

Note values and rests

Credo Theory of Music training programme

GRADE 2

By S. J. Cloete

N.R.2



Copyright reserved © 1993

INDEX	PAGE
1. Note values and rests	27
2. Dots and double dots.....	28
3. Ties	29
4. How to write notes and rests correctly	31
5. How to lengthen a note value	38
5.1 Dots	38
5.2 Ties	38
5.3 Pause (fermata)	38
6. How to shorten a note value	38
6.1 Mezzo staccato.....	38
6.2 Staccato	38
6.3 Staccatissimo	39
7. Other signs	39
7.1 Slur	39
7.2 Accent	40
7.3 Ornaments	40
7.4 Tenuto	40
8. Triplets	42



After you have completed this module, you will be able to write and identify:

- The breve (double whole), semibreve (whole), minim (half), crotchet (quarter), quaver (eighth), semiquaver (sixteenth), demisemiquaver (thirty second), and hemidemisemiquaver (sixty fourth) notes and their corresponding rests.
- Triplets.

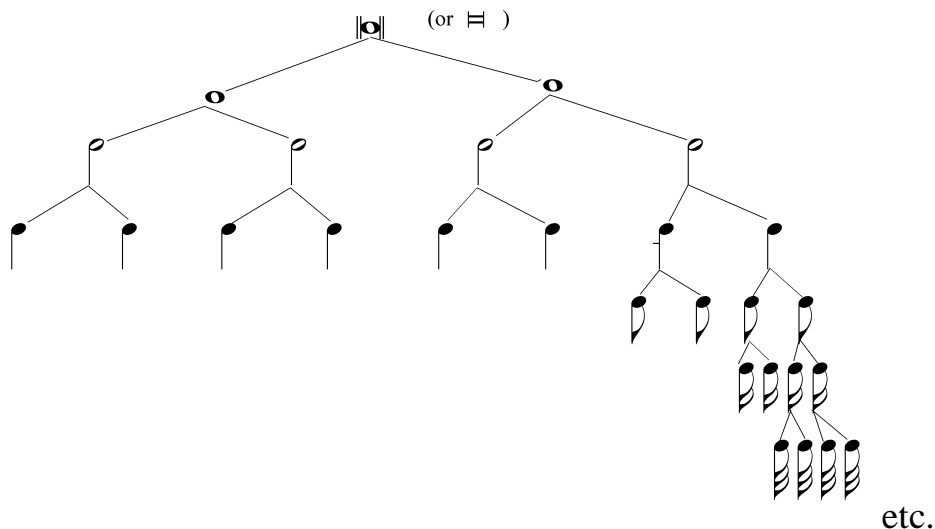
You will also be able to lengthen a note by using a dot, tie, or pause, and to shorten a note by using a staccato, mezzo staccato, or staccatissimo.

1. **NOTE VALUES AND RESTS (TIME NAMES).**

Turn to the summary and learn the table of note values and rests. Then proceed with this module.

Note: Written music has curved flags (),
but you may use straight flags: .

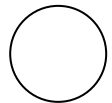
- A breve is twice as long as a semibreve.
- A semibreve is twice as long as a minim.
- A minim is twice as long as a crotchet.
- A crotchet is twice as long as a quaver.
- A quaver is twice as long as a semiquaver.
- A semiquaver is twice as long as a demisemiquaver.
- A demisemiquaver is twice as long as a hemidemisemiquaver.





The longest note, the **breve**, was used in vocal music (singing) of the 16th and 17th centuries, but is unusual in later music.

Ex. 27/1



WRITE NINE DEMISEMIQUAVERS ON EACH STAVE:



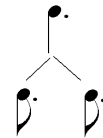
2. **DOTS AND DOUBLE DOTS:**

- **Dotted note:**  
 The dot takes **half** the value of the note that precedes it:
 The dotted minim, crotchet, quaver and semiquaver are required. EXAMPLES:



- **Double dotted note:**  
 The second dot takes **half** the value of the first dot:

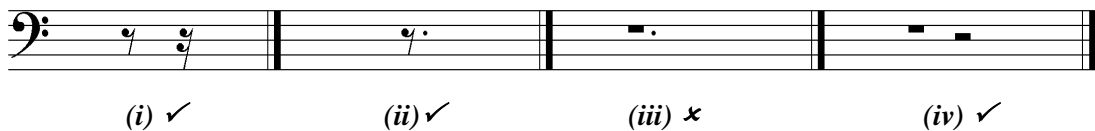
- Dotted notes / rests, can be **halved** or **doubled**.
- Dots are **not** used to extend notes / rests beyond bar lines.



