

## FOREWORD

Experience has shown that a MUSIC WRITING BOOK is indispensable for the Beginner. The elements of Music are so much more readily learned *away from the piano*.

### Reading and Writing

As with Language, the *reading* and *writing* of Music go together.

When a pupil can *write* the Notes in various Time Values, his ability to *read* speedily and accurately automatically follows.

### Method

To be consistent, however, the *writing* of notes should be taught *in the same sequence* in which they are presented *at the piano*.

Practically all the modern Methods for Beginners start with Middle C and progress "one note up, one note down"; "two notes up, two notes down", etc.—thereby preventing the confusion which invariably followed the older Methods which taught first the Lines and Spaces of the Treble Clef followed by a different set of names for those in the Bass.

Old-fashioned Methods required the pupil to learn a set of involved "Codes" such as "EVERY GOOD BOY DOES FINELY"; "ALL COWS EAT GRASS", etc. and other ridiculous combinations of words—all designed to act as "clues".

This cumbersome procedure has become obsolete—for very good reasons!

The modern pupil now spends the time *learning his notes* instead of meaningless Codes.

This book presents the Notes in the same order they are found in any Modern Piano Book beginning with Middle C.

*Reading and Writing* therefore go hand-in-hand with the actual lessons *at the Piano*.

### Clapping and Reciting

The greatest aid in developing fluent Sight-Reading is that of CLAPPING AND RECITING. This is explained fully on page 12.

From this point on, always insist upon recitation of the Time Signature followed by Clapping and Reciting the Notes of each and every Example.

IT WILL ASSURE THE MASTERY OF NOTATION.

### Playable Examples

Nearly all the examples are melodious and therefore playable.

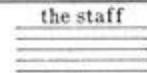
After writing or reciting, pupils should be encouraged to play them on the piano.

This not only adds interest to the written work but gives additional practice with obvious benefits.

J. T.

# The Staff

Music is written on a system of five lines and spaces called the STAFF.




## The Whole Note

Little characters called NOTES are placed either *on the lines* or *in the spaces* between the lines and take their names accordingly.

There are various kinds of notes which will be explained later.  
We begin with the WHOLE NOTE because it is the easiest to draw.

This is a WHOLE NOTE 

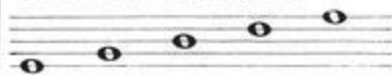
Draw first the top half 

then the bottom half 

Draw some WHOLE NOTES in the boxes below.

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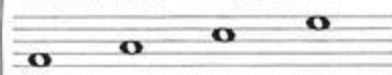
Here are the LINE notes.



Notice how the line runs *through* the middle of the note.

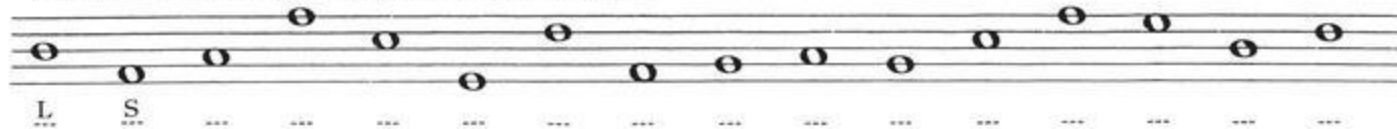
## Line Notes and Space Notes

Here are the SPACE notes.



The notes are placed *between* the lines.

The following example contains both LINE notes and SPACE notes.  
Mark all *LINE* notes with *L* and all *SPACE* notes with *S*.



Write a WHOLE NOTE on each of the 5 lines below.


1st Line    2nd Line    3rd Line    4th Line    5th Line

Write a WHOLE NOTE in each space below.


1st Space    2nd Space    3rd Space    4th Space

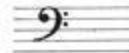
## Clef Signs

A CLEF SIGN is placed at the beginning of the staff and gives a definite letter-name to each line and space.

