

Chapter 2. Bass Clef

In this chapter you will:

1. Write bass clefs
2. Write some low notes
3. Match low notes on the keyboard with notes on the staff
4. Write eighth notes
5. Identify notes on ledger lines
6. Identify sharps and flats on the keyboard
7. Write sharps and flats on the staff
8. Write enharmonic equivalents

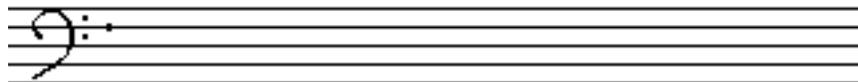
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2.1 Write bass clefs

The diagram shows a box labeled "F or bass clef" with an arrow pointing to the bass clef symbol on a musical staff. To the right, a piano keyboard diagram is shown with "middle" C and F marked. Below the staff, the lyrics "This old man, He played one, He played nick nack on my thumb" are written under the notes.

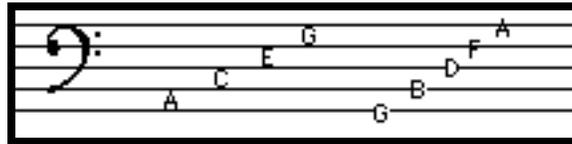
- The symbol at the beginning of the above staff, bass clef , is an F or bass clef.
- The F or bass clef says that the fourth line of the staff is the F below the piano's middle C. This clef is used to write low notes.

DRAW five bass clefs. After each clef, which itself includes two dots, put another dot on the F line.



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2.2 Write some low notes



•The notes on the spaces of a staff with bass clef starting from the bottom space are:

A, C, E and G as in All Cows Eat Grass.

•The notes on the lines of a staff with bass clef starting from the bottom line are:

G, B, D, F and A as in Good Boys Do Fine Always.

1. *IDENTIFY* the notes in the song “This Old Man.” *PLAY* it.

This old man, He played one, He played nick nack on my thumb

2. *WRITE* the notes and bass clefs for the song, “Go Tell Aunt Rhodie”

Q = quarter note

H = half note

W = whole note

H Q Q H H H Q Q QQ H
E E D C C D D F E D C

Write
bass
clefs

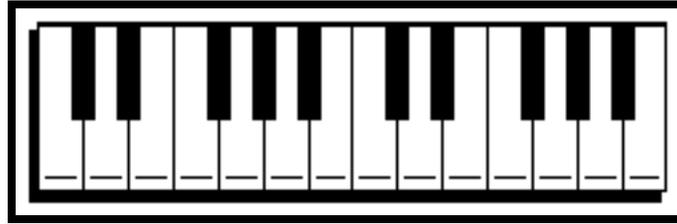
Go tell Aunt Rhodie, Go tell Aunt Rhodie

H Q Q H Q Q Q Q Q Q W
G G F E E C D C D E C

Go tell Aunt Rhodie, The old grey goose is dead.

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2.3 Match low notes on the keyboard with notes on the staff



A. Bass clef and the keyboard

1. *WRITE* letters on the white keys of the above keyboard.
2. *WRITE*, on the keyboard below, the number of each note which appears on the staff to the left. Learn to play this phrase.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Deck the halls with boughs of hol-ly



B. Review

COMPLETE the following sentences

1. The phrase for remembering the lines for bass clef is

2. The spaces in treble clef spell

3. The phrase for remembering the lines for treble clef is

4. The phrase for remembering the spaces for bass clef is

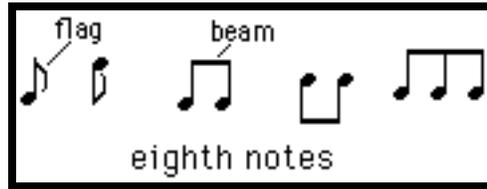
C. Practice

GO ONLINE to <http://www.classic.musictheory.net/>.

1. *SELECT* "Note Trainer" from the "Trainers" menu.
2. *CLICK* "Settings."
3. *HIGHLIGHT* bass clef only; *DRAG* notes to the top and bottom lines.
4. *CLICK* "Settings" again.
5. *REVIEW* treble clef notes as needed.

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2.4 Write eighth notes



- All the above notes are called eighth notes.
- When there is only a single eighth note, its stem has a flag.
- When two or more eighth notes appear together they are usually connected with a beam.
- Eighth notes are twice as fast as quarter notes. There are usually two eighth notes in one beat. There are eight eighth notes in a whole note.

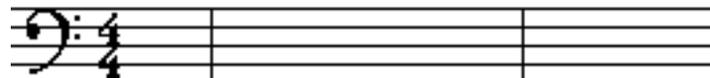
1. *DRAW* these notes:

Eighth note 2 eighth notes Quarter note Half note Whole note
connected with
a beam

2. *WRITE* the notes to “Arkansas Traveler” on the staff below. Connect the eighth notes with a beam.

