

A free e-book with 10 games and activities to enhance the music classroom. | © Tamsyn Spackman, 2014

Rhythm Sorting

A cut and paste activity where the student matches the note rhythmic values from large to small, just like the animals are arranged from big to little.

Egyptian Pyramid

This is a fun little printable to teach your student/child the rhythm pyramid. The rhythm pyramid shows several notes in layers that all have the same time value. A whole note has the same time value as two half notes. Two half notes have the same time value as four quarter notes, and four quarter notes have the same value as eight eighth notes. Each level of the pyramid has the same time value, but there are fewer notes on every level. That's the rhythm pyramid.

The bottom half is the puzzle base, and the top half are cards meant to be cut out. You can laminate the sheet and use it again and again, or you can print it on cheaper paper, and have the children cut and paste the cards into the puzzle.

Piano Chord Wheel

This is a tool that I created for my piano students to help them to learn their primary chords.

Directions: Print on card-stock, cut out the circles, and then optionally laminate. Poke holes in the center with a needle, and then poke a paper brad through the smaller circle then the larger. Fold back the edges of the brad and give it a few twists and you're done!

Here is a video to demonstrate its use: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGt61NZbAvU>

Rhythm Blocks

Here is a manipulative that you can cut out and use with your students or children. I like to use rhythm solfege as outlined in the YouTube video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7E7oS1MTBYo>) to demonstrate counting, but you can also simply count to 4. This is just one hands-on approach that you can add to your toolbox. I colored the squares simply because children like color. I included a black and white version too, which will be cheaper to print. You can always color them with crayons if you want. I recommend printing them on card-stock, and laminating, if desired.

It may be tricky on the print-out to see where the cutting lines are, hopefully this illustration can help. Enjoy!



Ear Training board

It is simply two large measures for piano with no music written inside. I printed this out on cardstock and then laminated it, which essentially turned the card into a white board. I was able to let my students write on it with crayon (washable crayon also works), and then wipe it off with a piece of scrap cloth I made from an old T-shirt. You can also use pennies or glass pebbles from the dollar store to mark the notes, as rhythm is not part of this exercise.

To use the board, I would give the students the first note, and ask them to produce the second on the board after they heard me play it. I started with simple intervals and progressively got harder. After they had a firm understanding of melodic intervals (the notes were played one at a time), I made the exercise harder by playing melodic sequences, and for my more advanced students, I introduced harmonic intervals, giving them the lower note, but playing both notes at the same time.

My challenge: Find ways that you can help your student/child's musical ear become more sophisticated, and begin working with them on a consistent basis.

Ring around the Rosies rhythm activity pages

(From Beginning Rhythm)

The following is a video transcript from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ke3LL46HDhk>

Here's a manipulative that you can use to teach your students basic rhythms using nursery rhymes, like "Ring around the Rosies." This is the first stage that we learn it. They can clap the rhythms, they can play it on a percussion instrument, they can say it with you, and they can sing it and play the singing game. That's the first stage.

In the second stage we have boxes for every measure, and the notes have been lighted out. There are two different ways you can have your students do this. They can either use a dry erase marker if you've laminated it, or a crayon or pencil and throw it away when you're done, or put it on the fridge. Or, they can use these cards that come with it, and put it together like a puzzle. When they are done you can have them clap the rhythm.

In the third stage we have the same (boxes), but there are no notes. In this one they have to figure out what the rhythm is themselves. They might use the sheet from stage one for reference if they are beginning students, or they can figure it out by themselves with the cards or they can do stick notation.

That's one example of how you can use these cards. There are seven others that come with my e-book, "Beginning Rhythm", and this one is free. Have fun, and thanks for watching!