This is the TREBLE CLEF sign



This is the BASS CLEF sign



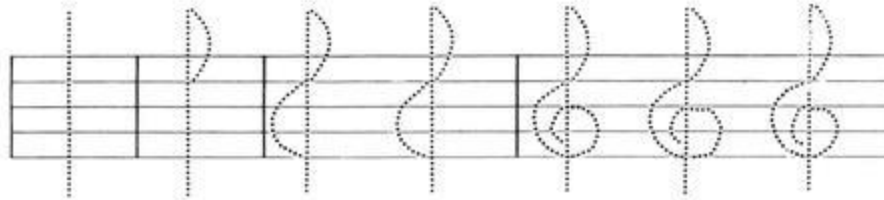
Before learning the meaning of the Clef signs let's learn to draw them.

The Treble Clef sign is easy to make if done as follows:

1. First draw a straight line
2. Next add a small loop at the top
3. Then continue with a sweeping curve to the bottom of the staff
4. Now the final curve, which circles the 2nd line of the staff



### Drawing The Treble Clef Sign

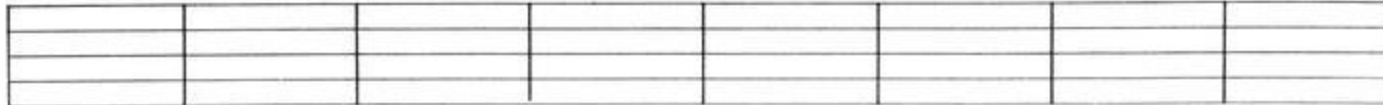


Trace over the dotted-lines above in the *exact* 1,2,3,4 order shown in the box at the left.

If you would like to make it look more like the *printed* Clef sign try adding a little "curly-cue" at the bottom, thus

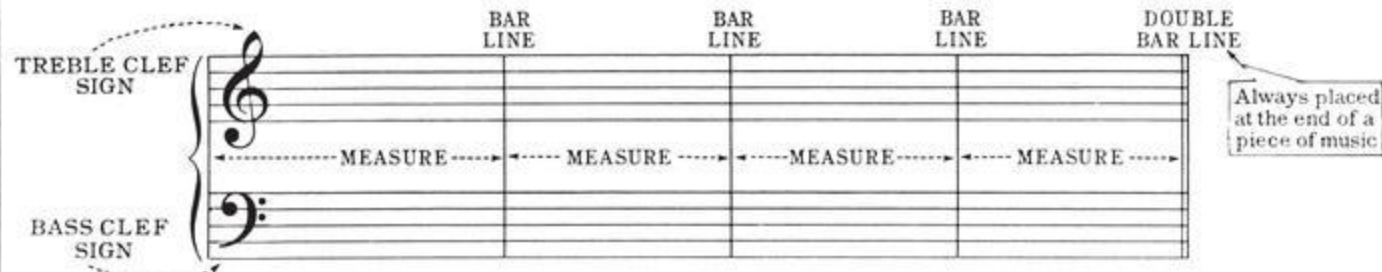


Now see if you can draw it without the aid of the dotted-lines.  
Make 8 Treble Clef signs on the blank staff below.



## The Grand Staff

When the Treble and Bass Clefs are used together (as in piano music) they form what is known as THE GRAND STAFF.



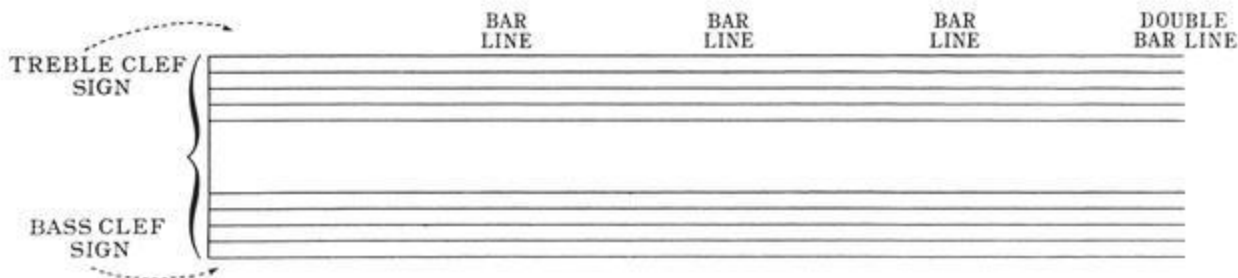
To simplify the reading of music the staff is divided into MEASURES by the use of BAR LINES.