In the top line E = eighth note and Q = quarter note.

Q E E E E Q Q Q Q Q
G C E D C A A G G C
line space space line line

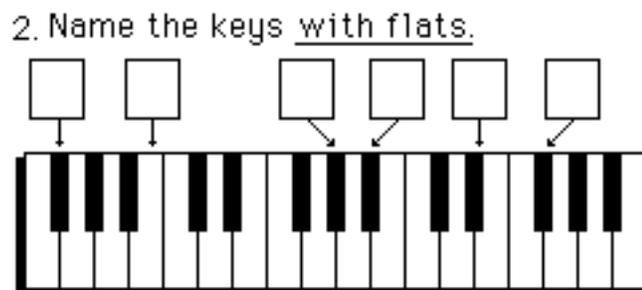
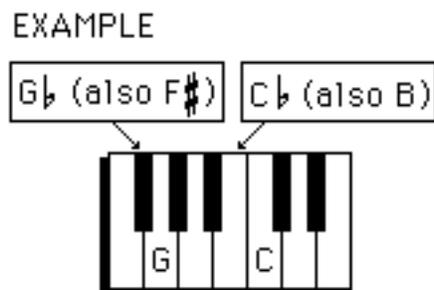
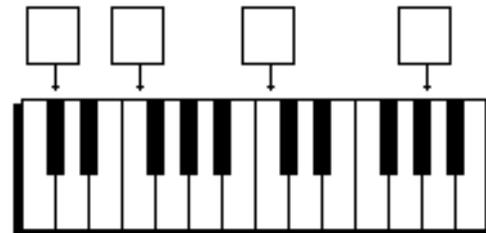
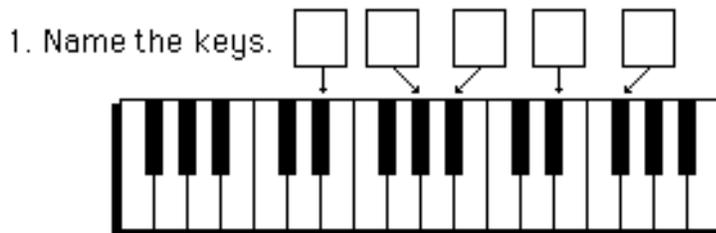
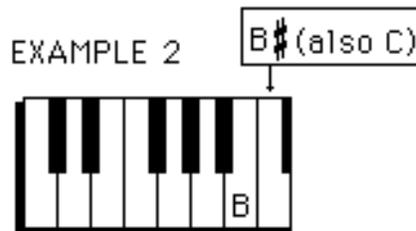
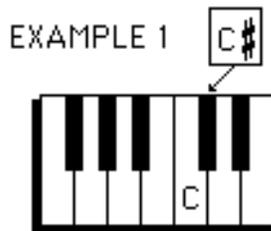


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2.6 Identify sharps and flats on the keyboard



- A sharp, \sharp , after a letter name means play the key to the right, or higher, on the keyboard without skipping over any keys, whether black or white. See example 1 below. $C\sharp$ is to the right of C.
- If the key to the right is white, give the key a new second name with a sharp. See example 2 below.
- A flat, \flat , after a letter means play the key to the left, or lower, on the keyboard without skipping over any keys, whether black or white.



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2.7 Write sharps and flats on the staff

Sharps and flats on the staff.

- When writing sharps and flats with letter names, write the sharp or flat after the letter--C \sharp .
- When writing sharps and flats with notes on a staff, write the sharp or flat before the note-- \sharp F.
- On the staff, the space in the middle of the sharp or flat should cover the same line or space as the note next to it.

1. *WRITE* sharps or flats in front of these notes.

Add sharps Add flats

EXAMPLE EXAMPLE

2. *REVIEW*

- Notes sound _____ on the right side of the keyboard.
(higher or lower)
- Notes sound _____ on the left side of the keyboard.
(higher or lower)
- A sharp means play the key to the _____ on the keyboard.
(right or left)
- A flat means play the key to the _____ on the keyboard.
(right or left)
- The key for D \sharp is to the _____ of D.
(right or left)
- The key for C \flat is to the _____ of C.
(right or left)
- D \sharp sounds _____ than D.
(higher or lower)
- C \flat sounds _____ than C.
(higher or lower)

3. *GO ONLINE* to <http://www.classic.musictheory.net/>.

- SELECT* "Keyboard Trainer" from the "Trainers" menu.
- CLICK* the "Black Keys" circle so it says "On."
- CHOOSE* the correct letters for the highlighted keys.

