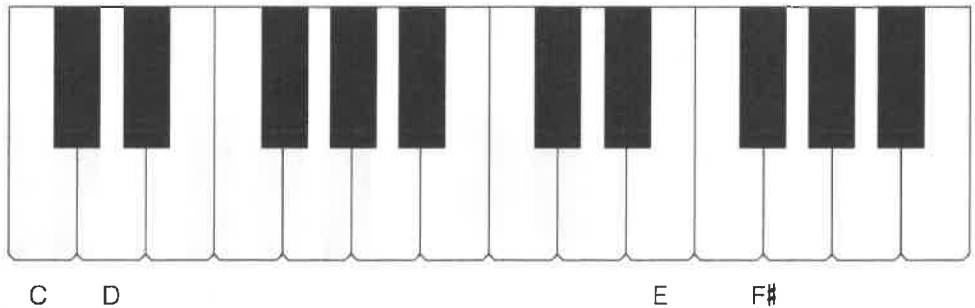
Half Step

A **half step** is the smallest interval on the keyboard. It is the distance between two adjacent keys, regardless of color. The half step usually occurs between white keys and neighboring black keys. The half step occurs only in two places between white keys—between the notes E and F, and between the notes B and C.



Whole Step

A **whole step** is the distance of two half steps on the keyboard. Whole steps can occur from white key to white key; from black key to black key; from white key to black key; and from black key to white key. From C to D is a whole step, and from E to F# is a whole step.

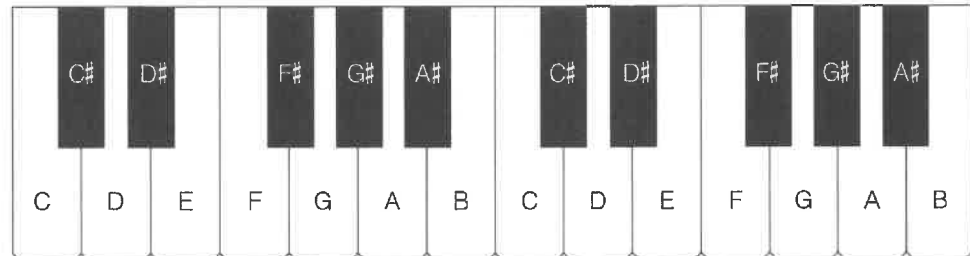


Accidentals

All the black and white keys are identified with letter names from the musical alphabet. All keys can be identified by more than one name through the use of sharps and flats.

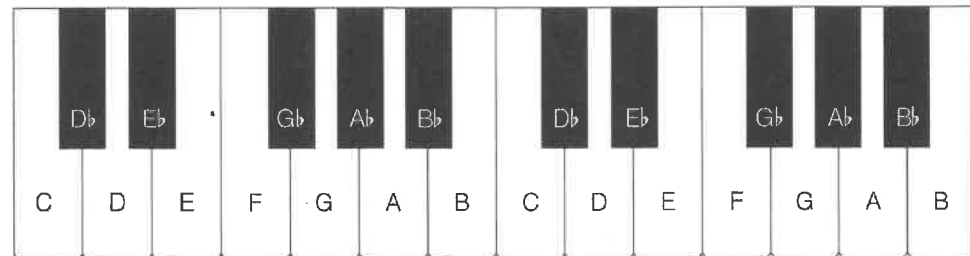
Sharp

A **sharp sign** (#) is the musical symbol that indicates that the note has been raised a half step in pitch to the next white or black key. The black key immediately to the right and above the white key is named by adding a sharp to the white-key name. Once a sharp is indicated within a measure, it remains in effect for the remainder of the measure.



