

Theory Matters!

Speedy Note Reading

Anna Dunwoodie 2023

Speedy Note Reading

It's a Race! Against Yourself...

.....And you have to better your score each time – well – that's the goal. Who are you competing against? Yourself!!! But you can use these sheets in a group situation, and at different levels – each person is still racing to improve their own time!

It doesn't matter what level your music reading is at If you just aim to identify one note on the stave the first time, two different notes the second time, three different notes the third time.... you will be improving. Beginner note readers can scan the notes just aiming to find the one, two or three they are focussed on for that race.

Rules:

Test period – 1 minute

Stop when the timer finishes

Put a big circle around your last note and answer and count up how many notes you have named since (but not including) the last circle

Write your total in the circle you last drew.

For the next race, start from there..... repeat this at least three times in each session – you may need several copies of your sheet to continue on with.

Note:

Each sheet increases in difficulty – some are all spaces, all lines or a mix, and the later sheets are all on ledger lines. Choose the level that suits you to start on and print off several copies. Repeat the same sheet or sheets several times until you are really happy with your results and feel ready to move on. You can revisit past levels at any stage.

Repetition builds speed, confidence and automation – all the skills we are hoping to gain for music reading to become fluent, and to increase your enjoyment of music.

Enjoy!

Anna

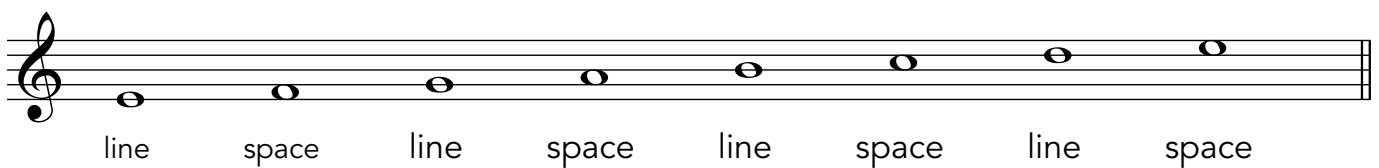
Note Reading

Possibly the best thing you can do when you start learning an instrument is to know what the names of the notes are on the stave.

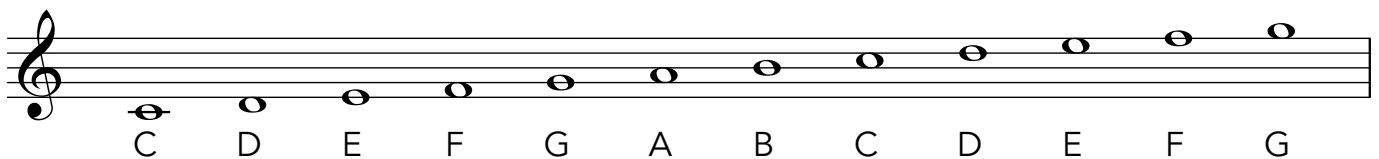
You don't need to be able to play an instrument to learn this concept, you just need to understand a basic rules, remember a few simple sayings and you will have it.

Knowing the notes is one piece of the puzzle that is reading musical notation, but it's a really important one as the pitch ... melody ... tune is what we hum or sing when we know a song.

THE RULE: The notes follow a step wise pattern of line - space - line - space etc
The notes below start on a line, then a space and continue like this upwards ...or downwards



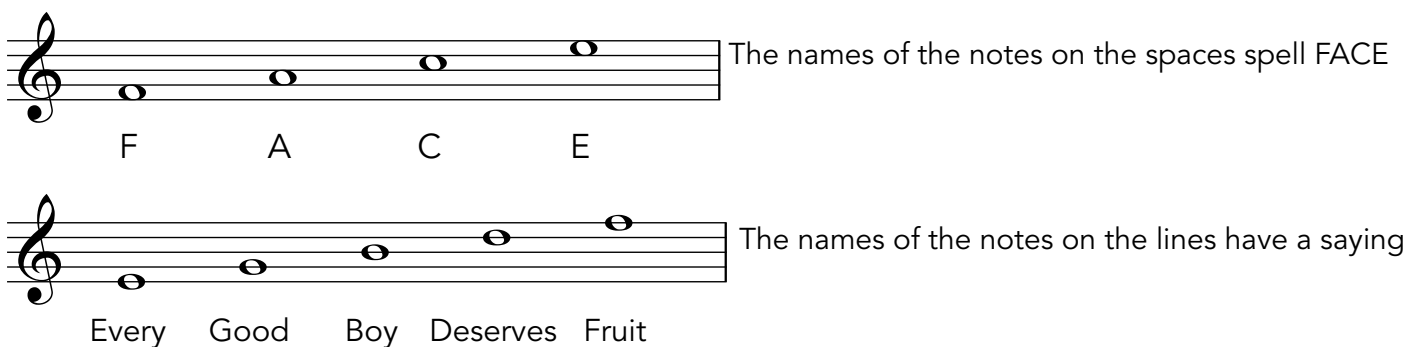
The treble clef notes you are going to focus on are these ones:



Notice the first C sits on it's own little line - that's called a leger line. We'll meet more of these later, but for now, it's an easy way to identify middle C, which on the piano, is the middle note.

