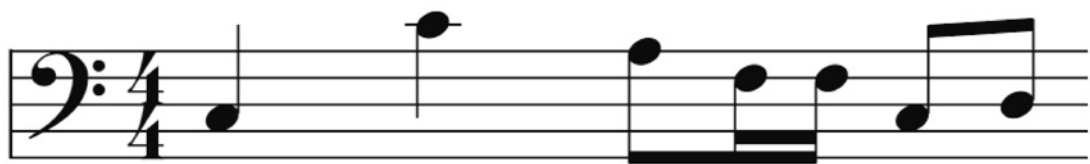


**Making Music Theory Easy**

# **LEARN HOW TO READ SHEET MUSIC STARTER KIT**



**BEN DUNNETT**

[www.learnhowtoreadsheetmusic.com](http://www.learnhowtoreadsheetmusic.com)

# LEARN HOW TO READ SHEET MUSIC

## STARTER KIT

### **Welcome to the Learn How To Read Sheet Music Starter Kit.**

The aim of this FREE starter kit is to help you start to learn how to read music. I know that not being able to read music can be very frustrating for you as a musician because it stops you from playing the wide range of music that you know you are capable of. As a result, my intention is to get you reading music **quickly** and **practically**.

My unique method is built upon encouraging you to learn music theory in a practical way, with your instrument in hand, playing music. Too many people think of music theory as being a different subject altogether and this is why they find it boring and it takes them so long to learn how to understand it. It needs to be **practical**.

I have included an introductory lesson, 3 practical tasks, some flashcards and some worksheets (you'll find the answers to these at the end of the Starter Pack). This unique combination of video lessons, worksheets and practical activities is designed to enable you to be able to read sheet music quickly and effectively. Feel free to print out the worksheets and complete them whenever and wherever you want.

My advice is to look at the lesson material and then follow the instructions at the end to test your understanding using the worksheets and try the the practical exercises/pieces on your instrument. If you are a singer or don't yet play an instrument then try this on a keyboard or piano. It will help you hugely. Even if you do play another instrument, gaining some basic keyboard skills will hugely improve your understanding of sheet music.

If you don't have a piano/keyboard you can find a great FREE online keyboard at:

[http://www.bgfl.org/bgfl/custom/resources\\_ftp/client\\_ftp/ks2/music/piano/](http://www.bgfl.org/bgfl/custom/resources_ftp/client_ftp/ks2/music/piano/)

**Remember, the combination of theory and practical is the key to success.**

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at  
[www.learnhowtoreadsheetmusic.com/contact](http://www.learnhowtoreadsheetmusic.com/contact)

Good luck!

*Benjamin Dunnett*

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# LESSON ONE - PITCH



*The highs and the lows*

## What will you learn in Lesson 1?

In this lesson you will learn:

- How to read notes on the Treble and Bass clefs
- Why musicians refuse to go beyond G in their alphabets!
- What sharps and flats do to a note
- How to avoid the trap 90% of people fall into

## What is Pitch?

Pitch (*noun*) = how high or low a note sounds

Most people have a basic concept of the fact that some notes sound higher than others. Play a note high up on a piano followed by another note down low and the average listener will be able to identify that there is a difference in pitch between the 2 notes. Many people also know that pitch is communicated by a series of letters (A, B, C, D, E, F, G). People also have an understanding of the fact that some instruments play predominantly high notes (e.g. flute), some play predominantly low notes (e.g. bass guitar), whilst some can play a large range of pitches (e.g. piano).

So the first main function of sheet music is simply to tell the reader how high or low a note is - grasp this and you are already well on the way to reading sheet music.

# Part 1 - Introducing Pitch

## Naming the Notes

Notes are named after letters A-B-C-D-E-F-G. Instead of going onto H-I, etc.. it starts again at A. This run of 8 notes from A-A or B-B, C-C, etc.. is called an **octave**. These notes can be played on any tuned instrument. So, on a piano, the notes correspond to the following keys....



