

Section 1.1

STAVES AND CLEFS

Elements of music The fundamental elements of music are **pitch** (the highness/lowness of the notes), **duration** (how long the notes last), **timbre** (overall type of sound such as trumpet versus clarinet), and **dynamics/loudness**. Some authors add **frequency** (the speed of the physical vibration making the sound) and **texture** (see 5.1 *Texture in Music*).

Staff A **staff** (plural: **staves**) uses five parallel lines to notate (write down) the pitch aspect of music. Higher-pitched notes are written higher on the staff.
Note names Staff lines are numbered **1 to 5**, starting from the **bottom** line. **Note names** from low to high are the letters A, B, C, D, E, F, G, then repeating A, B, C...

Clef A **clef** indicates which note names go on which lines (and spaces between the lines) on the staff. Clefs are written at the start of the staff. **Treble clef** designates the **second** line from the bottom as **G**. The lines in treble clef represent the pitches E, G, B, D, and F. The spaces are F, A, C, and E.

Diagram illustrating the treble clef staff. The staff is labeled "treble clef" and "staff". The notes are G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G. The lines are labeled "line 5" (top) and "line 1" (bottom). The notes are: G, so... D E F G A B C D E F G.

Every Good Boy Does Fine F-A-C-E spells face

lines: E G B D F spaces: D F A C E G

Bass clef **Bass clef** designates the **fourth** line from the bottom as **F**. The lines in bass clef represent the pitches G, B, D, F, and A. The spaces are A, C, E, and G.

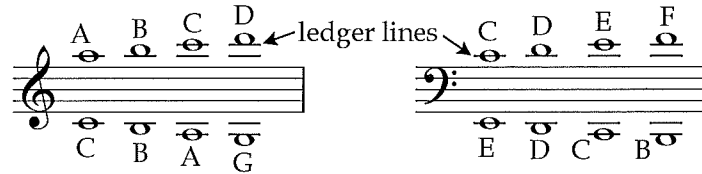
Diagram illustrating the bass clef staff. The staff is labeled "bass clef" and "staff". The notes are F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B. The lines are labeled "line 5" (top) and "line 1" (bottom). The notes are: F, so... F G A B C D E F G A B.

Good Boys Do Fine Always All Cars Eat Gas All Cows Eat Grass

lines: G B D F A spaces: F A C E G B

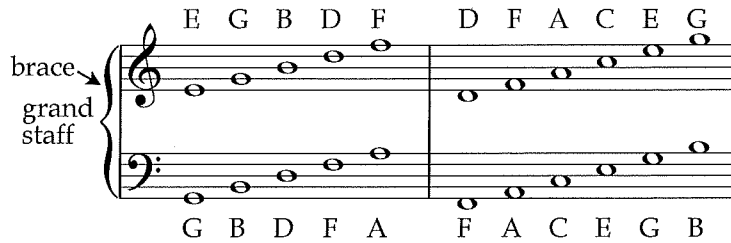
Ledger lines

Ledger lines are small lines that extend the staff higher and lower. They can be used with any clef. Ledger lines belong to a single note; they never connect to ledger lines for surrounding notes.



Grand staff

A **grand staff** is a treble clef staff and bass clef staff connected with a **brace**. Piano music uses a grand staff, along with instruments such as harp and marimba. Sometimes vocal (choir) music is also notated using a grand staff.



C clefs
Alto clef

All **C clefs** indicate where C is on the staff. **Alto clef** is a C clef centered on the **third line** from the bottom, designating it as C. Parts for the viola (a string instrument in the violin family) almost always use alto clef.



Tenor Clef

Tenor clef is a C clef centered on the **fourth line** from the bottom, designating it as C. Bassoon and trombone music occasionally uses tenor clef, although both instruments more commonly read bass clef.