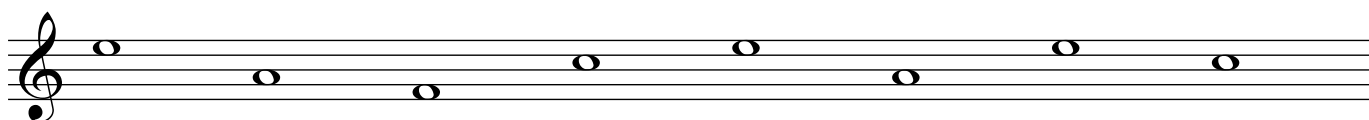
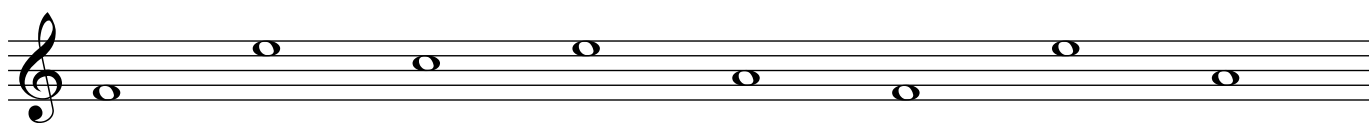
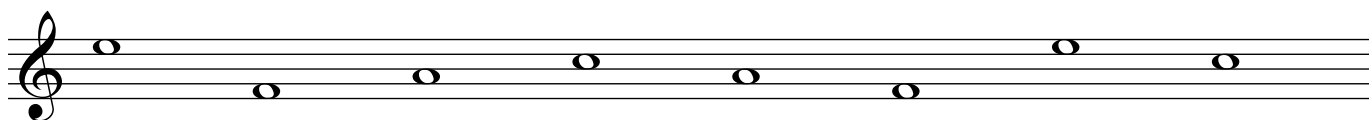
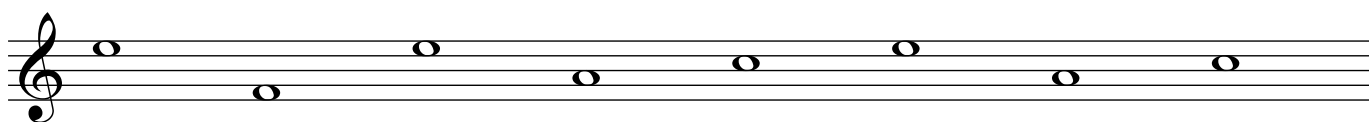
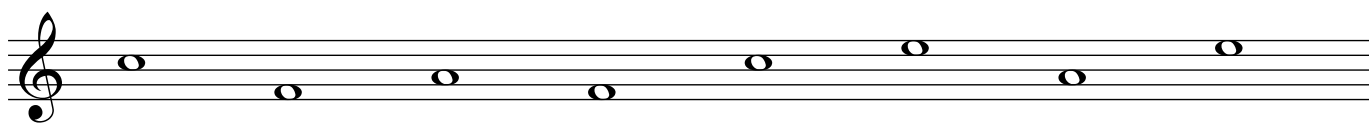
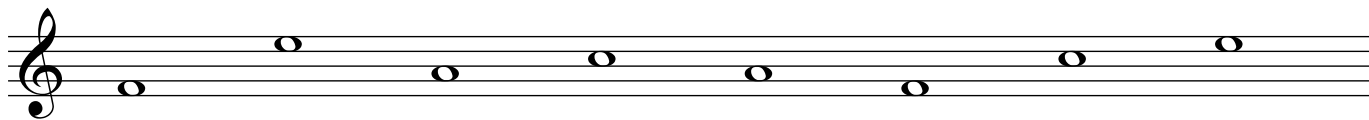
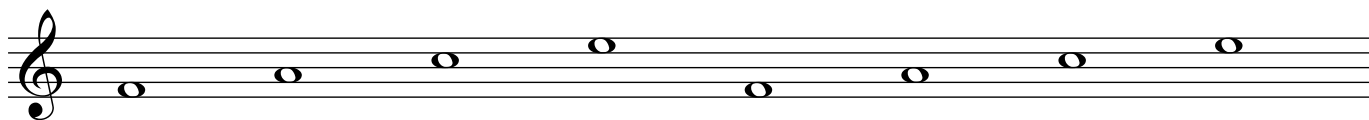
Note also that D sits below the line, and G sits above the line - they are both considered to be 'space notes' - see below for more on this. If you understand the concept that there are leger lines and spaces outside of the five lines of the stave - you are already winning!!!

TWO SAYINGS (for the treble clef)

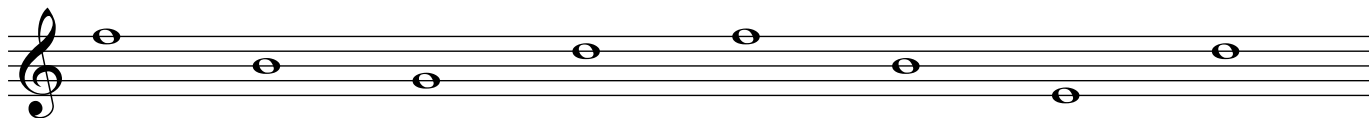
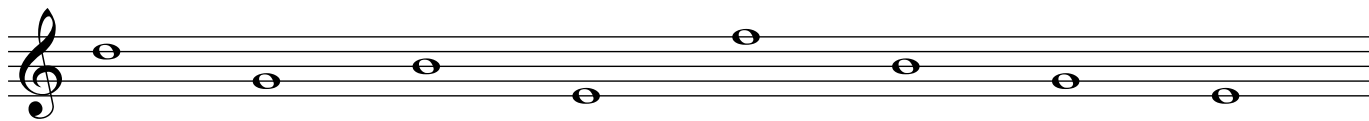
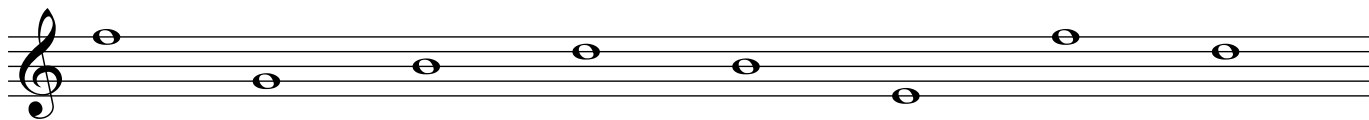
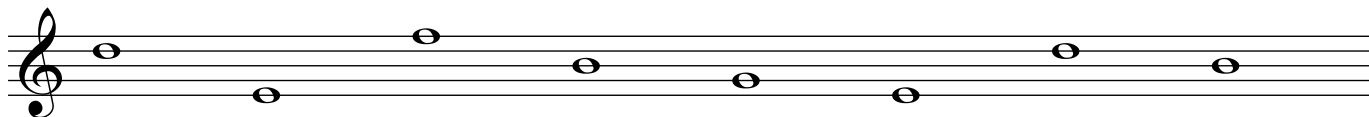
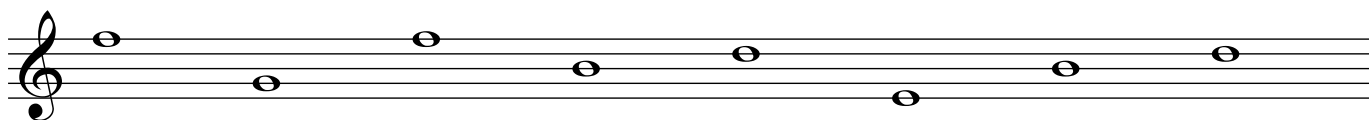
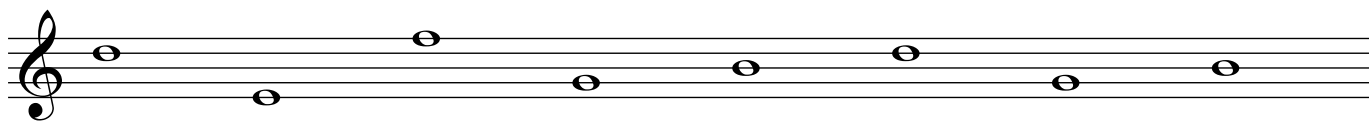
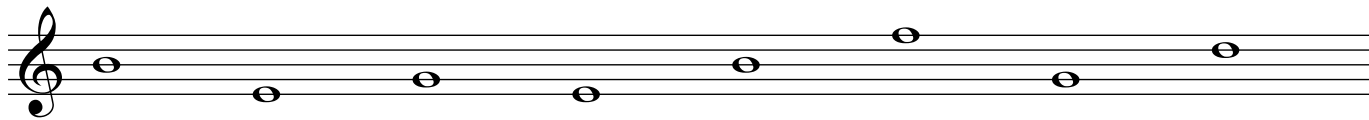
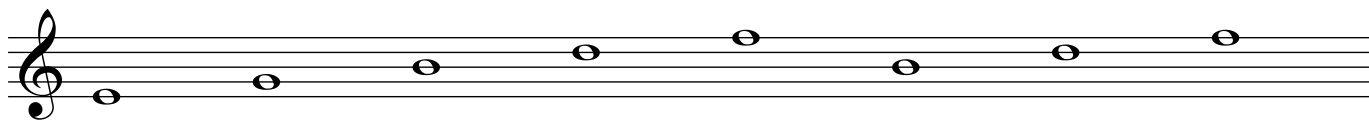


The first two pages of the Speedy Notes Reading are just for either space or line notes, and then it is a mix of both notes, with the addition of notes above and below the stave too!

