

Section 1 - Lessons

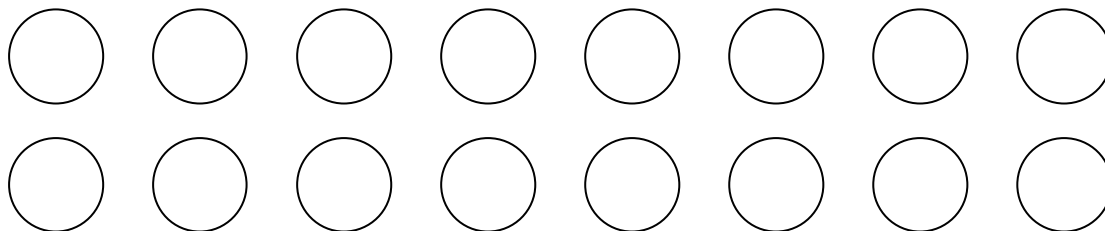
Lesson One

Beat

The **beat** is the "heartbeat" of music.

It is what makes us tap our foot or clap our hands to the music. It is regular, consistent and steady.

Point to the beat, using the following beat circles, as you listen to various songs.




Rhythm



Sing the song "Who's That Yonder". Point to the beat circles above as you sing. Repeat this and focus on the words you are singing. Notice that sometimes you sing one word (or syllable) to each beat, sometimes you sing two words (or syllables) to each beat and sometimes you don't sing anything on a beat.


This pattern of shorter and longer sounds in music is called the **rhythm**.

The words in a song show the rhythmic pattern. Sing the song again and write one, two or no strokes inside each beat circle to show how many sounds you hear on each beat.

Where you wrote two strokes in a beat circle, join them together using a line across the top (called a **beam**) and in the empty circle write a **Z**. What you have just written is called rhythmic shorthand.

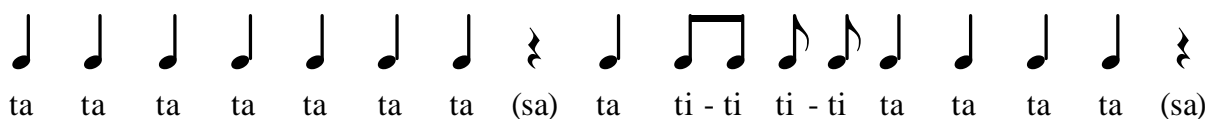
When we hear **one** sound (word) on a beat we call it a **crotchet** (English name) or **quarter note** (American name) and it looks like this 

When we hear **two** equal sounds (words) on a beat we call them **quavers** (English name) or **eighth notes** (American name). One quaver looks like this  or when in pairs, like this 


When we hear **no** sounds (words) on a beat we call it a **crotchet rest** or **quarter note rest** and it looks like this 

These rhythms also have **rhythm names**. These are used when reading a rhythm out loud. The rhythm name for a crotchet is "ta" and the rhythm name for a quaver is "ti", (when they are in pairs we say "ti-ti"). A rest does not need a rhythm name as it has no sound but if needed you can think the name "sa" in your head to be sure you have one beat of silence.

Read the following rhythm in rhythm names out loud while tapping the beat.



You should have recognised it as the rhythmic pattern of "Who's That Yonder" that you wrote in the beat circles above in rhythmic shorthand.

Now say the following different rhythm in rhythm names. Note that  is the same as 



Lesson Thirty-nine

The Major Scale

We now know the following notes. Sing all of these notes from "so," to "do' " in solfa with handsigns and in letter names.

s, l, t, d r m f s l t d'
G A B C D E F G A B C

Now sing the same notes but begin on "do" and sing only one octave up to "do' " as follows.

d r m f s l t d'
C D E F G A B C

What you have just sung is called a **Major Scale**.

A Major Scale is similar to a Pentatonic Scale in that it is a group of notes that is used by composers as a basis for writing music. It is different in that there are seven different notes, not five.

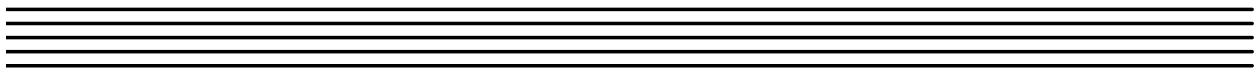
A **Major scale** is a **diatonic** scale, meaning a scale with seven different notes

Here is the Major Scale in a C "do" which is called **C Major**. It is written out ascending (going up) and descending (going down). Sing this scale through in solfa and letter names. (Note that when singing Major scales we don't repeat the top note before descending).

C Major Scale

d r m f s l t d' t l s f m r d
C D E F G A B C B A G F E D C

Copy this scale out on the staff below. Write in the solfa and letter names beneath the notes.



Rhythm Revision

Play this two part rhythm by tapping the top part with your right hand and the bottom part with your left.