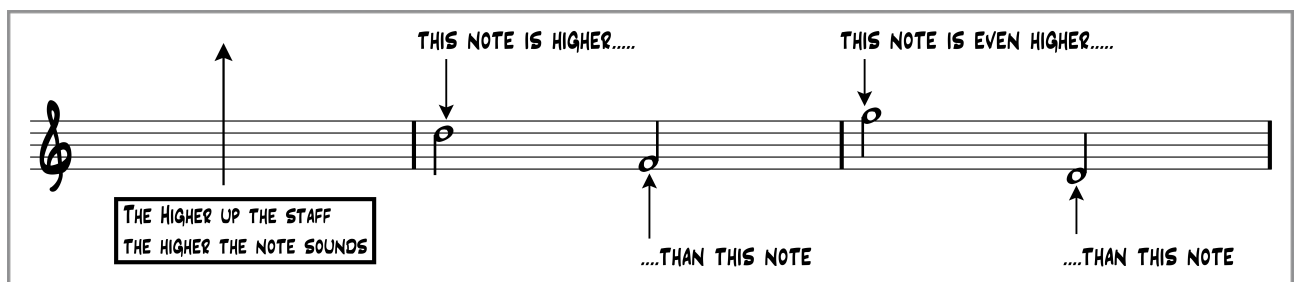
Clearly, the 1st basic thing that you want to learn in order to be able to read sheet music is what note to play. Instead of writing out letters on a page, the universal way of communicating which notes are to be played is via the **staff**.

## The Staff

Staff notation is built on a series of 5 lines called a staff (or stave) and is the foundation upon which music is written....



A note can be placed on different lines or spaces - the higher up the stave, the higher the note sounds....



Obviously music uses a lot more than just the 9 notes of a staff (5 lines and 4 spaces), so we need some way of being able to represent these extra notes.

## Enter Ledger lines....

Ledger Lines are additional lines which can be put above or below the staves to extend the pitch range of the staff.



OK. But using ledger lines still leaves us with 2 problems....

1. Our music is going to look very confusing if we just keep adding ledger lines above and below the staff.
2. We still don't know what notes are on which lines/spaces.

Happily, help is at hand in the form of Clefs....

## Clefs

Clefs are symbols put at the beginning of a staff to assign specific lines/spaces to specific pitches. The easiest way to grasp this is to consider the note Middle C.

### **“What is Middle C?”**

Middle C is this note that you hear about lots. In fact, there's nothing particularly special about middle C; it's not really in the middle of anything! It does happen to be the C which is closest to the centre of a piano. (In order to find a C on the piano look for the white note to the left of the 2 black notes. In order to find middle C look for the one which is nearest the middle of the piano.)

Middle C is assigned to a specific line when we put a clef at the start of the staff.

For example, if we put a Treble Clef at the start of a staff like this....



....then Middle C will be on a ledger line below the staff...



If we put a Bass Clef at the start of the staff like this....



....then Middle C will be on a ledger line above the staff....



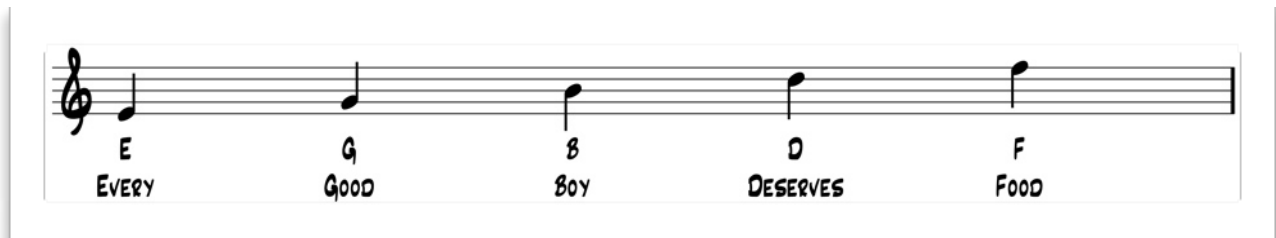
Consecutive notes going up and down from **Middle C** can be shown by putting a note on successive lines and spaces on a Treble or Bass Clef staff....

Can you see that by using these clefs we have dramatically increased the number of notes that can be shown on just these 5 lines and 4 spaces? Combine this with some ledger lines and you have a lot of notes!

O.K. So we get the concept of the staff, ledger lines and clefs. Now we need to learn which lines/spaces refer to which notes in these 2 clefs. The best way to learn the note names is through the following simple rhymes....

## The Note Rhymes...

For the Treble Clef lines....



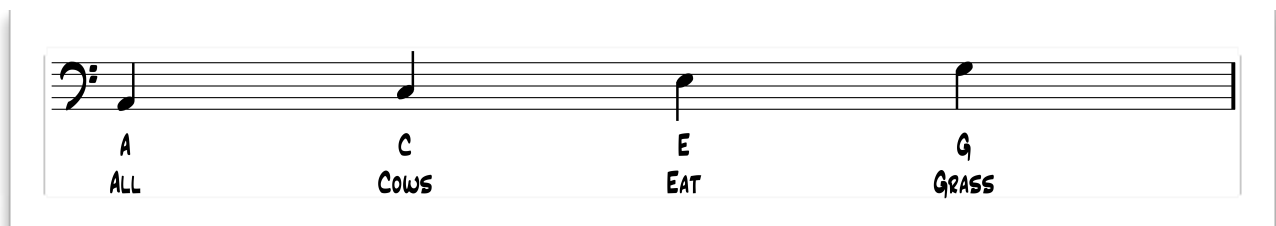
For the Treble Clef spaces it is easy as the spaces make the word "FACE"....