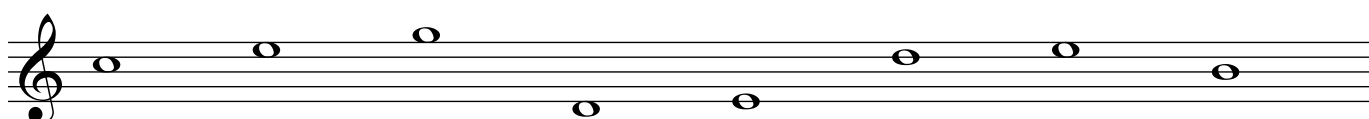
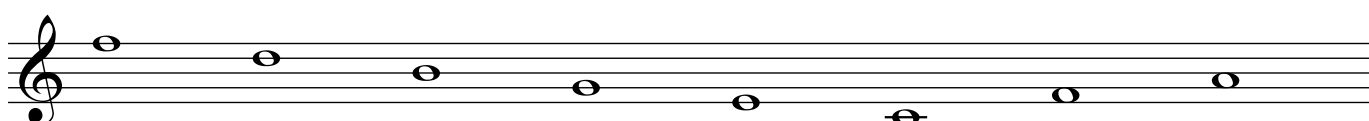
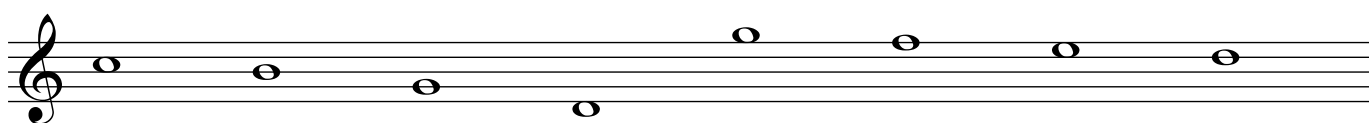
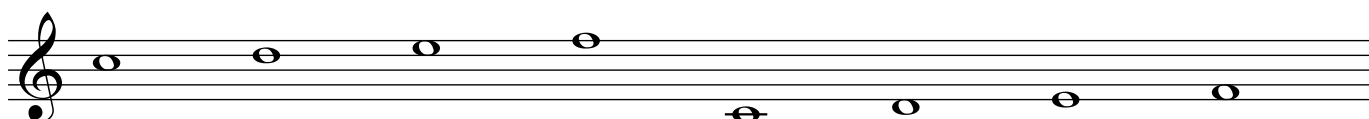
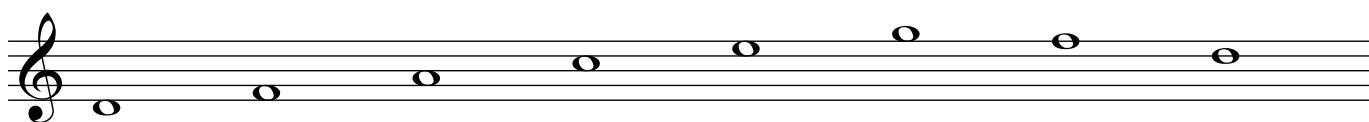
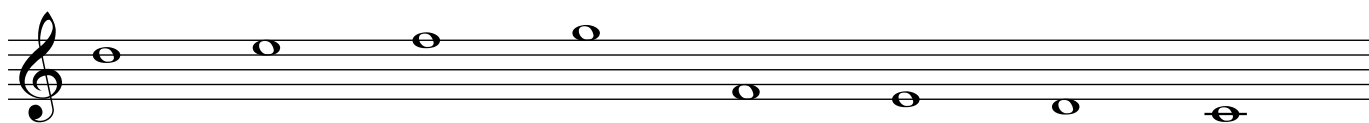
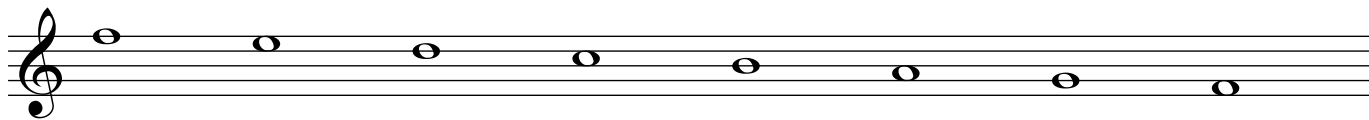
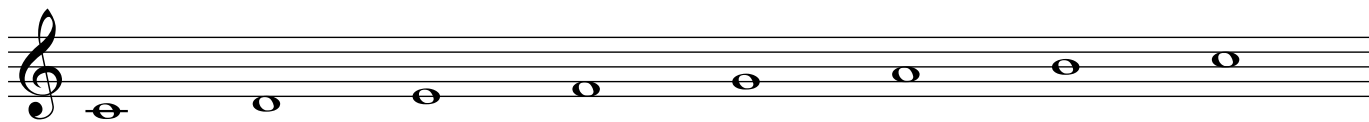
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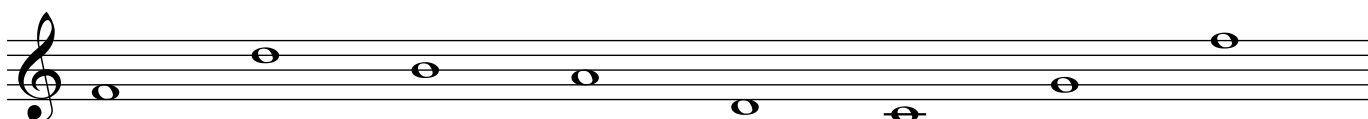
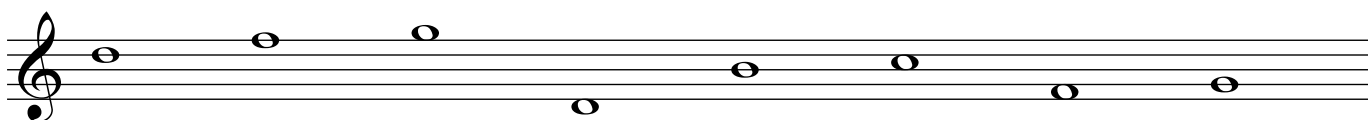
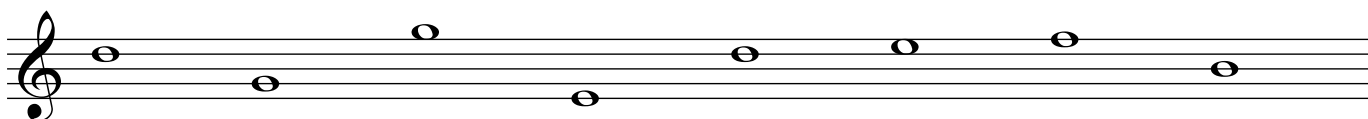
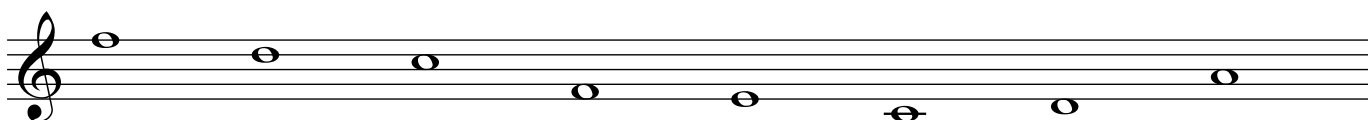
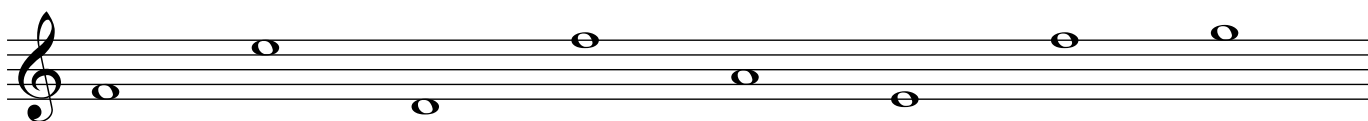
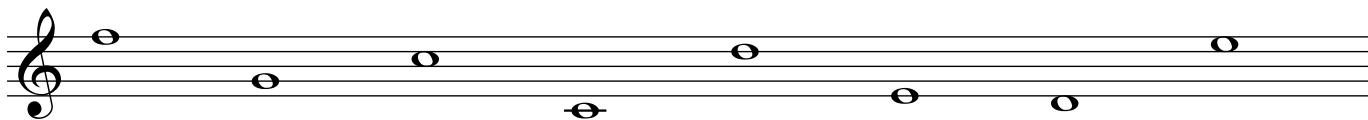
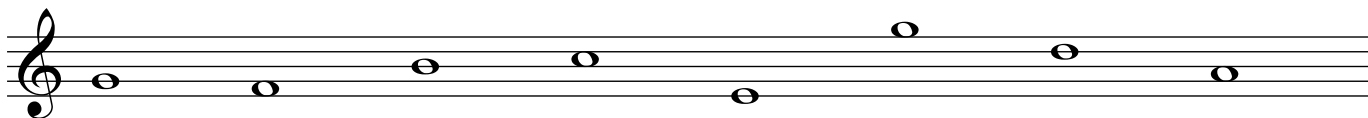
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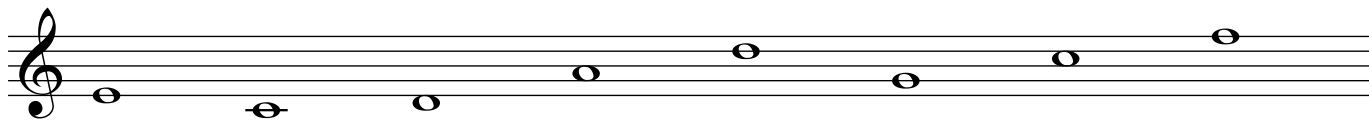
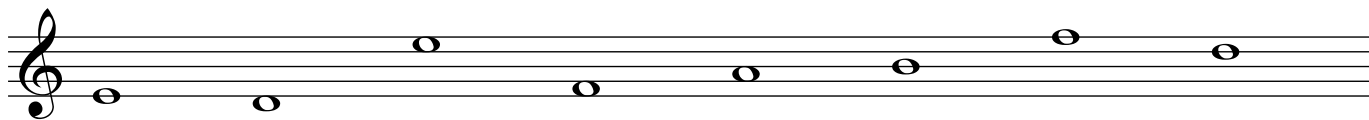