- **Dotted rests:**

Rests may be written in full (i), or a dotted rest may be used (ii). Both are correct, except for the **semibreve rest**, which is **never dotted** (iii) and (iv).

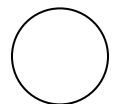
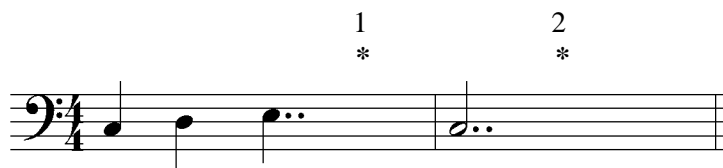
EXAMPLES:



- **Double dotted rests** may be found in music literature, but it is not commonly in use.

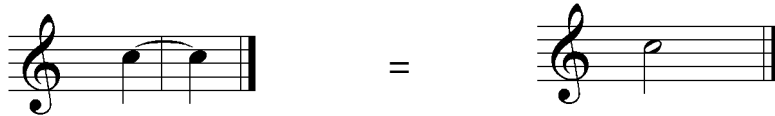
Ex. 28/1

FILL IN THE REQUIRED NOTE VALUE UNDER EACH*:



3. TIES.

The tie is written over **two notes of the same pitch**. It means that the first note is lengthened for the duration of the second note as well. The tie turns the two notes into **one sound**.

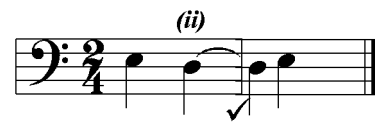


A tie is not a slur (see page 39, 7.1).

REMEMBER!

- Avoid ties where possible. There must be a **reason** for using a tie. The reason at example (i) is that the first note **lasts** $1\frac{1}{4}$ beats and one cannot use a dotted note. The reason at example (ii) is that the note is **extended beyond a bar line**. The reason at example (iii) is that the tie follows the normal **grouping** of the notes.
- **Any number** of notes may be tied (iv).
- **Rests** cannot be tied.
- Ties are written on the side of the **note head**, on the outside and not on the inside (v).
- Avoid using a tie **within the bar**, if you can simply use a **longer note** (vi).
- If you are tying a **dotted note**, begin the tie just **after** the dot.

EXAMPLES:



- A tie must be used between beats if one or both of the notes to be tied is a **semiquaver** (vii).
- With **intervals**, notes are tied in **opposite directions** (viii).
- With **triads**, the **outside** notes are tied in **opposite directions**.
The position of the middle note with regard to the centre line, determines the positioning of the **middle tie** (ix) and (x).

(vii)

(viii)

(ix)
middle note is above the centre line

(x)
middle note is below the centre line

Ex. 30/1

WRITE TWO TIED NOTES, EQUAL IN TIME VALUE TO THE GIVEN NOTE, AT THE *:

Ex. 30/2

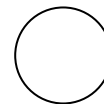
WRITE THREE TIED NOTES, EQUAL IN TIME VALUE TO THE GIVEN NOTE, AT THE *:

Ex. 30/3

USE TIES TO IMPROVE THE GROUPING OF THE FOLLOWING. WRITE ON THE LOWER STAVE:

Ex. 31/1

TIE THE FOLLOWING TRIADS CORRECTLY:



4. HOW TO WRITE NOTES AND RESTS CORRECTLY.

In grade 1 you learnt how to write notes and rests.