For the Bass Clef lines....



For the Bass Clef spaces....



**It's Time To GET PRACTICAL**

Have a go at the following PRACTICAL TASK  
You may want to print off the Note Rhymes Sheet  
to help you



# PITCH PRACTICAL TASK ONE

## YOUR FIRST TUNES

**Have a go at playing these 3 pieces on your instrument/piano.**

**There is a line under each note in the 1st piece if you find it helpful to write the note names in.**

**You will find The Note Rhymes Flashcard on the next page - feel free to print it out and have it in front of you as you play.**

### Ode To Joy

Musical notation for 'Ode To Joy' in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff shows the melody with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3. The second staff is a second ending, identical to the first. A '2' is written above the first note of the second staff. A line is drawn under the first note (G) in the first staff.

### Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Musical notation for 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' in C major, 4/4 time. The first staff shows the melody with a treble clef and a key signature of no sharps or flats. The notes are C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3. The second staff is a second ending, identical to the first. A '2' is written above the first note of the second staff.

### Pachabel's Canon Bass

Musical notation for 'Pachabel's Canon Bass' in C major, 4/4 time. The first staff shows the bass line with a bass clef and a key signature of no sharps or flats. The notes are C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, F1, E1, D1, C1, B0, A0, G0, F0, E0, D0, C0, B-1, A-1, G-1, F-1, E-1, D-1, C-1, B-2, A-2, G-2, F-2, E-2, D-2, C-2, B-3, A-3, G-3, F-3, E-3, D-3, C-3, B-4, A-4, G-4, F-4, E-4, D-4, C-4, B-5, A-5, G-5, F-5, E-5, D-5, C-5, B-6, A-6, G-6, F-6, E-6, D-6, C-6, B-7, A-7, G-7, F-7, E-7, D-7, C-7, B-8, A-8, G-8, F-8, E-8, D-8, C-8, B-9, A-9, G-9, F-9, E-9, D-9, C-9, B-10, A-10, G-10, F-10, E-10, D-10, C-10, B-11, A-11, G-11, F-11, E-11, D-11, C-11, B-12, A-12, G-12, F-12, E-12, D-12, C-12, B-13, A-13, G-13, F-13, E-13, D-13, C-13, B-14, A-14, G-14, F-14, E-14, D-14, C-14, B-15, A-15, G-15, F-15, E-15, D-15, C-15, B-16, A-16, G-16, F-16, E-16, D-16, C-16, B-17, A-17, G-17, F-17, E-17, D-17, C-17, B-18, A-18, G-18, F-18, E-18, D-18, C-18, B-19, A-19, G-19, F-19, E-19, D-19, C-19, B-20, A-20, G-20, F-20, E-20, D-20, C-20, B-21, A-21, G-21, F-21, E-21, D-21, C-21, B-22, A-22, G-22, F-22, 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# The Note Rhymes

## Treble Clef

EVERY E  
GOOD G  
BOY B  
DESERVES D  
FOOD F

F A C E

Detailed description: A musical staff in treble clef with five lines. It contains five quarter notes. The first note is on the first line (E), the second on the second line (G), the third on the second space (B), the fourth on the third line (D), and the fifth on the third space (F). Below each note is a word starting with that letter: EVERY, GOOD, BOY, DESERVES, and FOOD. To the left of the staff, the letters F, A, C, and E are written, corresponding to the notes on the lines.