Rainbow Castle

(From The Solfege Train)

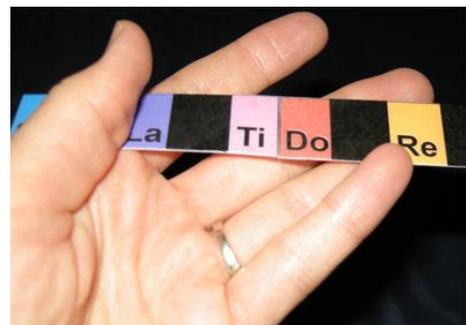
Print out colored cards, cut out and set aside. Print gameboard, and if desired, laminate. Use game pieces of your own choosing.

Draw a card, and move marker forward to the note indicated on card. Because keys and cards are colored, the student does not actually have to know the note or the notation for it; they only have to match colors. Next player's move. If the keyboard on the bottom ends before the next note, they get to the pot of gold and get to ride the rainbow up to the cloud. On the top keyboard, if the keyboard ends before their note, they get to go to Rainbow Castle, and they win the game!

Tips for play: Although the student only has to match colors, they are being introduced to note notation and solfege names. You can also teach letter names by having your students identify what the name of the note is. Point out to your students when the notes are in the treble or bass clefs. Have fun!

Movable Do piano insert with two songs

To make a piano insert, print out the desired file on cardstock. It is important that you print it out with the "actual" or "original" size (do not "size to fit"). The colored portion should be exactly 6.5 inches wide, which is the size of seven white keys on a full-sized keyboard. The printable has several rows of manipulatives. You will need seven on an 88-



key piano, but it's nice to have a few extra. After you print them out, you may want to strengthen them. I did this by laminating the sheet, but you could also use contact paper, packing tape, or even scotch tape. After strengthening the strips, cut out each row, and carefully tape them together.



When you are done making your piano strip insert, simply place it behind the keys on your instrument. My husband especially likes this method of labeling the keys because it doesn't harm our instrument at all, and can be removed easily. If desired, you can use double-sided tape to make it harder for toddlers to remove the strip from the piano. It's a fun, colorful thing, so they are going to want to play with it.

This video demonstrates its use: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjsHXzbyEGU>

In "Rainbow Castle", place "Do" on "C". In "We Wish You a Merry Christmas", place "Do" on "F".

Rhythm Bingo

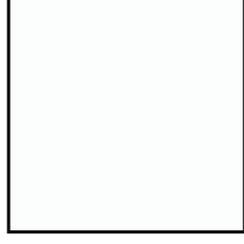
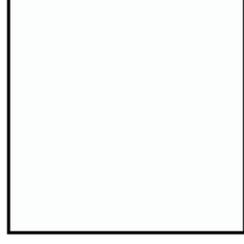
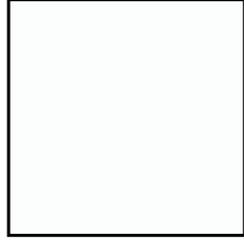
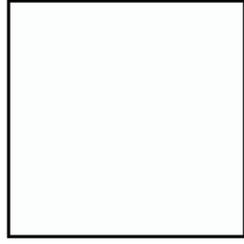
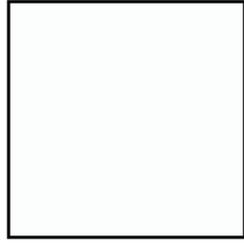
(From Beginning Rhythm)

This game includes one master card with all of the rhythms arranged by number, and 15 unique game cards. The teacher claps or otherwise demonstrates the rhythm for one of the numbers, and players place a game token (pennies, stones, whatever you have handy) on that rhythm if they have it. Player shouts "Bingo!" when they have five in a row. They then say what numbers they have marked to verify that they correctly identified the rhythms. These cards can also be used for general sight-reading activities by clapping any given row during a music lesson. Groups of children can each be given a card and a percussion instrument as they play their own card with the others.