4.1 NOTES:

REMEMBER:

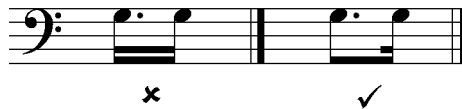
- Stem **up** - to the right
- Stem **down** - to the left
- Single note **on** the middle line - stem **up or down**.
Single note **above** the middle line - stem **down**.
Single note **below** the middle line - stem **up**.
- Note flags are always written to the **right of the stem**.
- Notes may be beamed together: . The beam follows the direction of the notes. Draw the beam of notes, which are on the same pitch, at a **slight angle** to prevent it disappearing into the lines of the staff. The tilt should not exceed one staff space.
- Space notes correctly, e.g. a crotchet will need more or less twice the space of a quaver. The music has to **look** as it will **sound**.
- When notes are beamed together, all the stems of one beat will either go up or down. However, what would we do in the following case?



The note the **furthest from the middle line** indicates the stem direction, in this case the first note:



- When writing a dotted note with a smaller note, observe carefully that the flag of the smaller note does **not** reach the stem of the dotted note.

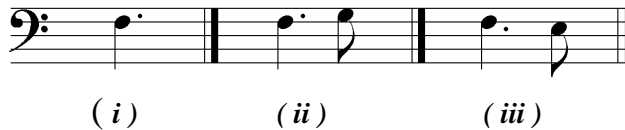


- **Dotted notes and double dotted notes:**

If the dotted note is in a **space**, the dot is in the **same space**.

If the dotted note is on a **line**:

- Single dotted note: the dot goes in the **space above** (i)
- If the note following the dot is **higher**, place the dot in the space **above** (ii).
- If the note following the dot is **lower**, place the dot in the space **below** (iii).



Ex. 32/1

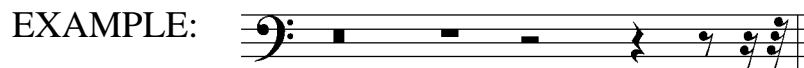
FILL IN A DOT OR DOTS UNDER EACH ASTERISK (*) TO FORM THE CORRECT NOTE VALUES:



4.2 RESTS.

REMEMBER:

- Rests are normally written in the **third space**. The quaver rest and the semiquaver rest hook on the **fourth line**, but the demisemiquaver (and smaller) rests hook on the **fifth line**. Every loop is in its **own space**:



- How to draw a **crotchet rest**: Draw a sideways z and join a sloping c below:

- Dots are normally positioned in the **third space**:



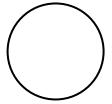
9 10 11 12

Semiquaver, B flat below the staff Semibreve rest Demisemiquaver rest Minim rest

Ex. 34/1

WRITE A NOTE DOUBLE THE VALUE UNDER THE *:

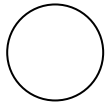
1 * 2 * 3 * 4 *



Ex. 34/2

WRITE A REST HALF THE VALUE UNDER THE *:

1 * 2 * 3 * 4 *

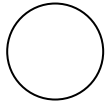


Ex. 34/3

WRITE THE CORRECT NUMBER IN THE SPACE PROVIDED:

EXAMPLE: ○ equals 4 crotchets

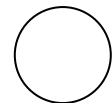
- 1 ○ equals ____ crotchets.
- 2 ○ equals ____ semiquavers.
- 3 ○ equals ____ demisemiquavers.
- 4 ○ equals ____ quavers.
- 5 ○ equals ____ demisemiquavers.



Ex. 34/4

WRITE ONE NOTE, OR DOTTED NOTE, OR DOUBLE DOTTED NOTE, FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING GROUPS:

1 2 3 4



5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20

Ex. 35/1

WRITE A NOTE OR NOTES TO THE VALUE OF THE DOT(S) ALONE UNDER EACH *:

- 1 2 3 4
- * * * *

Ex. 35/2

HOW MANY CROTCHETS ARE THERE IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING NOTE GROUPS?

1 2

Ex. 36/1

HOW MANY SEMIQUAVERS ARE THERE IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING NOTE GROUPS?