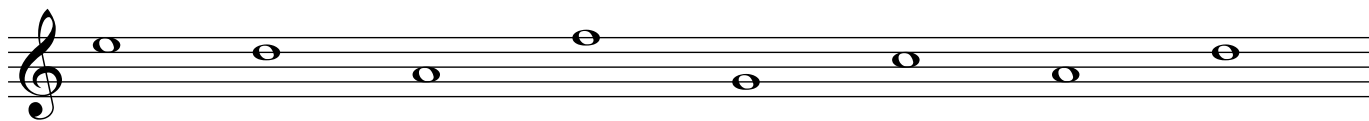
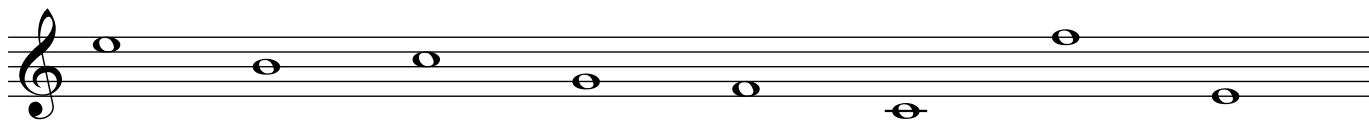
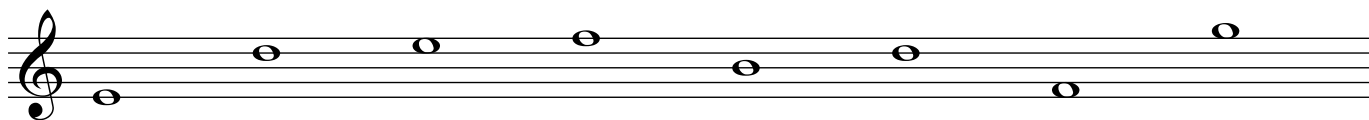
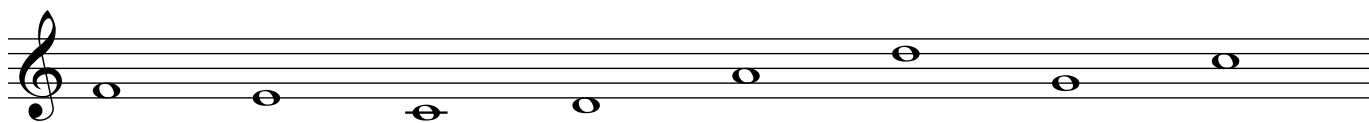
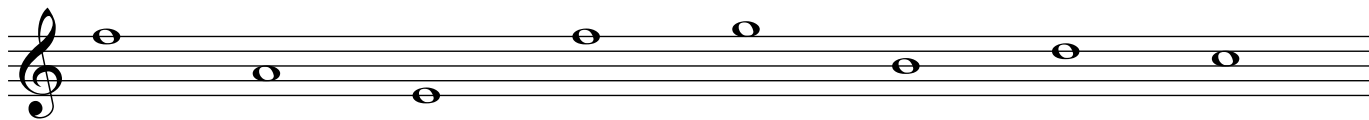
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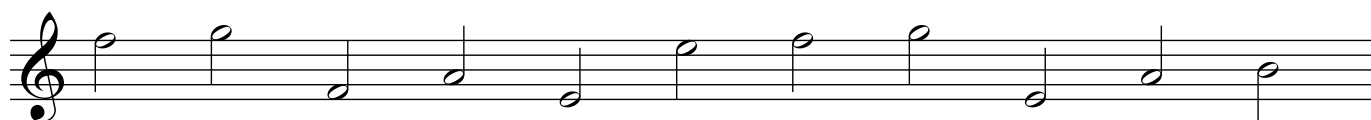
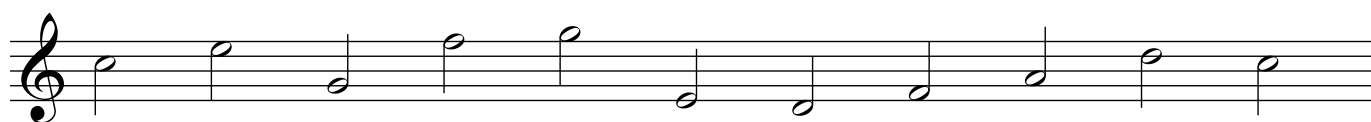
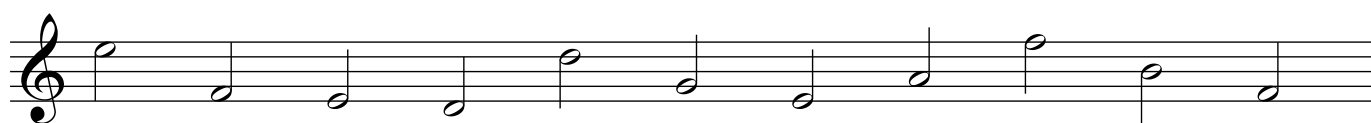
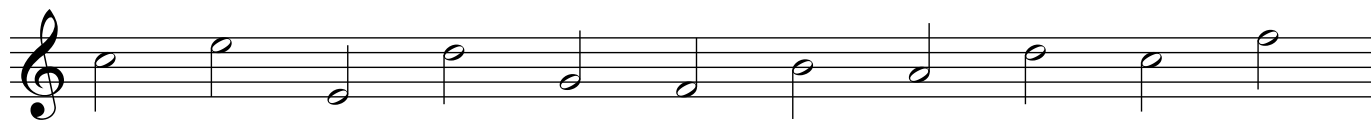
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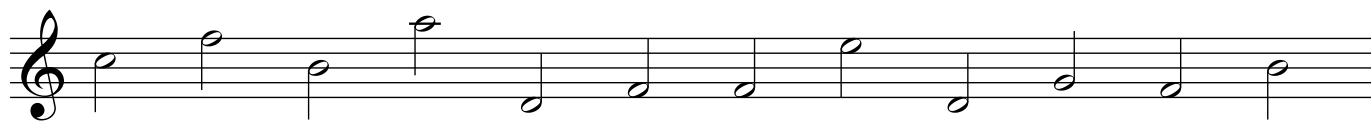
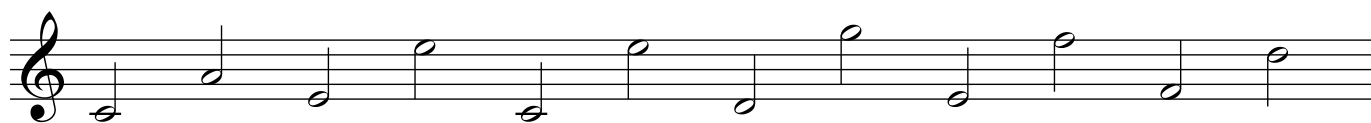
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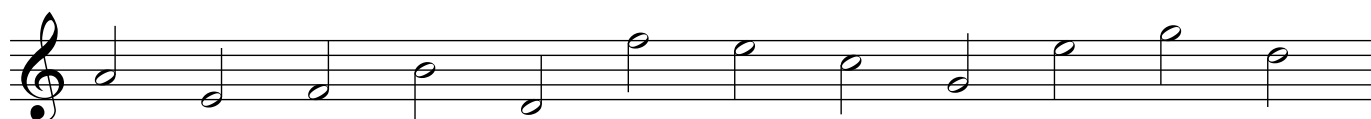
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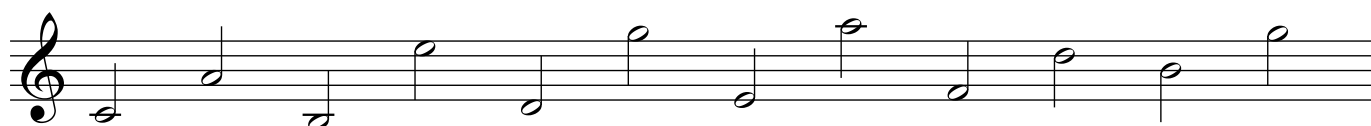
Speedy Note Reading 7