Flat

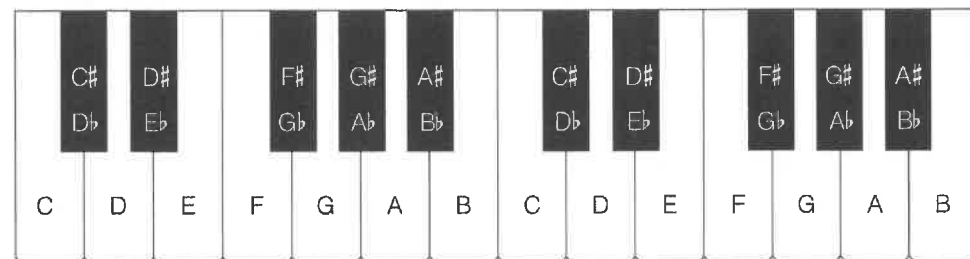
A **flat sign** (b) is the musical symbol that indicates the note has been lowered a half step in pitch to the next white or black key. The black key immediately to the left and below a white key is named by adding a flat to the white-key name. Once a flat is indicated within a measure, it remains in effect for the remainder of the measure.



Enharmonic Pitches

Notating the same pitch with a different note name is called an **enharmonic spelling** of the pitch.

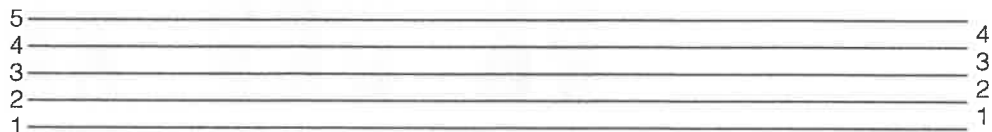
Black keys and white keys have at least two possible names. For example, an F# (F-sharp) can also be notated as Gb (G-flat). The note F can also be notated as E-sharp (E#). Remember that the same notes notated differently sound the same. Note that there isn't a black key between B and C or between E and F. Enharmonic spelling of B can be C-flat, C is B-sharp, E is F-flat, and F is E-sharp.



2.3 Treble Clef and Introduction to the Notation of Pitch

Music Notation

Pitch is indicated with notes on the **staff**. The staff is made up of five lines and four spaces. The lines and spaces are always numbered from the bottom to the top.

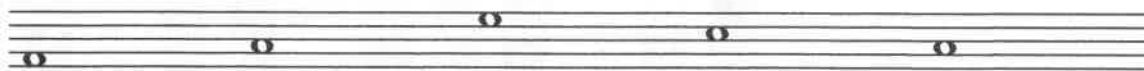


Notes represent musical pitches on the staff. Notes are written on lines or in spaces on the staff.

The following staff contains notes on lines. Notice that the lines go through the middle of the note heads.



The next staff contains notes in spaces. Notice that the note heads sit in the space between the lines.

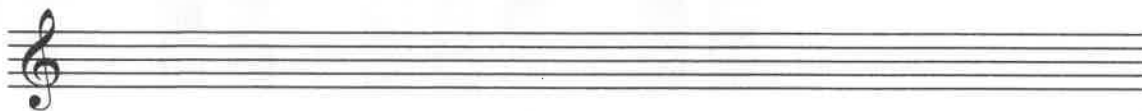


In the next staff, you can see that notes can be placed on a staff on lines or in spaces. Lower pitches are placed lower on the staff; higher pitches are placed higher.