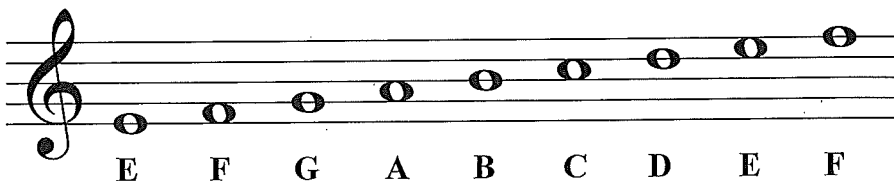


The Staff - Treble Clef

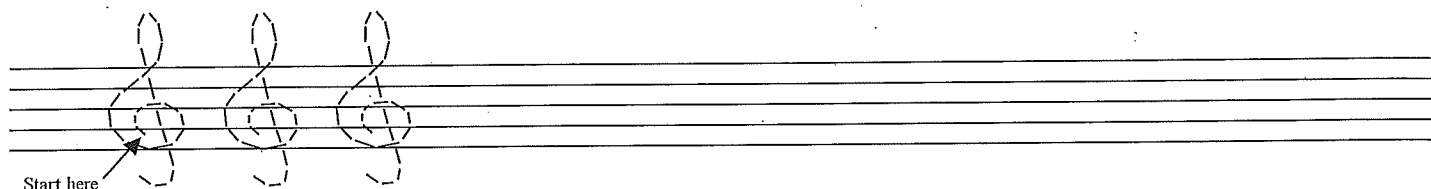
A **clef** appears at the beginning of each staff. The clef shown here is a **treble clef**.



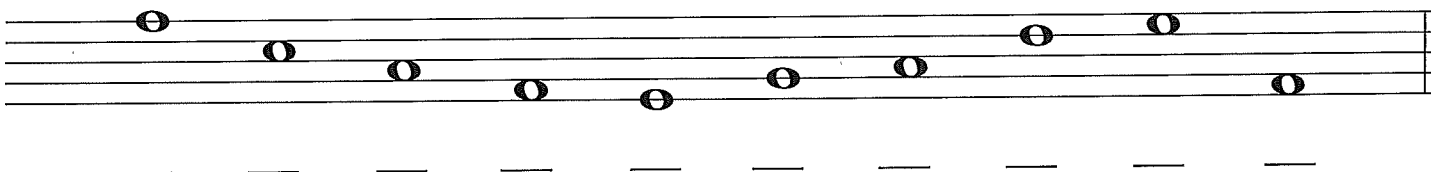
Each note on the treble clef staff has a letter name.



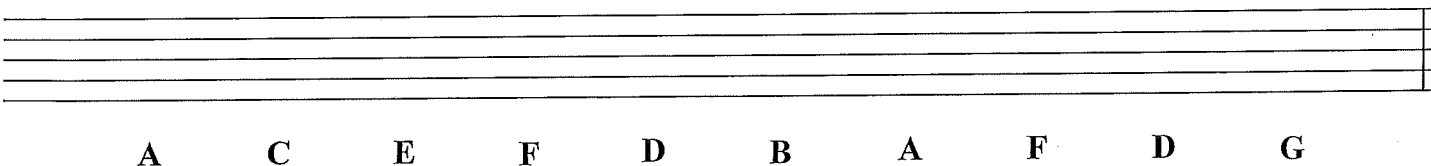
1. Practice drawing the treble clef sign by tracing over the guidelines. Draw five more in the remaining space.



2. Draw a treble clef at the beginning of the staff and write the letter name of each note.



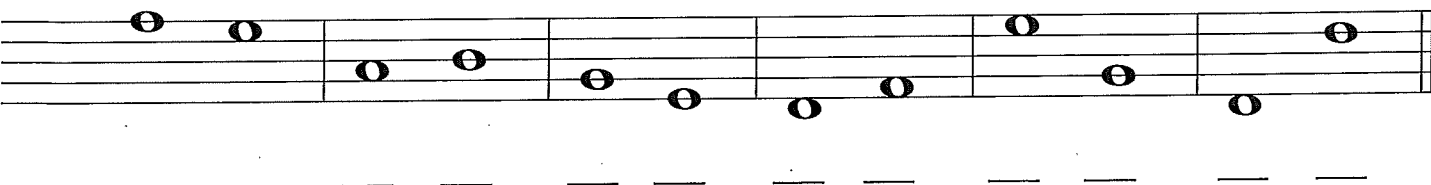
3. Draw the treble clef at the beginning of the staff and then draw the notes indicated.
If a note can be drawn in more than one place on the staff, choose which one you want to draw.