Ex. 36/2

WRITE ONE REST OR DOTTED REST THAT EQUALS THE VALUE OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING NOTE GROUPS:

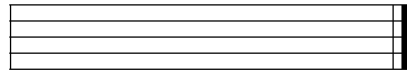
Ex. 36/3

ADD THREE RESTS TO EACH BAR SO THAT THE VALUE OF THE BAR IS EQUAL TO THE GIVEN NOTE ABOVE THE BAR:

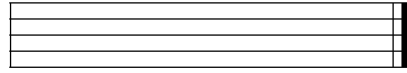
Ex. 36/4

WRITE THE FOLLOWING RESTS:

3 Four rests equal to

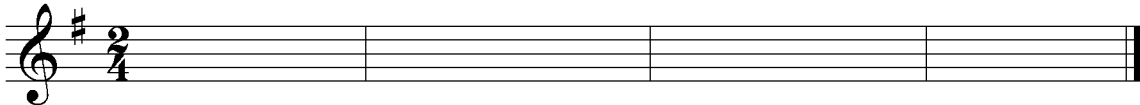
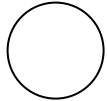


4 Five rests equal to



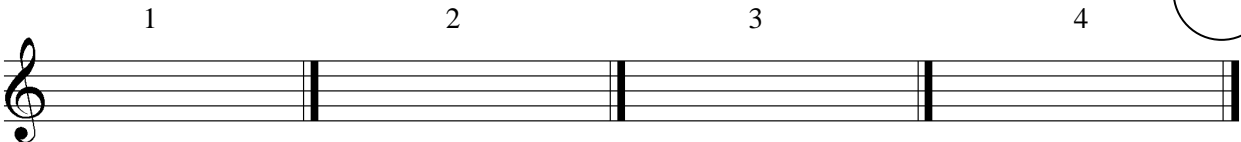
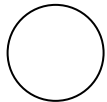
Ex. 37/1

REWRITE THE FOLLOWING NOTES IN *HALF* THE VALUE, BEGINNING AS SHOWN:



Ex. 37/2

WRITE A *DOTTED REST* THAT EQUALS EACH OF THE FOLLOWING NOTE VALUES:



Three crotchets

Six demi-semiquavers

Three minims

Six semiquavers

Ex. 37/3

WRITE ONE REST OR DOTTED REST OR DOUBLE DOTTED REST, EQUAL IN VALUE TO EACH OF THE FOLLOWING GROUPS AT THE *:



5. HOW TO LENGTHEN A NOTE VALUE:

5.1 DOTS.

A note or rest can be lengthened by writing a **dot** after it (dotted note / rest), or by writing **two dots** after it (double dotted note / rest).

5.2 TIES.

A note can be lengthened by using a **tie** (tied note), e.g. to extend a note beyond a bar line. Rests cannot be tied.

5.3 PAUSE (fermate). or

A pause **above** or **below** a note means that the player has to **hold the note longer**.

If a note or rest is marked "lunga pausa" it means that it has to be a **long pause**. The pause sign may also be used above or below a **rest**.

Formerly the term *fermata* was used, which is the synonym. *Fermate* is the most preferable synonym.

6. HOW TO SHORTEN A NOTE VALUE:

6.1 MEZZO STACCATO (half staccato).

Mezzo staccato is **moderately detached**, but not as short as staccato.



*more than one note
mezzo staccato
(the dot is inside the slur)*



*one note
mezzo staccato*

6.2 STACCATO.

A staccato is **short, detached, separated**, but **not** as short as possible. How much a note is to be shortened, will depend upon its **value** and upon the **tempo**. E.g. a staccato minim will be longer than a staccato crotchet. A staccato note at a slow speed might be played longer than the same note at a quicker speed, etc.

Staccato dots are placed at the note head in the middle of the **adjacent full space**, irrespective of whether the note is on a line or in a space e.g. (i):

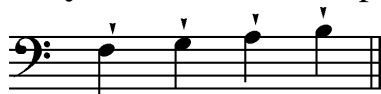
When the staccato is used **with a slur**, the staccato dot is placed **within the slur** e.g. (ii):



Do not confuse a **staccato** and a **dotted note**. The staccato dot is written **above** or **below** the note. Although it is **played** shorter, its time value remains the same in music theory. The dot of the dotted note is written **after** the note and it **does** have time value.


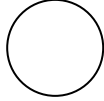
6.3 STACCATISSIMO.

A staccatissimo is **very short**, as short as possible, super staccato.