Speedy Note Reading 8

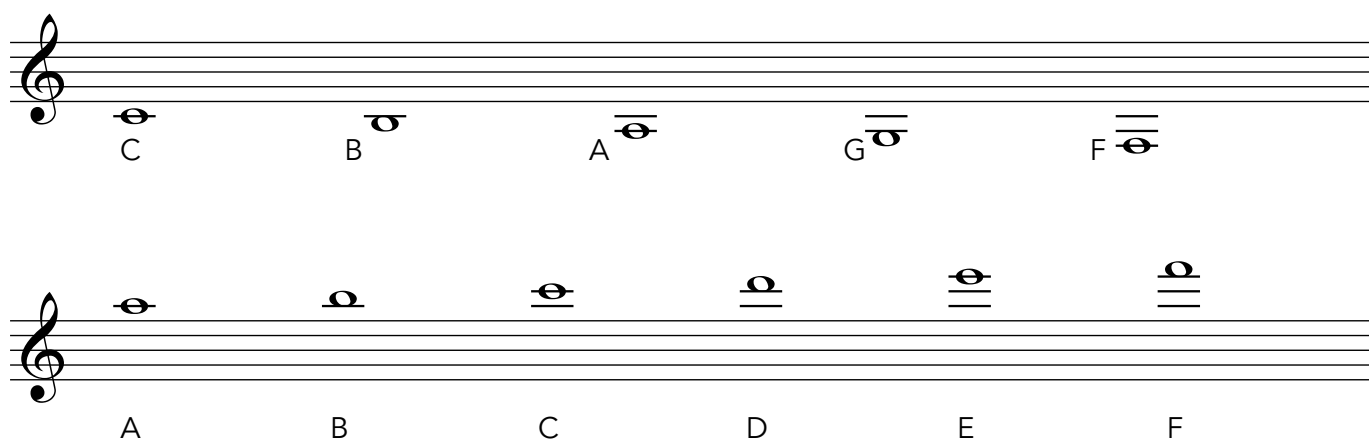


Speedy Note Reading 9

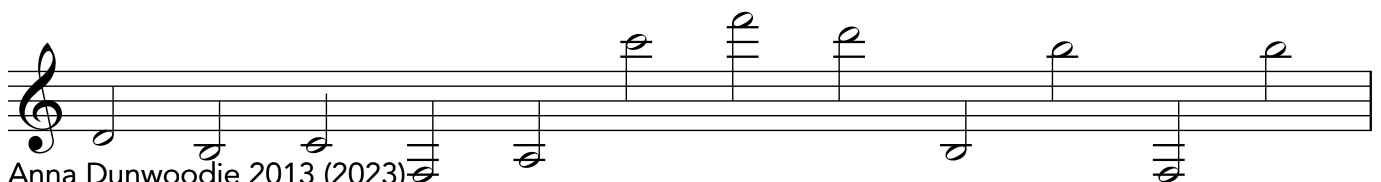
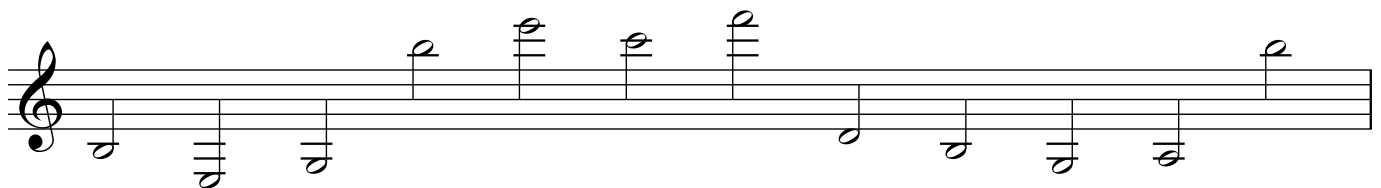
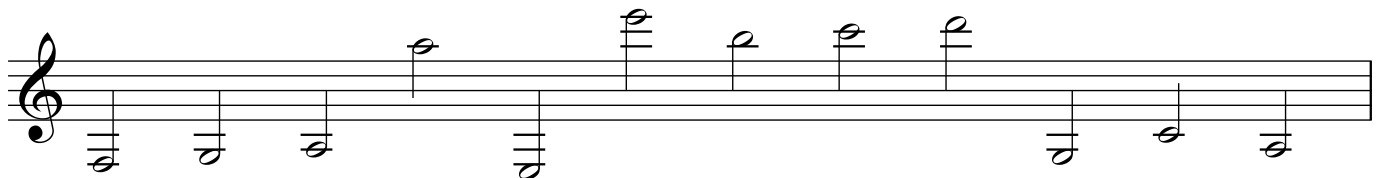
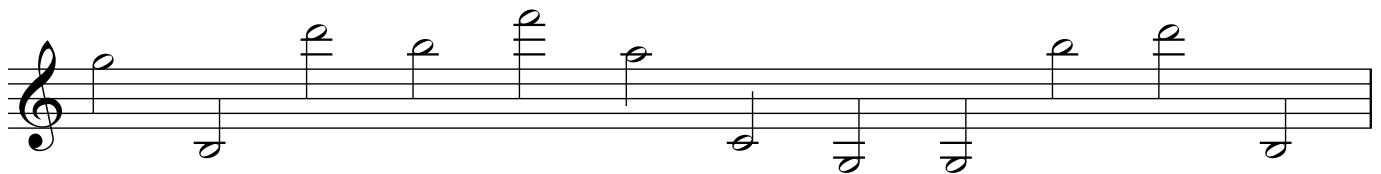
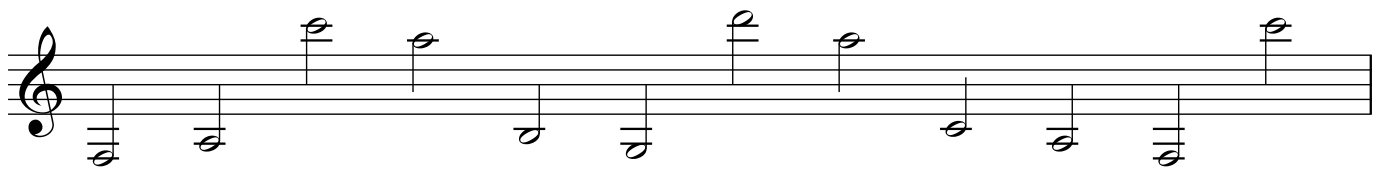


Note Reading - More About Leger Lines

Leger lines are fancy little lines which act like extended stave lines and allow us to easily read notes above or below the five stave lines. You read them with the same idea of line and space notes that you have been using previously. We don't have to use leger line notes as often as stave notes so it does take some practice to remember them.



Speedy Note Reading 10



Note Reading - The Bass Clef

Give yourself a pat on the back as you know the concept of bass note reading now....now you just need to put it into practice.