4. Draw the treble clef at the beginning of the staff.
Write the letter name for each note, then circle the higher note in each pair.



5. Draw the treble clef at the beginning of the staff.
Write the letter name for each note, then circle the lower note in each pair.



Name _____

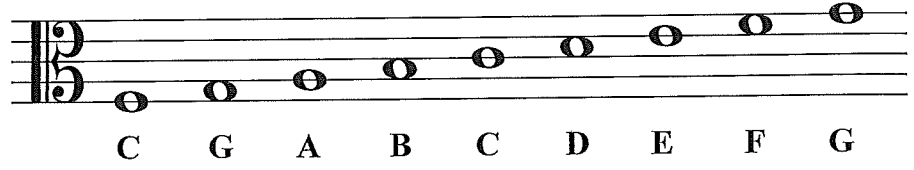
Date _____

The Staff - Alto Clef

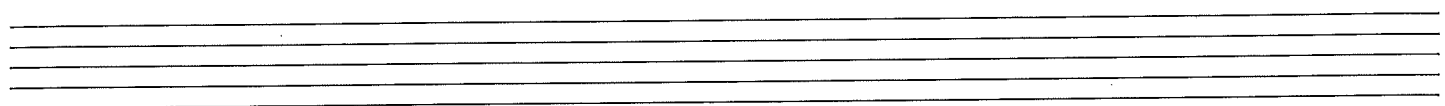
A **clef** appears at the beginning of each staff. The clef shown here is an **alto clef**.



Each note on the alto clef staff has a letter name.

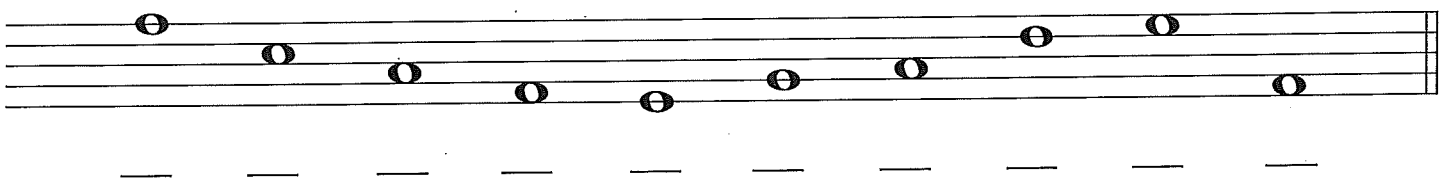


1. Practice drawing the alto clef sign by tracing over the guidelines. Draw five more in the remaining space.



Start here

2. Draw an alto clef at the beginning of the staff and write the letter name of each note.

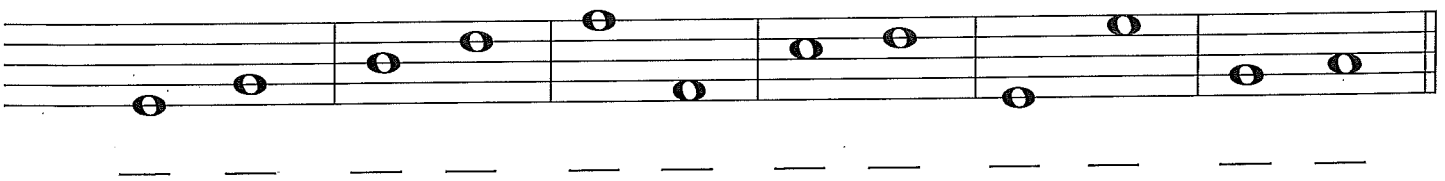


3. Draw the alto clef at the beginning of the staff and then draw the notes indicated. If a note can be drawn in more than one place on the staff, choose which one you want to draw.