Ex. 39/1

WRITE ONE DOTTED (OR DOUBLE DOTTED) NOTE, OR TWO TIED NOTES, EQUAL TO THE VALUE OF NOTES INDICATED:

EXAMPLE:	5 quavers (eighths)	=		
1	6 crotchets (quarters)	=	-----	
2	10 quavers (eighths)	=	-----	
3	3 semiquavers (sixteenths)	=	-----	
4	7 minims (half notes)	=	-----	
5	9 semiquavers (sixteenths)	=	-----	
6	7 demisemiquavers (thirty seconds)	=	-----	

7. OTHER SIGNS.

7.1 SLUR (phrase mark).

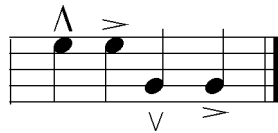
The slur is written **over or under two or more notes** of **different pitches**. It means that the notes within the slur must be played smoothly and connected (legato). At the end of the slur, it has to be phrased off by lifting the hand if playing the piano.

EXAMPLE:



7.2 ACCENT.

An accent is written **above** or **below** a note and indicates that the note must be musically **emphasized** or **strengthened**. \wedge or \vee is stronger than $>$, and $<$ is never used. It is normally placed **outside** the staff at the side of the note head.



7.3 ORNAMENTS.

There are various ornaments such as the mordent w , a turn ~ , acciaccatura ♪ , trill tr etc. You will learn more about these later.

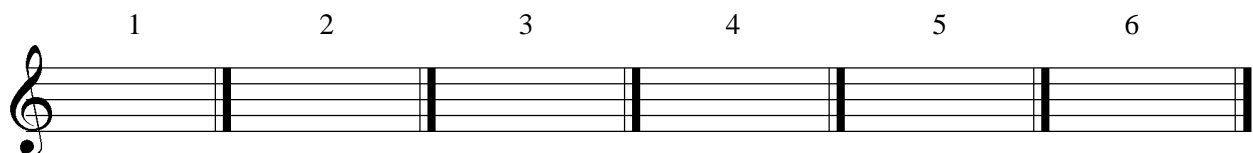
7.4 TENUTO. 

A tenuto line (tenuto mark) above or below a note head, indicates that the player has to **hold the note for its full value** (the opposite of staccato). It may even indicate a slight pressure or emphasis. As the staccato, the line is also placed in the adjacent **full space**.

Ornaments, accent signs, phrase marks and tenuto signs are of great relevance in the **practical performance of music**.

Ex. 40/1

WRITE THE FOLLOWING NOTES:



*F sharp,
a space,
double dotted
minim*

*Dotted
crotchet
rest*

*Double dotted
quaver,
middle C*

*E flat,
a space,
accented
quarter note*

*F sharp,
a line,
a quaver,
staccatissimo*

*One octave
above middle
C, thirty
second note,
staccato*

Ex. 41/1

WRITE THE LETTER NAME AND NOTE VALUE (TIME NAME) OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING NOTES:

A musical staff with two systems of four measures each. The first system contains notes 1 through 4, and the second system contains notes 5 through 8. Note 1 is a quarter note with a sharp sign on the staff. Note 2 is a quarter note with a flat sign. Note 3 is a dotted quarter note with a sharp sign. Note 4 is a half note with a flat sign. Note 5 is a quarter note. Note 6 is a quarter rest. Note 7 is a dotted quarter note. Note 8 is a half note.

Ex. 41/2

DIVIDE EACH OF THE FOLLOWING NOTES / RESTS INTO TWO EQUAL PARTS:

A musical staff with six numbered items: 1. a quarter rest, 2. a dotted quarter note, 3. a quarter note, 4. a quarter note with a fermata, 5. a half note, and 6. a half rest.

Ex. 41/3

DIVIDE EACH OF THE FOLLOWING DOTTED NOTES INTO THREE EQUAL PARTS:

A musical staff with three numbered dotted notes: 1. a dotted quarter note, 2. a dotted quarter note with a fermata, and 3. a dotted half note.