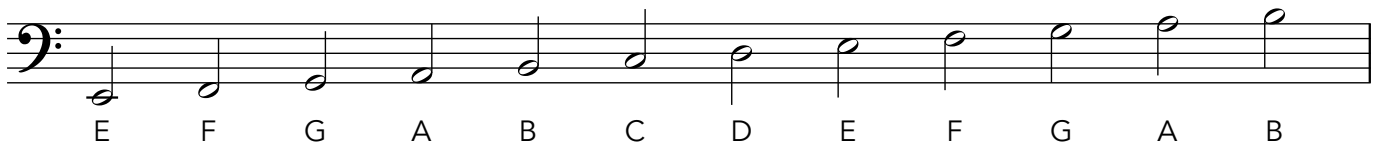
THE DIFFERENCE: The notes are NOT in the same place as they are in the treble clef, and we have different sayings to help us remember where the notes go.

WHY are the notes in a different place??

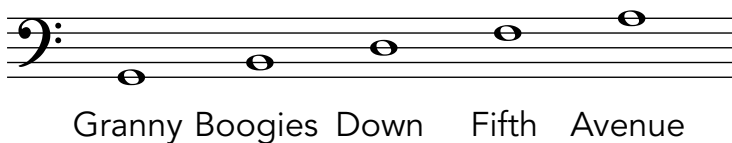
You have already seen from your past working that there are 7 note names which are repeated and repeated A B C D E F G and start again... so if we start at middle C and say the note names backwards they fall in different places on the stave lines.



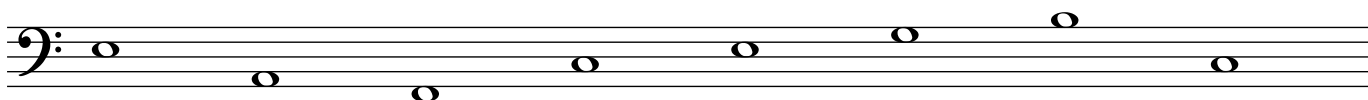
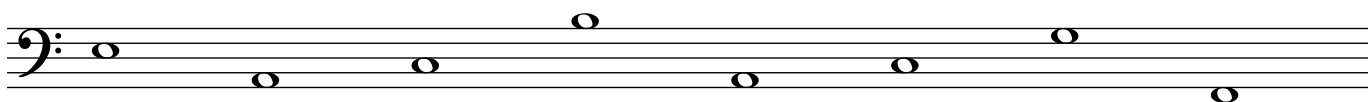
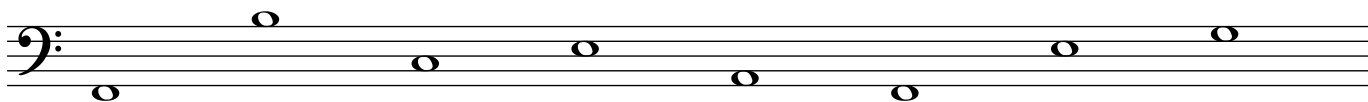
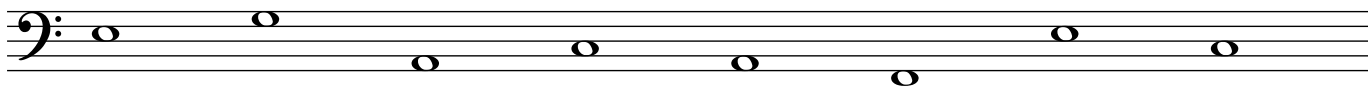
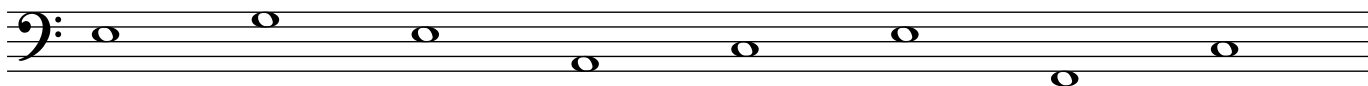
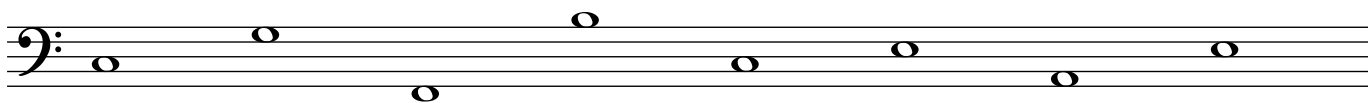
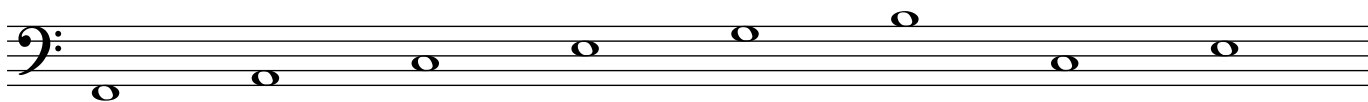
On the bass clef, where you are used to seeing middle C is now E!!!!