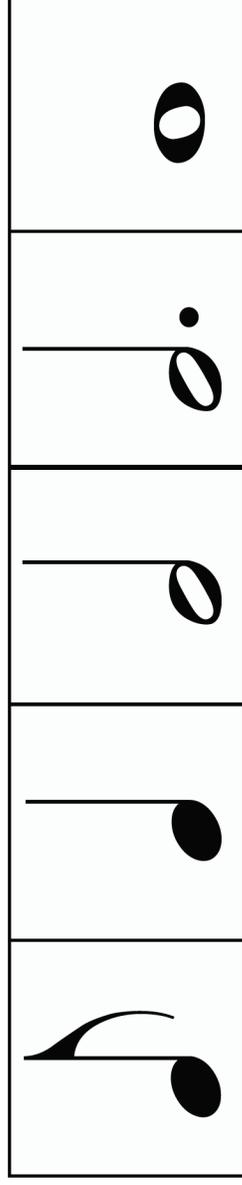
Oversized flashcards

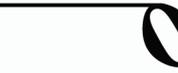
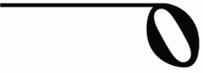
These cards are 8 1/2" by 11" cards, much larger than average. This has many advantages for the studio and classroom use. For the classroom, visibility is the main advantage, but in my studio they have also been a big hit. My younger students, when given a choice, will always choose the large cards over the smaller ones that I keep in my music bag. I laminated mine, and printed them on cardstock, so they are very attractive in that manner. Because of their large size, it makes it harder to confuse notes that are close together. It is easy to show the difference between line and space notes.

