

Grouping (Timing)

Sol-fa symbols are grouped into beats. A string of symbols should indicate the duration of one beat, at least.

For the following examples, where the quarter note (crotchet) is the basic beat note:

A single sol-fa indicates a quarter note.



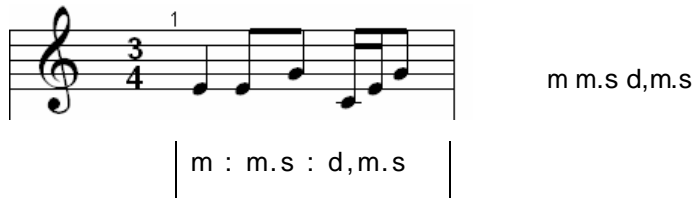
A dot separates two eighth notes.



A comma separates two sixteenth notes.



One-beat groups are typically separated with colons. The notation can be understood without this.



The two halves of a bar may be separated with a vertical line. This is also dispensable.



Where the half note (minim) is the basic beat note, a sol-fa indicates a half note.



Underline (Slur)

An underline indicates that the underlined notes are slurred.



Dash (Longer Time Notes)

Notes that last longer than a single beat are represented using the sol-fa character(s) plus dashes.

Using a quarter note for the basic beat note,

1 makes two beats. f -

r --

s ----

f - m r --

The dash fills in the remainder of the duration of the note.

It is used for showing dotted quarter notes:

Try viewing one-beat groups.

m-r

r.s -

t -.s -

m-r s-.m | f-.r m-

m | r.s - m.f - | r m - |

You may need the dash to fill in the duration of an eighth note (that is not part of a dotted quarter note).

s t.f -l |

l,t.-

Example of the dash in a dotted eighth note at the beginning of a bar:

f.,m

Some writers choose to omit the dash that fills in for the sixteenth duration.

$$f.,m = f.-,m$$

Example of the dash in a double dotted half note:

f - - -.m

Example of the dash in a double dotted quarter note:

f - , m

In this form : -, m : , that dash fills in three sixteenth note lengths. That could appear apart from the double dotted quarter note:

| f . s , m - , r |

Star (Rest)

A star represents a one-beat rest. If the beat note is a quarter note, this is a quarter note rest.

If a rest is longer than a quarter note, the star is repeated as needed.

Otherwise the star is treated as other sol-fa symbols.

| d m * * | s * s - |

| m r - * | f * , m . - r |

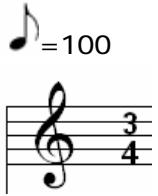
Tempo

Tempo describes the number of basic beat notes per minute.

Say a piece has $\frac{3}{4}$ time signature and tempo is shown as $\text{♩} = 70$, then the tempo to state is 70.

That is the same speed as a $\text{♩} = 70$ for a piece with time signature, $\frac{3}{8}$.

However, in



the basic beat is a quarter note while the tempo is shown using an eighth note.

$\text{♩} = 100$ is equivalent to $\text{♩} = 50$ (100 eighth notes per minute means 50 quarter notes per minute) so the tempo is 50.

Octave Shift

The sol-fa symbols span one octave. To show that a note is in a higher octave, a right superscript (') is used.

m' is one octave above m

A right subscript (,) shows that a note is in a lower octave.

$s,$ is one octave below s

Sol-fa d (doh) is typically chosen to begin an octave.

In a staff with a treble clef, d (the doh without a superscript or subscript) is from $c1$ (middle c) in key C, to $b1$ (b above middle c) in key B.



On a staff with a bass clef, doh without the subscript or superscript is from c to b (from c one octave below middle c in key C to b below middle c in key B)

d₁ d d'

d₁ d d'

d₁ d d'

t, d r t d' r'

Chord

A chord is written as stacked notes.

One use of sol-fa notation is to write harmonies for voices. For that example

Soprano(S)

Alto(A)

Tenor(T)

Bass(B)

S d
A s
T m
B d

Pitch Symbols

The sol-fa symbols:

The usual names for going upscale:

d de r re m f fe s se l le t

The usual names for going downscale:

d t, ta, l, la, s, f, m, ma, r

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