

Tonic Sol-Fa Tutorial

Part 2 - rhythms

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Sol-fa does not generally indicate time signatures and does not differentiate between different beat values. 2/2, 2/4 and 2/8 will all be written the same.

A barline will precede the first beat of the bar and a colon will precede beat two. A note longer than one beat is indicated by a dash -. A fullstop precedes the half beat and a comma precedes a quarter beat. An inverted comma precedes a triplet division. (I've substituted a semi-colon.) Rests are simply rhythm marks without sol-fa names.

Key of C

Key of C

2/4

{|d :d |d :— |d :d .d |d .d :- .d |d .d :d |d :- .d |d .d :-

{|d ,d .d ,d :d |d .d ,d :d |d ,d .,d :d |d ,d .d :d |d .,d :d |d ,d .- :d

3 3 3 3

{|d ;d ;d :d |d ;- ,d ;d :d |d ;- ;d :d |d ;d ;- :d ||

(This bar is incorrectly beamed in 1.2 for Mac. I believe this will be corrected in 2.0)

The third beat of a four beat bar is preceded by a short vertical line.

Key of C

Key of C

4/4

{|d :d |d :d |r :r |r :- |m :- |m :m |f :f |- :f |s :- |s :- || :- :- :l |t :l |- :- |d¹ :- :- :- ||

Compound time is written as if each smaller division is one beat. In 6/8 time quaver two and three, five and six are preceded by a colon, and quaver four is preceded by a short barline. As a result, the semiquaver divisions are preceded by full stops because they are now halfway through the beat. A short barline also precedes beat 7 in 9/8 (and 7 and 10 in 12/8) time. A duplet division is preceded by a colon.

Key of C

Key of C

6/8

{|d :- :- |- :- :- |d :- :- |d :- :- |d :- :d |d :- :d |d :- : |d :d :d |d :d :d |d :d :d

12/8

{|d .d :d .d :d .d |d .d :d .d :d .d |d :d |d :d ||