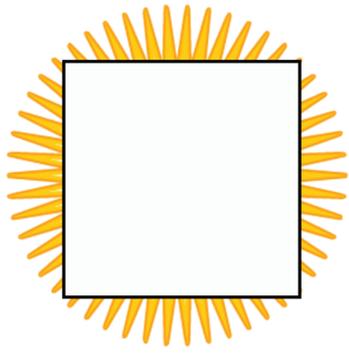
RHYTHM SORTING



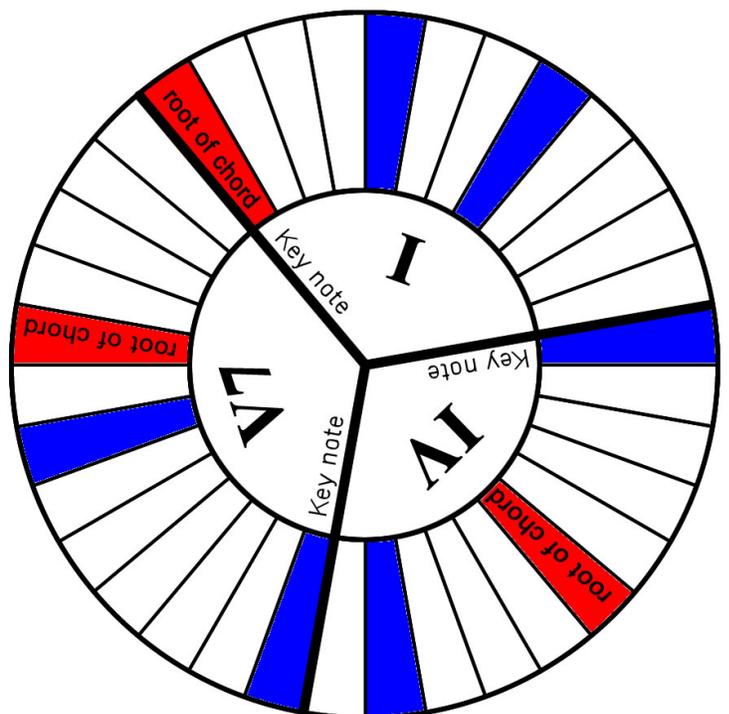
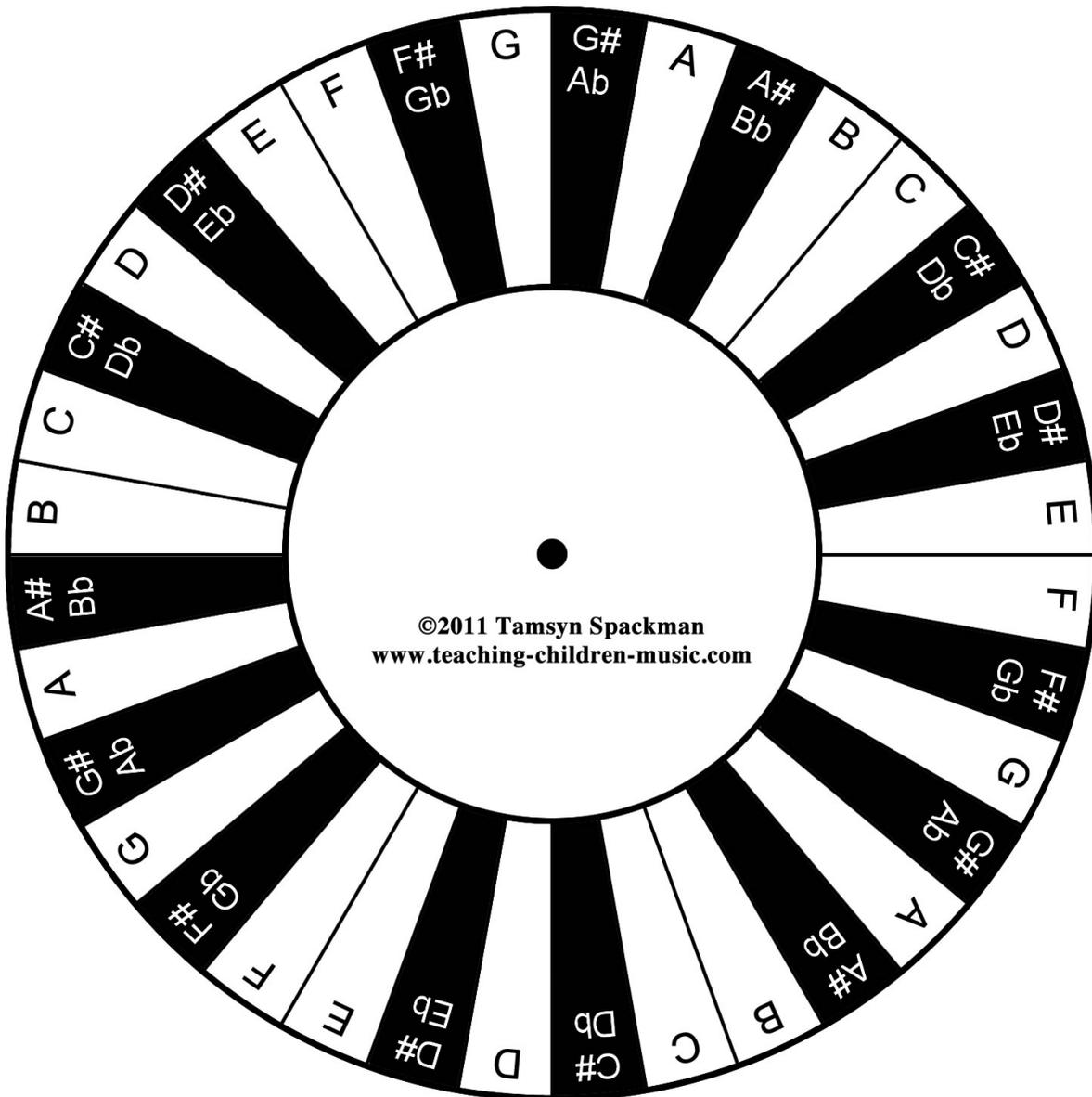
1. CUT OUT THE RHYTHM CARDS
2. PASTE THE CARDS INTO THE SQUARES BELOW THE ANIMALS, PUTTING THE CARD WITH THE LARGEST TIME VALUE WITH THE LARGEST ANIMAL, AND THE CARD WITH THE SMALLEST TIME VALUE WITH THE SMALLEST ANIMAL.