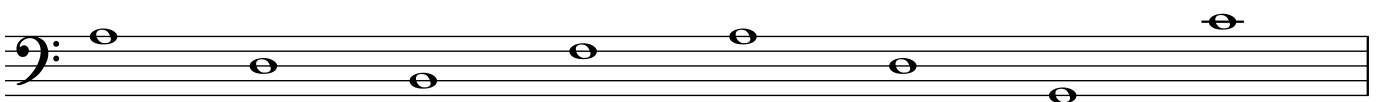
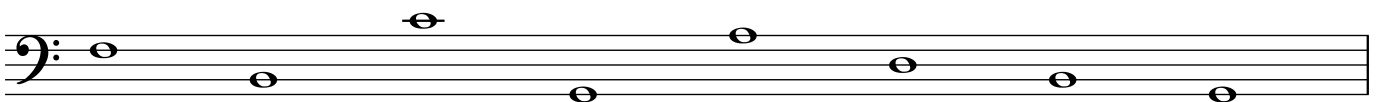
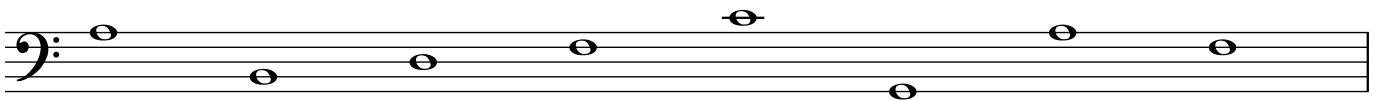
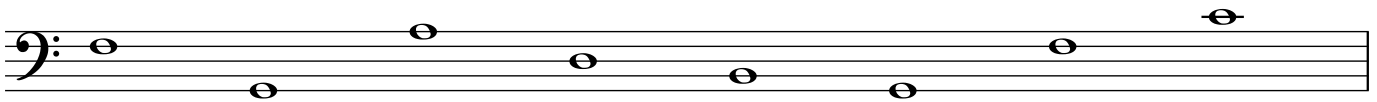
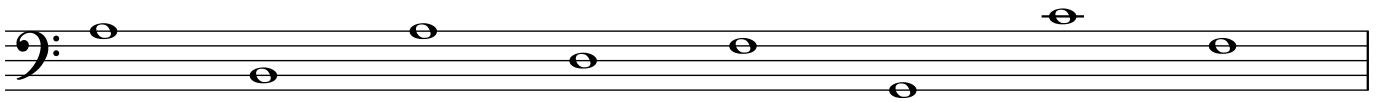
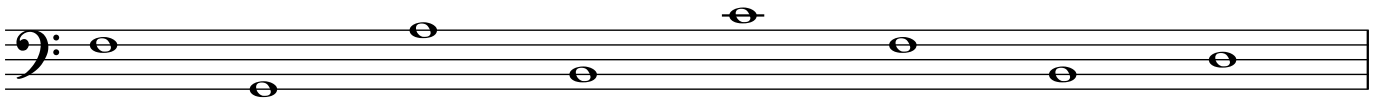
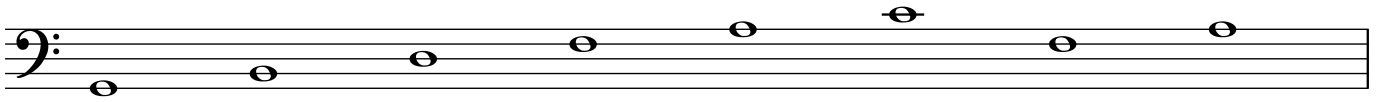
So our two sayings are different.



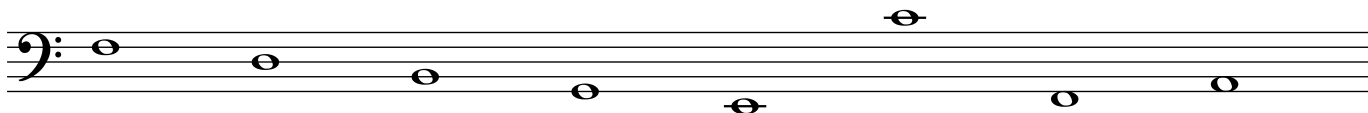
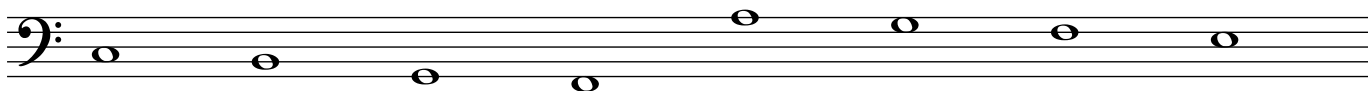
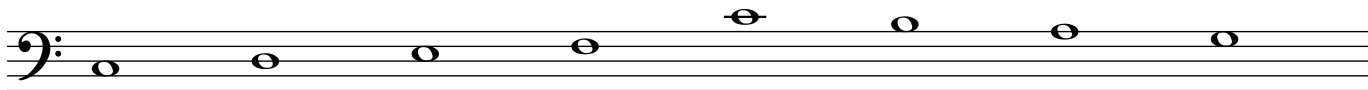
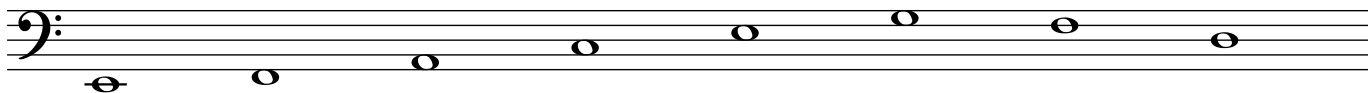
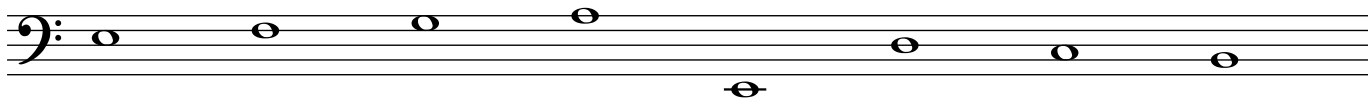
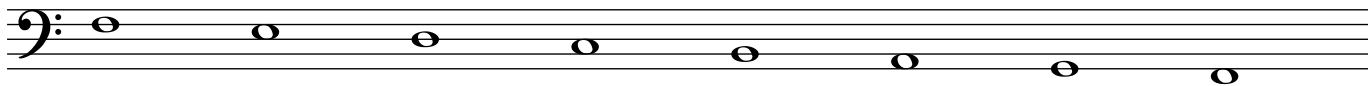
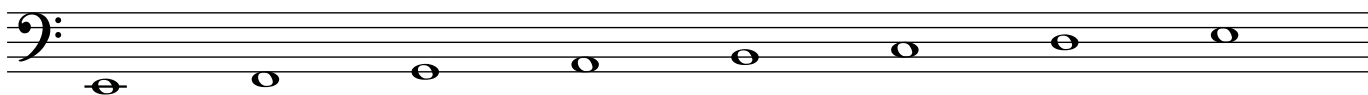
Speedy Note Reading 11