## Bass Clef

GOOD G  
BOYS B  
DO D  
FINE F  
ALWAYS A

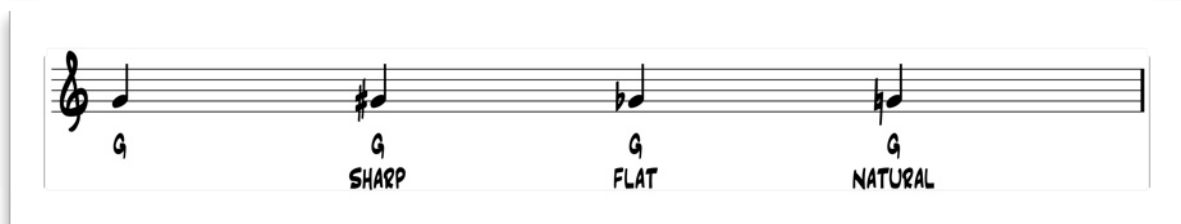
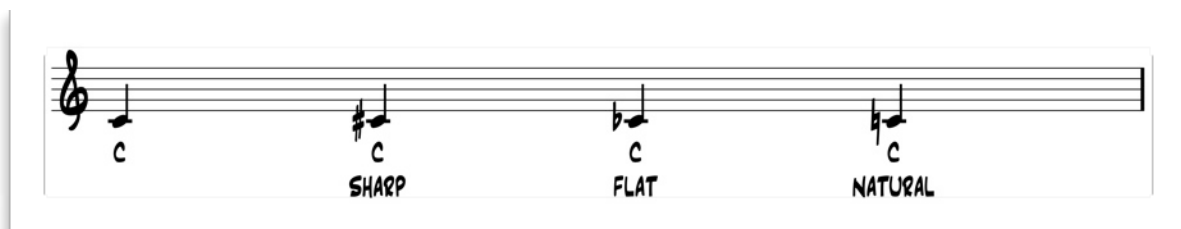
A ALL  
C COWS  
E EAT  
G GRASS

Detailed description: A musical staff in bass clef with five lines. It contains five quarter notes. The first note is on the second line (G), the second on the second space (B), the third on the second space (D), the fourth on the third line (F), and the fifth on the third space (A). Below each note is a word starting with that letter: GOOD, BOYS, DO, FINE, and ALWAYS. To the left of the staff, the letters A, C, E, and G are written, corresponding to the notes on the lines.

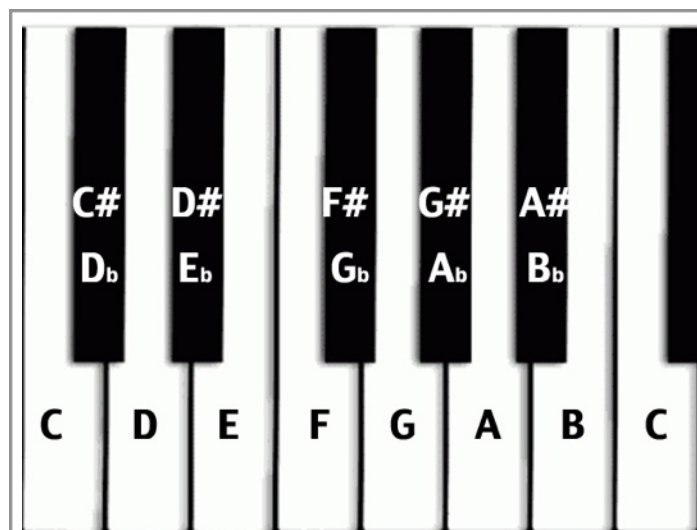
# Part Two - Sharps and Flats

## What are sharps and flats?

We now know how to read the white notes (otherwise known as the **naturals**) on a piano/ keyboard. However, we need to also know when to play the black notes. The black notes are known as **sharps** and **flats** and are shown by a # sign or a *b* sign placed before the note. Sharps (#) raise the note by a semitone, whilst flats (*b*) lower the note by a semitone.



The “natural” sign is put into the music to tell you to return to playing the natural note.



## Avoiding the Big Mistake!

People tend to make a big mistake when they are reading sharps and flats - they think that the sharp/flat/natural sign goes after the note - it does not!

**The sharp/flat/natural sign goes BEFORE the note it refers to**

Remember this and you will have no problem reading sharps and flats.

It's Time To GET PRACTICAL

Have a go at the following PRACTICAL TASK

AND

It's Time To TEST YOUR  
KNOWLEDGE

Have a go at the following WORKSHEETS  
(Answers in the back of the starter Kit)

# PITCH PRACTICAL TASK TWO

## PLAYING SHARPS AND FLATS

**Below are 2 different versions of a well known song - the first contains sharps, the second contains flats.**

**Have a go at playing each version in turn on your instrument/piano.**

**Remember to look out for the sharps/flats signs.**

### Old MacDonald

Pause when you see a comma

2

Play these notes twice as fast as the others

3

4

# Old MacDonald

Pause when you see a comma

2

Play these notes twice as fast as the others

3

4





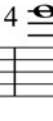





### 3. Ledger Lines


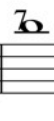
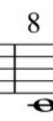
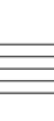
Total score:
/15


