

Staves, Clefs & Note Naming

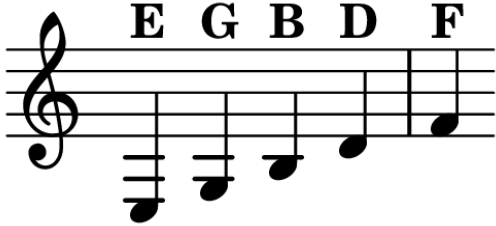
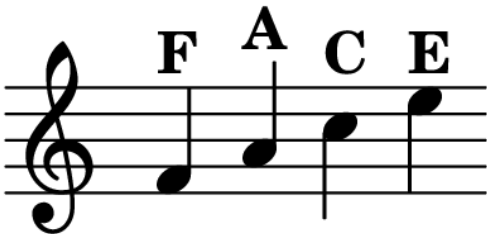
Music Theory Foundations — Quick Reference

The Staff

Music is written on a staff (or stave): five horizontal lines with four spaces between them. Notes are placed on a line or in a space to show their pitch — higher on the staff means a higher-sounding note.

The Treble Clef

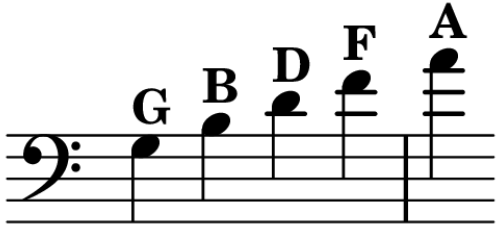
The treble clef (also called the G clef) is used for higher-pitched instruments and the right hand on piano. Its spiral curls around the second line from the bottom, marking that line as G.

Lines (bottom to top): E G B D F 	Spaces (bottom to top): F A C E 
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Memory tip — Lines: "Every Good Boy Deserves Football." Spaces simply spell "FACE."

The Bass Clef

The bass clef (also called the F clef) is used for lower-pitched instruments and the left hand on piano. Its two dots sit either side of the second line from the top, marking that line as F.

Lines (bottom to top): G B D F A 	Spaces (bottom to top): A C E G 
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Memory tip — Lines: "Good Boys Deserve Fudge Always." Spaces: "All Cows Eat Grass."

Key Rules to Remember

- The staff has 5 lines and 4 spaces, counted from the bottom up.
- The treble clef's spiral centre marks the G line; the bass clef's two dots sit around the F line.
- Notes move up the musical alphabet (A–G) as they move up the staff, then repeat: after G comes A again.
- Ledger lines extend the staff for notes too high or too low to fit on the 5 lines — middle C sits on the first ledger line below the treble staff, and the first ledger line above the bass staff.