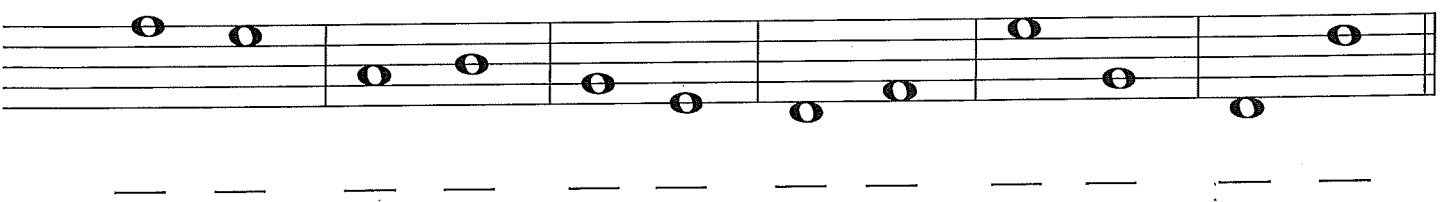


A C E F D B A F D G

4. Draw the alto clef at the beginning of the staff. Write the letter name for each note, then circle the higher note in each pair.



5. Draw the alto clef at the beginning of the staff. Write the letter name for each note, then circle the lower note in each pair.



The Staff - Bass Clef

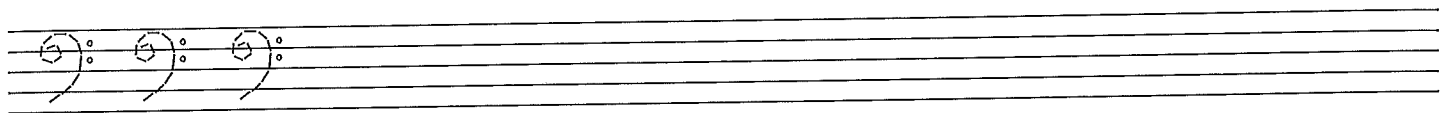
A **clef** appears at the beginning of each staff. The clef shown here is a **bass clef**.



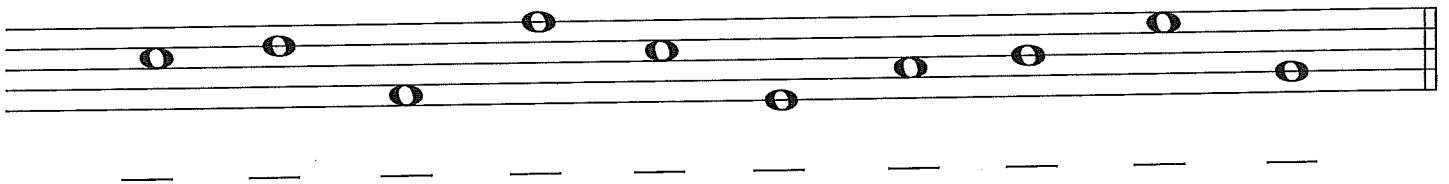
Each note on the bass clef staff has a letter name.



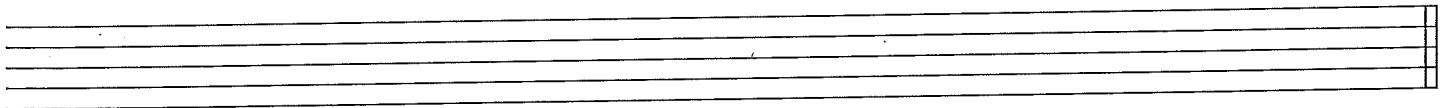
1. Practice drawing the bass clef sign by tracing over the guidelines. Draw five more in the remaining space.