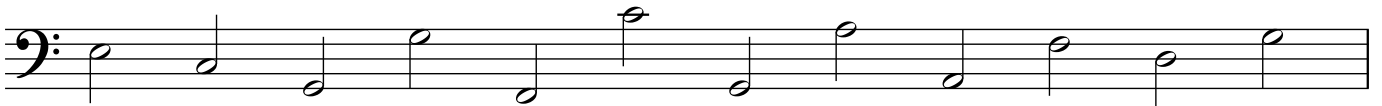
Speedy Note Reading 12



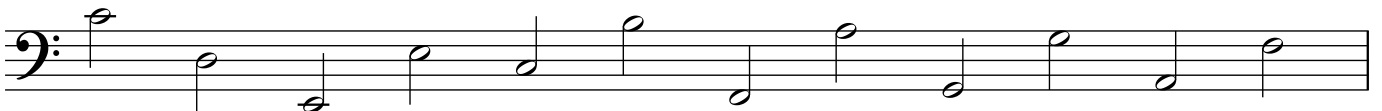
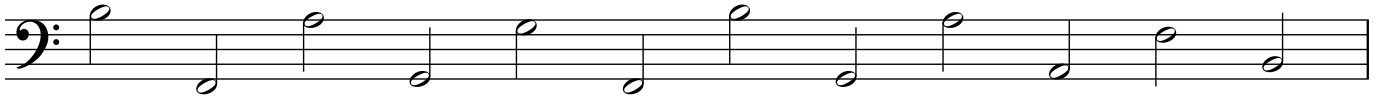
Speedy Note Reading 13



Speedy Note Reading 14



Speedy Note Reading 15



Speedy Note Reading 16

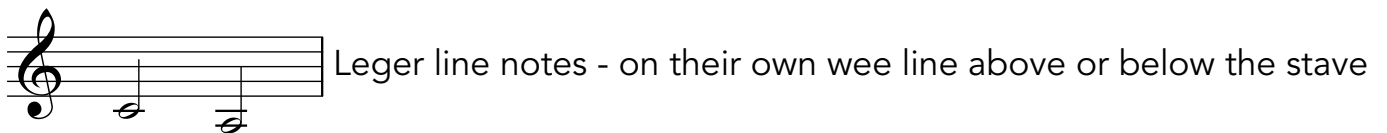
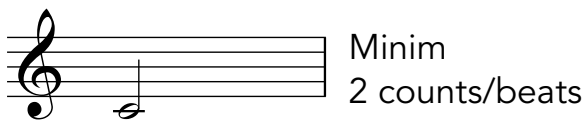
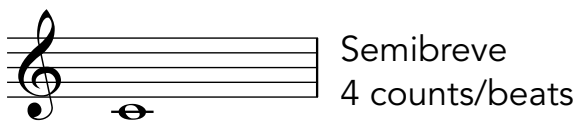
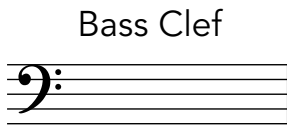
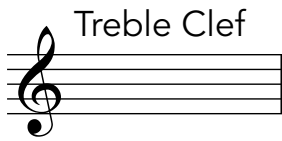
This image contains ten staves of musical notation, each featuring a bass clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notation is designed for a reading exercise and includes a variety of note values and rests. The notes are primarily half notes and quarter notes, with some staves containing eighth notes. The rests are also varied, including half rests, quarter rests, and eighth rests. The staves are arranged in a vertical column, and the notation is presented in a clear, black-and-white format.

Speedy Note Reading 17

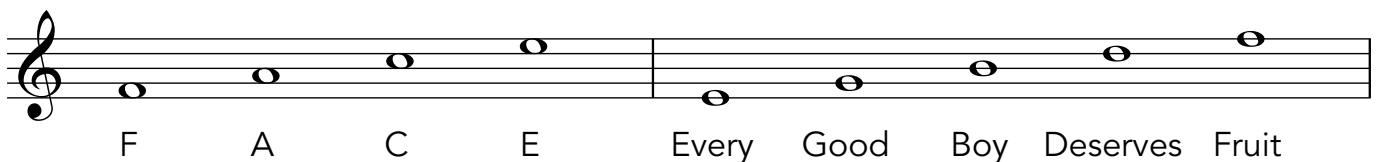
This image contains ten staves of musical notation, each featuring a bass clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notation is designed for a reading exercise and includes a variety of note values and rests:

- Staff 1:** Starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G2, a quarter note F2, a half note E2, a quarter rest, a half note D2, a quarter note C2, a half note B1, a quarter note A1, a half note G1, a quarter note F1, a half note E1, a quarter note D1, and a whole rest.
- Staff 2:** Starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G2, a quarter note F2, a half note E2, a quarter note D2, a half note C2, a quarter note B1, a half note A1, a quarter note G1, a half note F1, a quarter note E1, a half note D1, a quarter note C1, and a whole rest.
- Staff 3:** Starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G2, a quarter note F2, a half note E2, a quarter note D2, a half note C2, a quarter note B1, a half note A1, a quarter note G1, a half note F1, a quarter note E1, a half note D1, a quarter note C1, and a whole rest.
- Staff 4:** Starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G2, a quarter note F2, a half note E2, a quarter note D2, a half note C2, a quarter note B1, a half note A1, a quarter note G1, a half note F1, a quarter note E1, a half note D1, a quarter note C1, and a whole rest.
- Staff 5:** Starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G2, a quarter note F2, a half note E2, a quarter note D2, a half note C2, a quarter note B1, a half note A1, a quarter note G1, a half note F1, a quarter note E1, a half note D1, a quarter note C1, and a whole rest.
- Staff 6:** Starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G2, a quarter note F2, a half note E2, a quarter note D2, a half note C2, a quarter note B1, a half note A1, a quarter note G1, a half note F1, a quarter note E1, a half note D1, a quarter note C1, and a whole rest.
- Staff 7:** Starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G2, a quarter note F2, a half note E2, a quarter note D2, a half note C2, a quarter note B1, a half note A1, a quarter note G1, a half note F1, a quarter note E1, a half note D1, a quarter note C1, and a whole rest.
- Staff 8:** Starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G2, a quarter note F2, a half note E2, a quarter note D2, a half note C2, a quarter note B1, a half note A1, a quarter note G1, a half note F1, a quarter note E1, a half note D1, a quarter note C1, and a whole rest.
- Staff 9:** Starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G2, a quarter note F2, a half note E2, a quarter note D2, a half note C2, a quarter note B1, a half note A1, a quarter note G1, a half note F1, a quarter note E1, a half note D1, a quarter note C1, and a whole rest.
- Staff 10:** Starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G2, a quarter note F2, a half note E2, a quarter note D2, a half note C2, a quarter note B1, a half note A1, a quarter note G1, a half note F1, a quarter note E1, a half note D1, a quarter note C1, and a whole rest.

Glossary of Terms



Treble clef sayings



Bass Clef sayings