The Treble Clef, or G Clef

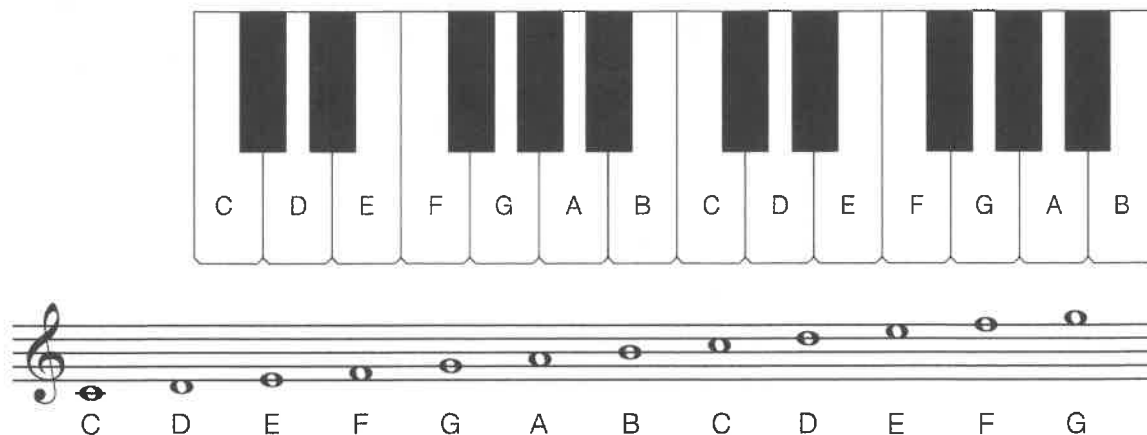
The **treble clef**, or **G clef**, identifies the second line on the staff as G, five notes above middle C. Your instructor will show you where middle C is located on the piano. The treble clef normally indicates playing the keyboard with the right hand. Notice how the treble clef sign circles around the second line, G.



Once G is established on the staff, the remaining pitches can be determined.

Notating White Keys in the Treble Clef

Consecutive letter names that move up or down the keyboard alternate between lines and spaces.



All letter names are arranged according to the alphabetical sequence of letters. Once a pitch has been identified on the staff, the other pitches follow in sequence. Note the repetition of letter names and the placement of note heads on the staff. Note heads are placed around a line or in a space to indicate different musical notes.

The following hints will help in memorizing the names of the lines and spaces in the treble clef. Remember to start on the first line or space (bottom) of each clef.

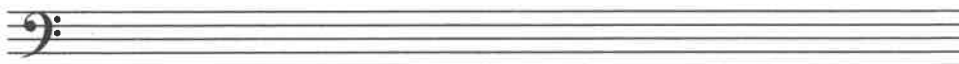
Treble lines: E, G, B, D, F; Every Good Boy Does Fine.

Treble spaces: F-A-C-E spells "face."

2.4 Bass Clef, Ledger Lines, and Octave Sign

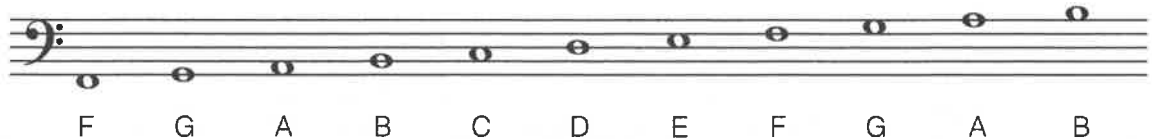
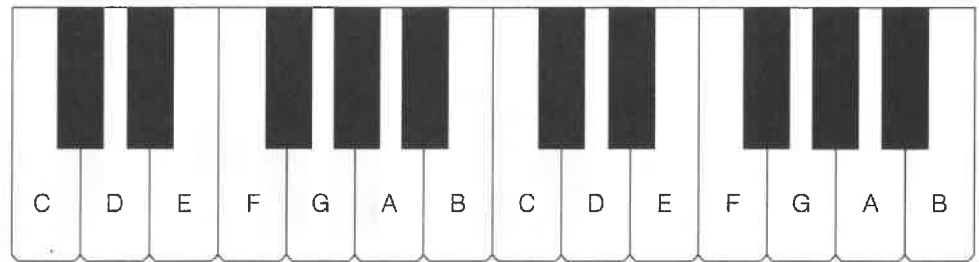
The Bass Clef, or F Clef

The **bass clef**, or **F clef**, identifies the fourth line as F. Notice that the two dots surround the F line.



A note written on this bass clef F line is positioned five notes below middle C on the piano. Other pitches may be derived from the F clef. The bass clef normally indicates playing the keyboard with the left hand.

Notating White Keys in the Bass Clef



When naming notes, remember that all letter names are arranged according to the alphabetical sequence.

The following will help in memorizing the names of the lines and spaces of the notes in the bass clef.