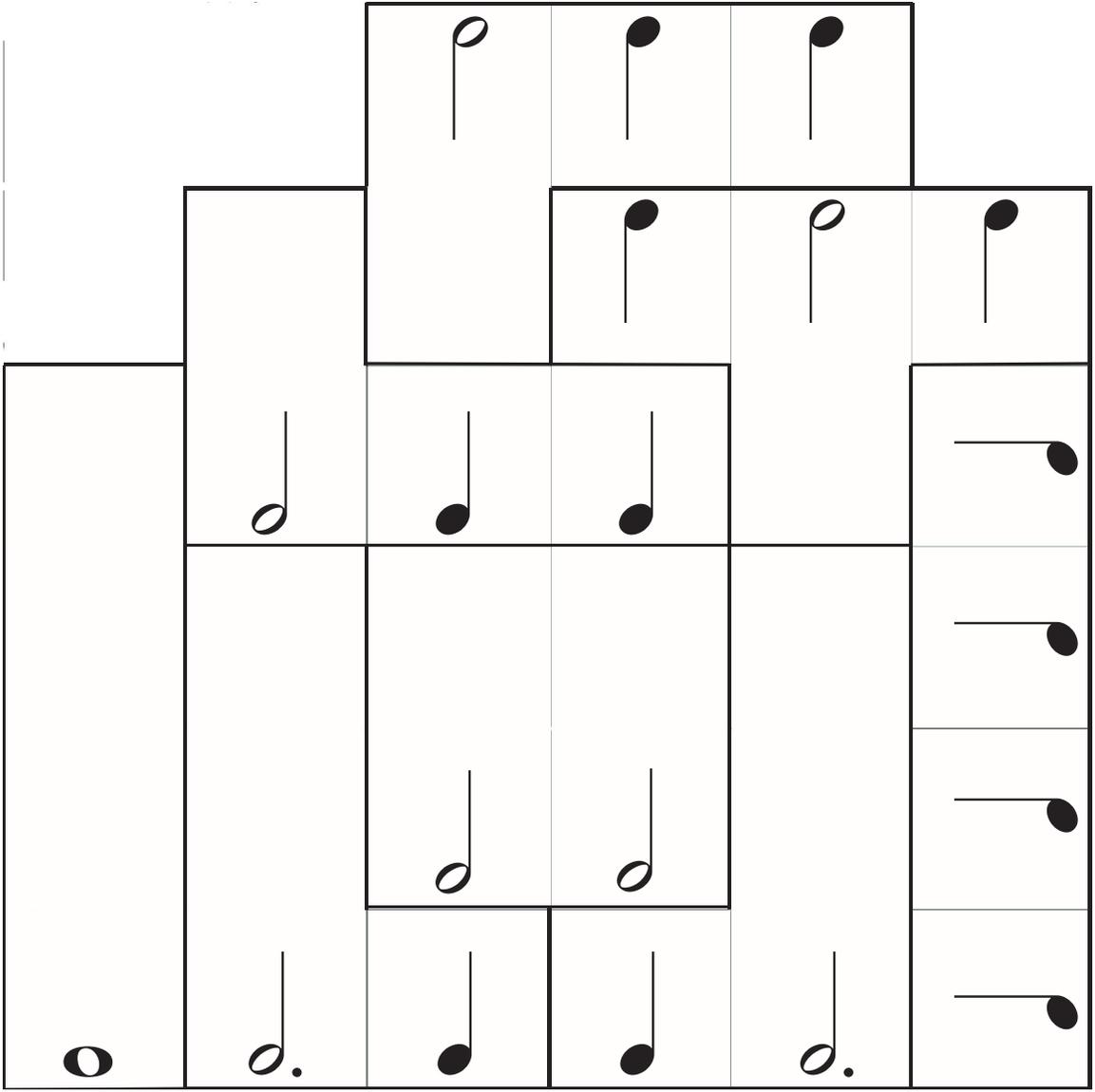


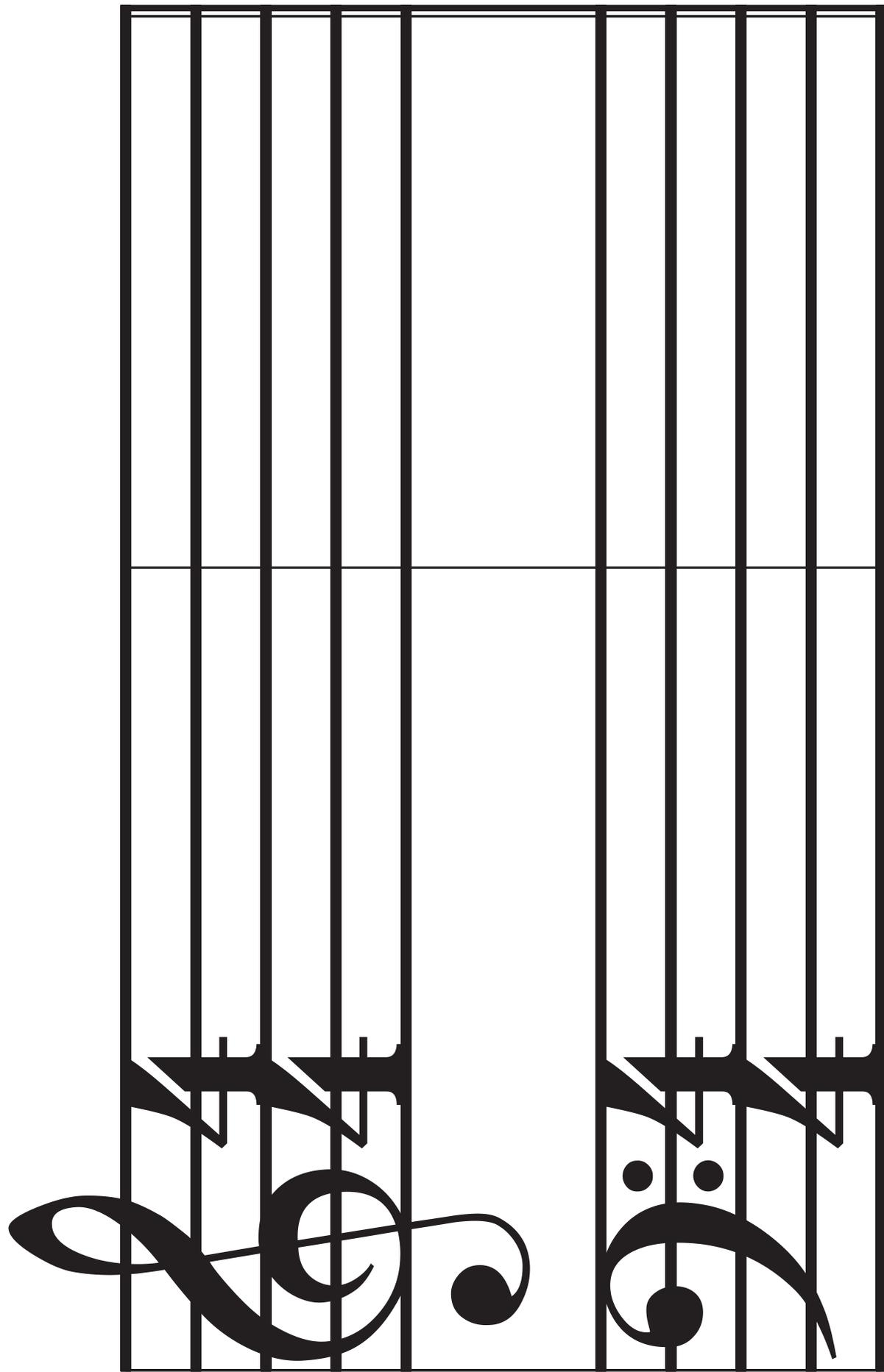
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	