Double BAR LINES are always placed at the end of a piece of music.

## Drawing The Grand Staff

Make a GRAND STAFF by drawing a TREBLE CLEF sign, a BASS CLEF sign, BAR LINES and DOUBLE BAR LINES in the places indicated below.

Mark the MEASURES by using the letter M.



## WHOLE NOTES, HALF NOTES and QUARTER NOTES

Whole Note



You have already learned to recognize and draw the WHOLE NOTE.

Half Note



When a *stem is added*, it becomes a HALF NOTE.

Quarter Note

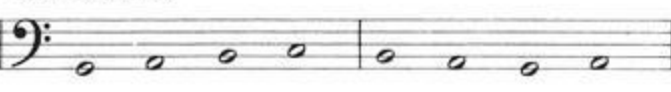


By *filling in the head* and *adding a stem* it becomes a QUARTER NOTE.

Make Half Notes of the following by adding stems.



Make Quarter Notes below by filling in the heads and adding stems.



*NOTE* The stems go up on all notes below 3rd line.

Stems go down when notes are on the 3rd line or above.



stems up

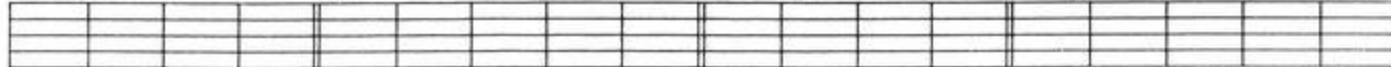
stems down

Make HALF NOTES in each of the spaces below

Make HALF NOTES on each line

Make QUARTER NOTES in each space

Make QUARTER NOTES on each line



1st space

2nd

3rd

4th

1st line

2nd

3rd

4th

5th

*Be careful of the stems.*

A QUARTER NOTE  
is held for **1** COUNT

A HALF NOTE  
is held for **2** COUNTS

A WHOLE NOTE  
is held for **4** COUNTS

# Books in the John Thompson Preparatory Level

NOTE SPELLER

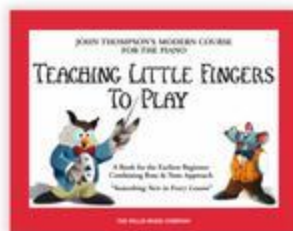
JOHN THOMPSON



## Easiest Piano Course Parts One and Two

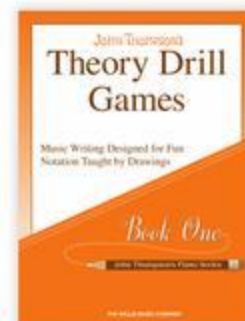
Because progress is so gradual, it requires two books to cover the preparatory grade. The colorful artwork was recently updated but the beloved solos, worksheets, exercises, and accompaniments remain the same.

HL00414014 Part One  
HL00414018 Part Two



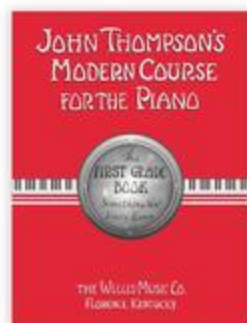
## Teaching Little Fingers to Play

For the early beginner. Combines rote and note approach. The melodies are written with careful thought and are kept as simple as possible, yet are refreshingly delightful. All the music lies within the grasp of small hands. HL00412076



## Theory Drill Games

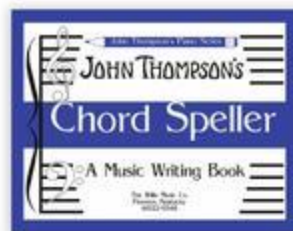
Written games that reinforce notation, rhythm, and other musical rudiments. HL00414132



## Modern Course for the Piano

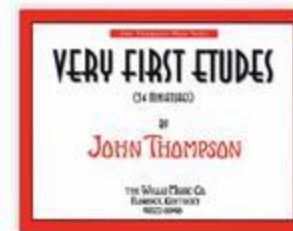
A clear and complete foundation in the study of the piano that enables the student to think and feel musically.

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## Chord Speller

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