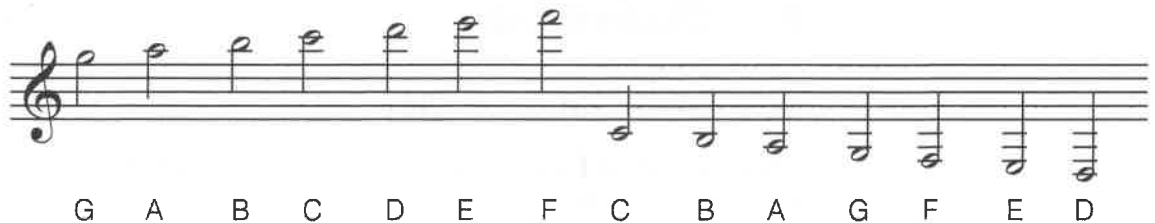
Bass line notes: G, B, D, F, A; Good Boys Do Fine Always.

Bass space notes: A, C, E, G; All Cows Eat Grass.

Ledger Lines

Notes are sometimes higher or lower than the notes that can be written on the staff. We use ledger lines to show these notes. **Ledger lines** are short lines used to extend the staff above or below the five lines. The sequence of the line and space note-names continues.

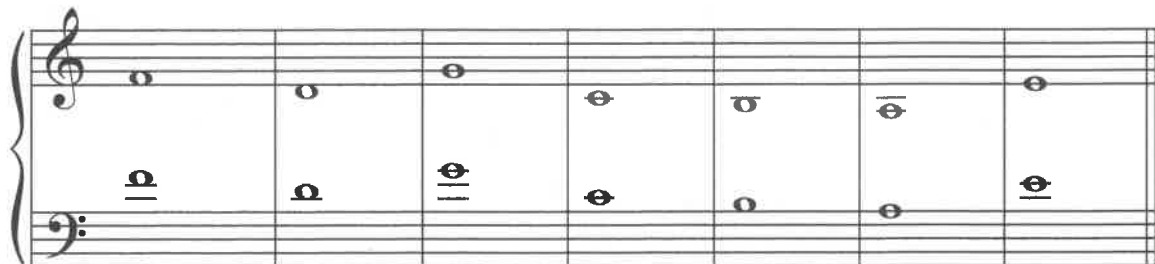
Middle C



Middle C

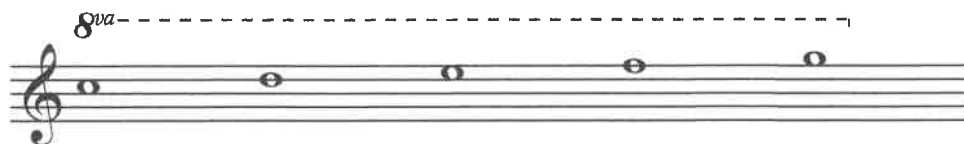


The spacing between ledger lines should be equal to the space between staff lines. Notes written as ledger lines in one clef can appear as notes on the staff in another clef. For example, the following notes have the same number of vibrations per second; however, they are written in two different clefs; In other words, the notes written in the treble staff are exactly the same as those underneath them written in the bass staff.

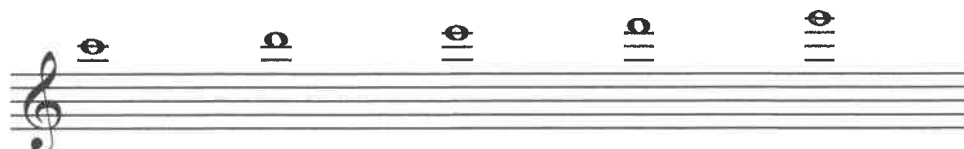


The Octave Sign

An **octave sign** above a group of notes indicates that the notes are to be played one octave higher: (*8va...*). Consistent use of ledger lines makes music difficult to read. To make the reading easier, an octave sign is used.



is the same as:



An octave sign (*8va...*) below a group of notes indicates that the notes are to be played one octave lower.