Ex. 42/1

GIVE THE LETTER NAME AND NOTE VALUE OF EACH OF THE CIRCLED NOTES:

	<i>Letter name</i>	<i>Note value</i>
1	_____	_____
2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____

8. TRIPLETS.

A **single note** can be divided into **three equal parts**, called a **triplet**. In the following example the last crotchet is divided into three equal parts:

EXAMPLE:

There is only time for two (quavers) but **three are played in the time of two**. A triplet is a group of **three** equal notes performed in the time normally taken by two notes of the same kind.

EXAMPLES:

REMEMBER!
Triplet 3 = 2

A **slur** or **bracket** with the number 3 may be written above or below a triplet. The triplet can also be **without** a slur or bracket. The number 3 is written either above or below the **middle** of the group.

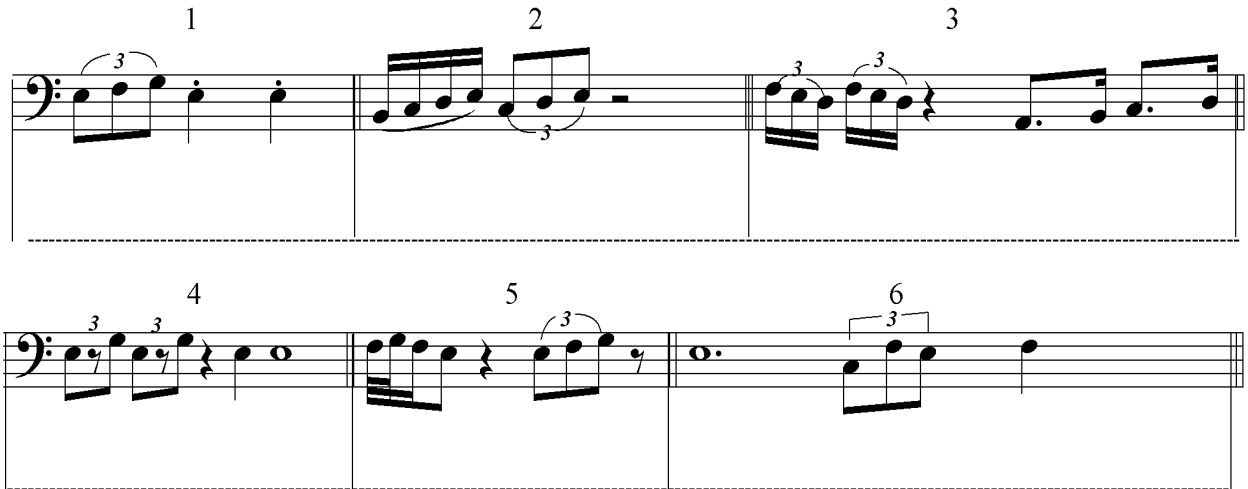
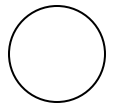
The following are also triplet groups:



Ex. 43/1

WRITE ONE NOTE, OR DOTTED NOTE, OR DOUBLE DOTTED NOTE FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING GROUPS:

Remember: A triplet counts for only **two** of the same value.



You have now completed the module on **note values and rests**. Learn the **summary** of this module. Cut it out and place it in your "**Summary File**" for safekeeping. When you are ready, ask your teacher for the **module test** on **note values and rests**.

After that, you will be answering a **past grade 1 exam paper** for revision purposes.