Write the note name under each note (remember to look at the clefs)

1  2 3  4 

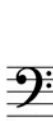
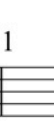
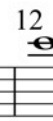
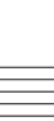


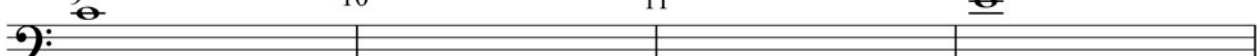
e.g. A      —      —      —

5  6  7  8 

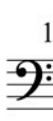

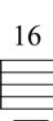
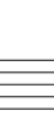



—      —      —      —

9  10  11  12 



—      —      —      —

13  14  15  16 



—      —      —      —

# PITCH WORKSHEETS ANSWERS

## I. TREBLE CLEF NOTES

Write the note name under each note

1 2 3 4

e.g. E                      D                      A                      G

5 6 7 8

C                      B                      D                      F

9 10 11 12

B                      A                      C                      A

13 14 15 16

G#                      C#                      D#                      F#







# PITCH WORKSHEET ANSWERS

## 3. LEDGER LINES





Total score:

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


Write the note name under each note (remember to look at the clef)

1  2  3  4 





e.g. A                      B                      D                      E

5  6  7  8 

G                      B                      B                      C

9  10  11  12 

C                      E                      C                      E

13  14  15  16 

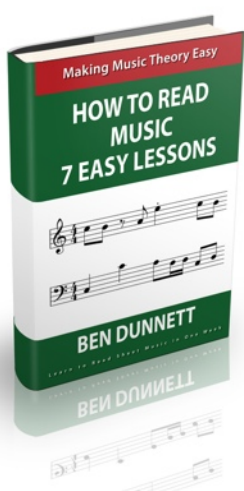
F                      A                      G                      D

# STARTER KIT REFLECTION

I hope you've enjoyed your free Starter Kit.

Take a moment to reflect on what you've learnt already.

You now know how to read naturals (white notes) and sharps/flats (black notes) and have gained an understanding of ledger lines and clefs. You also have already had a chance to get **PRACTICAL**. Remember, the **PRACTICAL** is a key unique part of this method of learning how to read music.



In my **Learn How To Read Music Course** you will go on to look at **scales/keys** and how an understanding of **key signatures** is crucial to your success in reading music.

You will also learn the secret to **reading rhythms quickly** so that you can start to read and play tunes straight away.

[BUY Learn How To Read Music NOW](#) at the discounted price of ~~\$39.95~~ **\$19.95** (for a limited time only).

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**Bonus #1 (worth \$14.95):** How To Read Music Workbook, including:

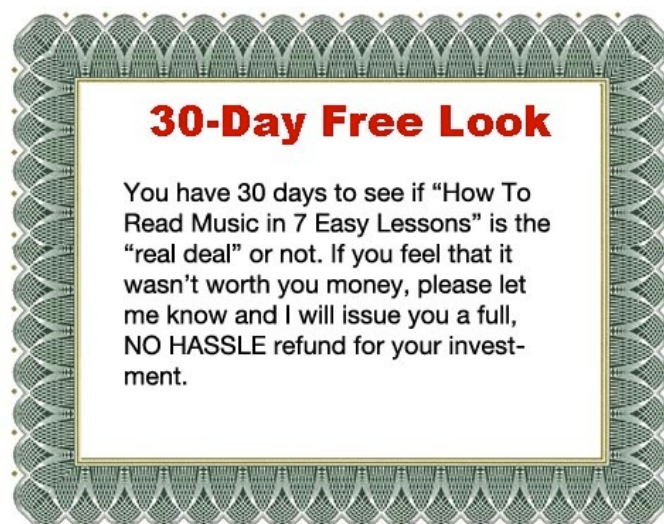
- Worksheets for each topic
- Practical Activities
- “The Big Test” to assess your understanding
- Certificate of Completion

**Bonus #2 (worth \$19.95):** 20 Famous Pieces For Occasions

- 20 pieces arranged for piano.

- 20 Lead Sheets for guitarists, vocalists and solo instrumentalists
- Chord sheets
- Piano fingering
- Advice on The Different Ways to Play chords on the piano

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As a musician, you can’t afford not to invest in Learn How To Read Music. It’s easy to get started. Just click the button below and an email will be sent to your email address. In it will be a link to download the book, audio files and bonus gifts.



Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I hope that this Sample Lesson has inspired you. I wish you the best of luck in your journey as a musician.

Sincerely,

*Benjamin Dunnett*

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