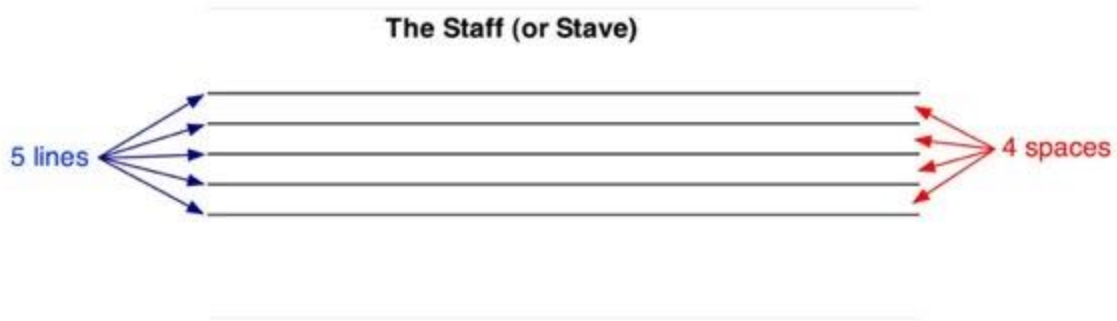


The Staff



The staff (or staves for two or more of them) is what we write music on. It consists of five horizontal lines (creating four spaces in between them). We identify them by numbering them from bottom to top.



Clefs



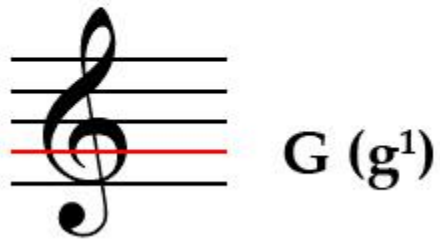
Clefs are notation or symbols (usually at the left side of the staff) that indicate where different pitches are located on the staff. They are “decoder” devices, in essence, decoding what line or space is associated with a certain pitch.

Treble Clef (G Clef)



The treble clef identifies middle C on a line that is below the first line of the staff (middle C). It is also known as the G Clef due to the way it is drawn, drawing your eye to the second line of the staff, where the G is located.

Treble Clef



Bass Clef (F Clef)

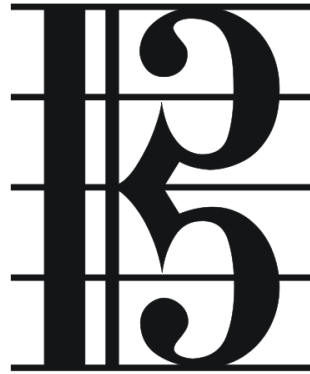


The bass (said like “base”) clef identifies middle C on a line that is above the fifth line of the staff (middle C). It is also known as the F Clef due to the way it is drawn, drawing your eye to the fourth line of the staff, where the F is located.

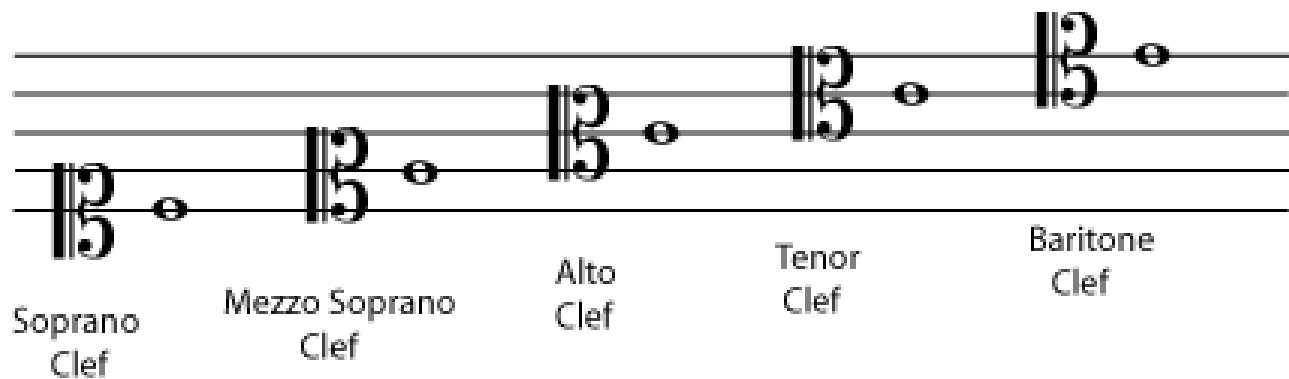
Bass Clef



Moveable C Clef



The Moveable C Clef is a clef that can be relocated to focus on any line on the staff. There are five different moveable C clefs: Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Baritone.

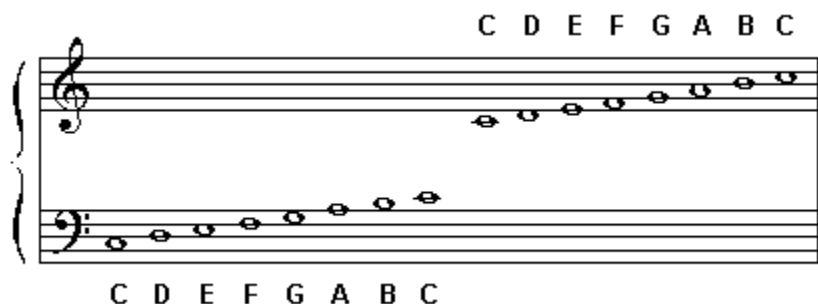


It's focus, found in the middle of the clef, will move Middle C to any line of the staff. Historically, it was moved to create space for the notes that a certain voice, or instrument, would normally play. Middle C is placed on the line located in the middle of the clef as seen in the diagram above.

The Grand Staff



The Grand Staff is basically just two staves joined together – a treble clef at the top and a bass clef below, connected by a vertical line on the left with a curved bracket (as shown above). Normally used by a grand piano, it acts as one very large staff. People sometimes associate the treble clef notes being played with the right hand, and the bass clef notes being played with the left hand. However, that is not always the case.



There are only three notes that are located between the two clefs on the grand staff.

System

A system can be one or more staves that are to be read at the same time in music.

The image contains three musical examples illustrating different system configurations. Each example is a system of staves, with a red arrow pointing to a specific feature and a red text label explaining it.

- Example 1:** A single staff of music. A red arrow points to the staff, and the text reads: "In this case there is one staff and it is also one system".
- Example 2:** A system of three staves. The top staff is empty, while the middle and bottom staves contain musical notation. A red arrow points to the left barline connecting the three staves, and the text reads: "The left barline indicates the number of staves in a system". Another red arrow points to the top staff, and the text reads: "In this case there are three staves and it is also one system".
- Example 3:** A system of two staves. Both staves contain musical notation. A red arrow points to the left barline connecting the two staves, and the text reads: "In this case there are two staves and it is also one system".

An example would be four staves – one for four different instruments or voices, playing (or reading at the same time). In any system with two or more staves, you will see that a vertical line is drawn at the very left of the staves, connecting each of them together. Brackets may be used to show groupings.