2. Draw a bass clef at the beginning of the staff and write the letter name of each note.

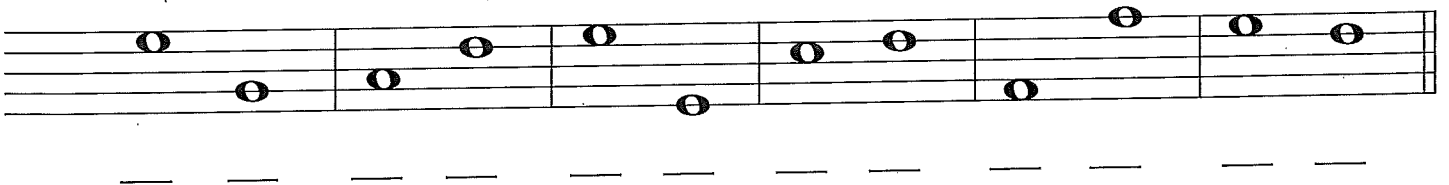


3. Draw the bass clef at the beginning of the staff and then draw the notes indicated.
If a note can be drawn in more than one place on the staff, choose which one you want to draw.



C A E D F G B C D G

4. Draw the bass clef at the beginning of the staff.
Write the letter name for each note, then circle the higher note in each pair.



5. Draw the bass clef at the beginning of the staff.
Write the letter name for each note, then circle the lower note in each pair.

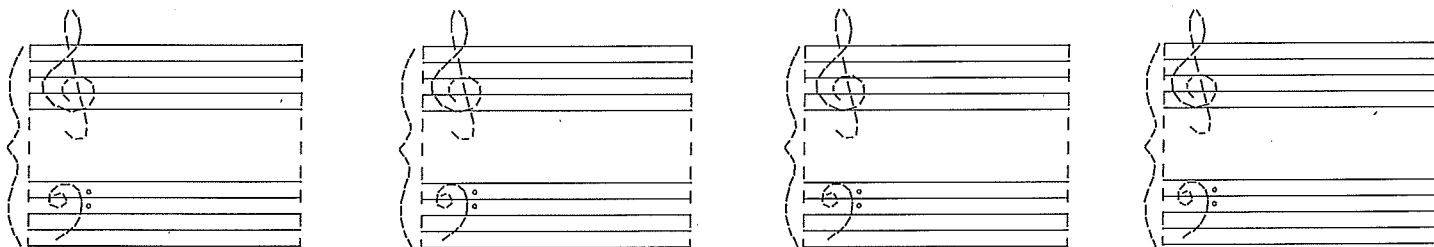


The Grand Staff

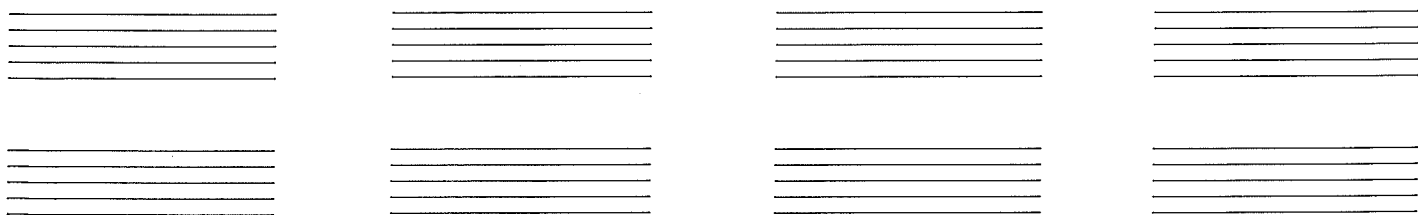
The **grand staff** is created by joining the treble staff and the bass staff with a **brace** and **bar line**.



1. Practice creating the grand staff by tracing the braces, bar lines, and clefs.



2. Using the staves below, create four grand staves by adding braces, bar lines, and clefs.



3. Write the letter name for each note.