* * *



SUMMARY

Note values and rests

Credo Theory of Music training programme

GRADE 2




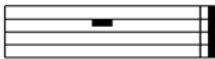





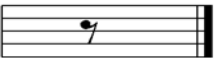

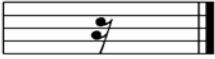




By S. J. Cloete

N.R.2



Copyright reserved © 1993

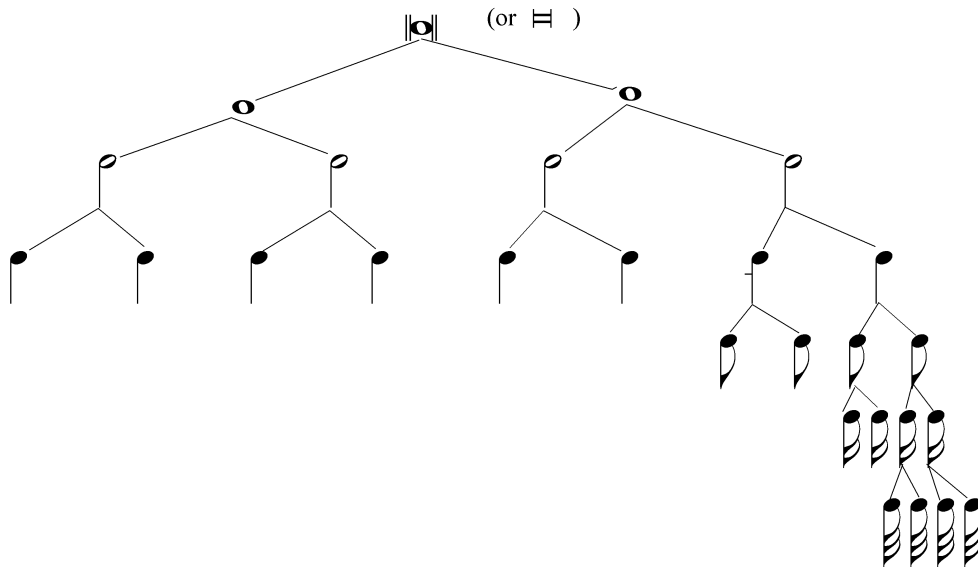
TABLE – NOTE VALUES AND RESTS:

<i>NOTE</i>	<i>VALUE</i>	<i>REST</i>
	<i>Breve / double whole</i>	
	<i>Semibreve / whole</i>	
	<i>Minim / half</i>	
	<i>Crochet / quarter</i>	
	<i>Quaver / eighth</i>	
	<i>Semiquaver / sixteenth</i>	
	<i>Demisemiquaver / thirty second</i>	
	<i>Hemidemisemiquaver / sixty fourth</i>	



2(2)

SUBDIVISION OF NOTES:



etc.

DOTTED AND DOUBLE DOTTED NOTES/RESTS:

- **Dotted note/rests:** the dot takes half the value of the note.
- **Double dotted note/rest:** the second dot takes half the value of the first dot.
- Dots are **not** used to extend notes/rests beyond a bar line.
- Rests may be written in full, or dotted/double dotted rests may be used, except for the **semibreve rest**, which is never dotted.

TIES:

- Use a tie: - if a note lasts e.g. $1\frac{1}{4}$ beats (i).
- to extend a note beyond a bar line (ii).
- between beat groupings (iii).
- between beats if one of the notes is a semiquaver (vii).

EXAMPLES:



2(3)

- Rests cannot be tied.

- Any number of notes may be tied:



- How to write ties:



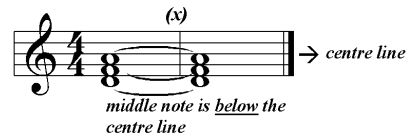
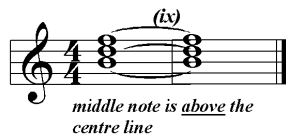
- Avoid ties where possible:



- Intervals: tie in opposite directions.



- Triads: Tie outside notes in opposite directions and the middle note with regards to the centre line (ix) and (x).



HOW TO WRITE NOTES / RESTS CORRECTLY (see page 31).

HOW TO LENGTHEN A NOTE:

- 1 Dotted / double dotted note or rest.
- 2 A tie.
- 3 A pause (fermata).

HOW TO SHORTEN A NOTE FOR PERFORMERS:

- 1 Mezzo staccato:
- 2 Staccato:
- 3 Staccatissimo:



2(4)





SLURS:

A slur is written over **two or more notes of different pitches**. The notes under the slur are played smoothly and connected (legato) and must be phrased.

ACCENTS:

^	=	strong accent
>	=	weaker accent
<	=	never used

ORNAMENTS:

E.g. the mordent , turn , acciaccatura , trill , etc.
They are of great relevance in the **practical performance of music**.

TRIPLETS:



- **Three** notes played in the time of **two** of the same value. **COUNT TWO**.
- A **slur or bracket** with the number 3 can be written above or below a triplet, or it can be without a slur or bracket.

* * *