

# First Steps.

A gentle start: reading notes and rhythm, scales and your first chords.

Free printable · 11 × 17 in

## RHYTHM

### Note & Rest Values

| NOTE                                                                                | REST                                                                                | NAME           | BEATS IN 4/4 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
|    |    | Whole note     | 4 beats      |
|    |    | Half note      | 2 beats      |
|    |    | Quarter note   | 1 beat       |
|    |    | Eighth note    | ½ beats      |
|  |  | Sixteenth note | ¼ beats      |

A dot adds half the note's value: a dotted half note = 2 + 1 = 3 beats.

### Time signatures

Top number: how many beats in a measure. Bottom number: which note gets the beat (4 = quarter, 8 = eighth).

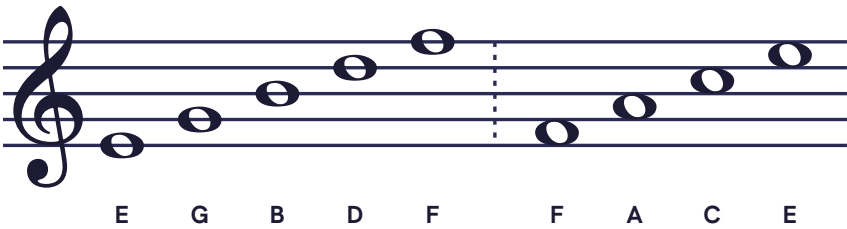
| TIME                 | WHAT IT MEANS                        | USED FOR                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>4</b><br><b>4</b> | 4 quarter-note beats per measure     | Most pop, rock and hip-hop<br>C (common time) |
| <b>3</b><br><b>4</b> | 3 quarter-note beats per measure     | Waltz                                         |
| <b>2</b><br><b>4</b> | 2 quarter-note beats per measure     | March, polka                                  |
| <b>6</b><br><b>8</b> | 6 eighth notes, felt as 2 beats of 3 | Lilting, rolling (compound time)              |

## FOUNDATIONS

### Note Names on the Staff

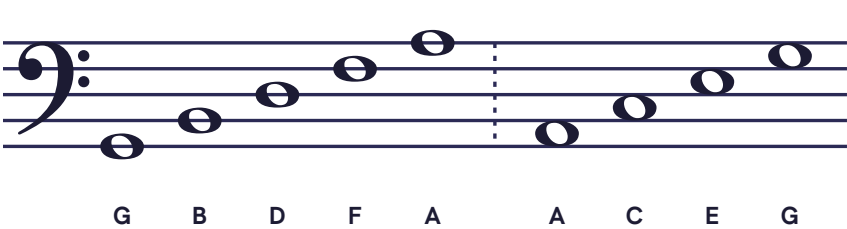
Read from the bottom line up.

#### Treble clef



Lines: Every Good Boy Does Fine · Spaces: FACE

#### Bass clef



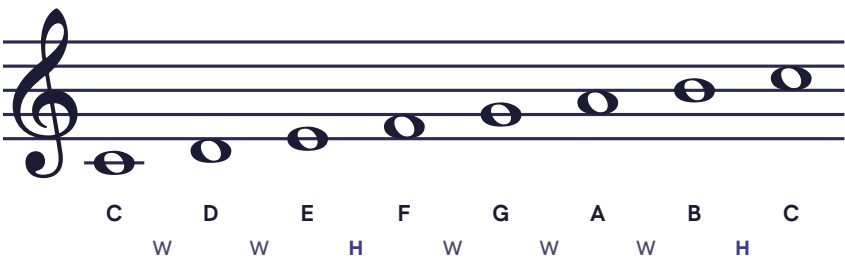
Lines: Good Boys Do Fine Always · Spaces: All Cows Eat Grass

## PRACTICE TIP

Practice slowly. Speed comes from playing it right, not from playing it fast.

## SCALES & KEYS

### Major Scale



W = whole step (2 semitones), H = half step (1 semitone)

|       |            |         |             |          |            |              |
|-------|------------|---------|-------------|----------|------------|--------------|
| 1     | 2          | 3       | 4           | 5        | 6          | 7            |
| Tonic | Supertonic | Mediant | Subdominant | Dominant | Submediant | Leading tone |

Every major key uses the notes of its major scale. C major uses only white keys, so it has no sharps or flats.

## FOUNDATIONS

### Piano Keyboard

One octave from C. Each black key has two names: the sharp of the white key to its left and the flat of the white key to its right.