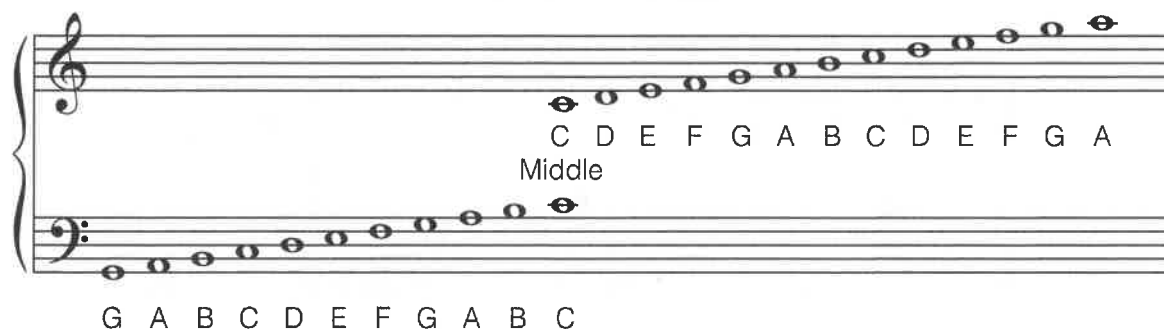


The above example will sound the same as the one below.



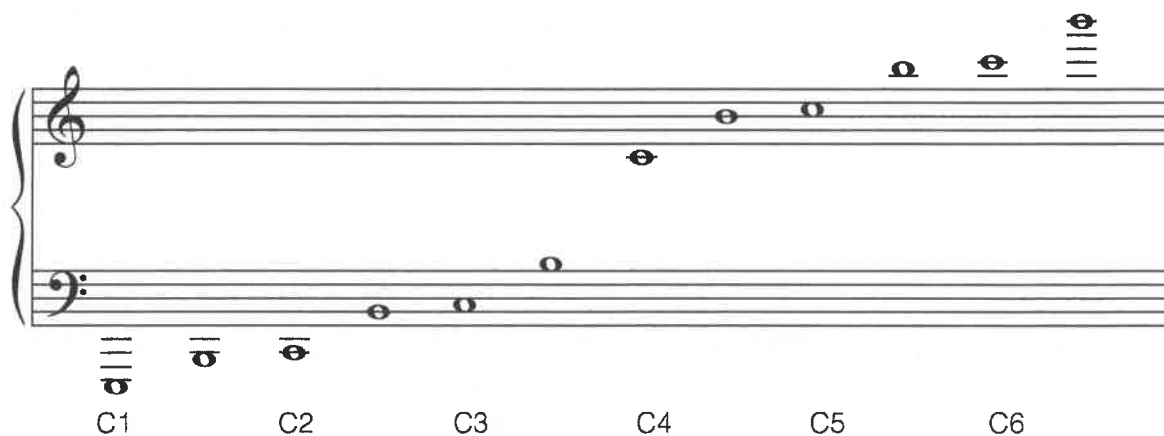
The Grand Staff

A **grand staff** is the combination of the treble staff and the bass staff grouped together by a vertical line and a brace. Music for the piano is written on the grand staff. Middle C appears on a ledger line in the treble clef as well as in the bass clef.



Octave Identification

We can use numbers to identify pitches in a particular octave. Middle C is always C4; the C an octave above middle C is C5; the C an octave below middle C is C3.



2.5 Notating Sharps and Flats on the Staff

Notating Sharps on the Staff

Sharps on the staff are placed before the notes to which they refer. Even though we say F-sharp, the sharp sign needs to precede the note to which it refers. The sharp symbol must enclose the line or space of the note that is raised. There are two steps in writing sharps:

1. Draw two vertical parallel lines before the note.
2. Complete the sharp sign by drawing two diagonal lines, making sure that the accidental is on the same line or space as the note it belongs to.

In the following song, observe that every F is sharped. Once a sharp is indicated within a measure, it remains in effect for the remainder of the measure.