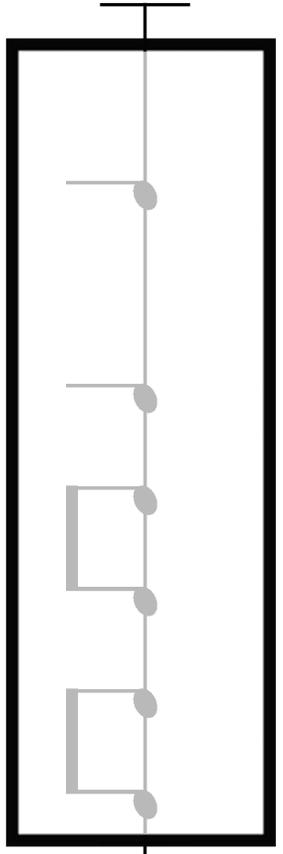
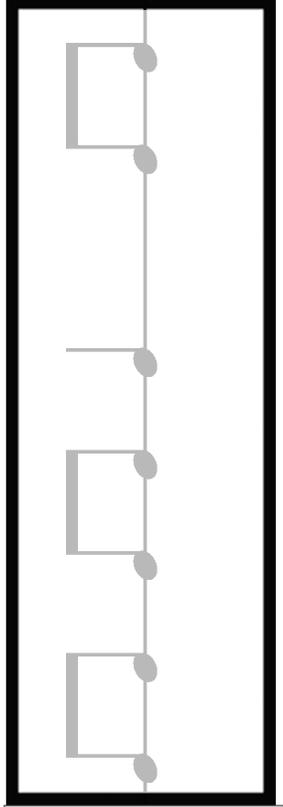




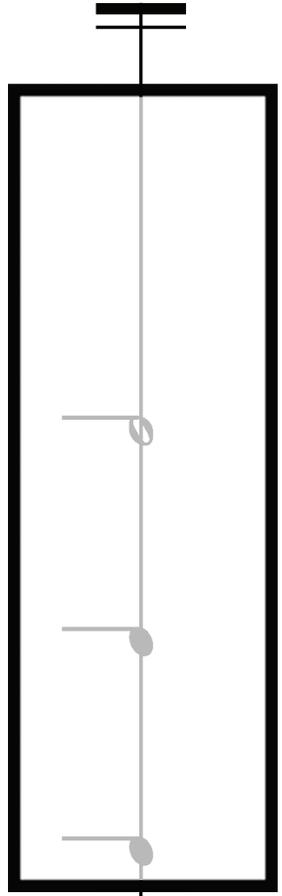
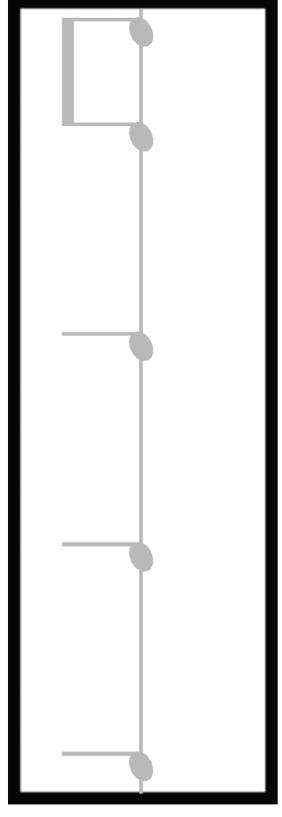
Ring Around the Rosies

Anonymous

Ring - a round the ro - sies, a po - cket full of po - sies.



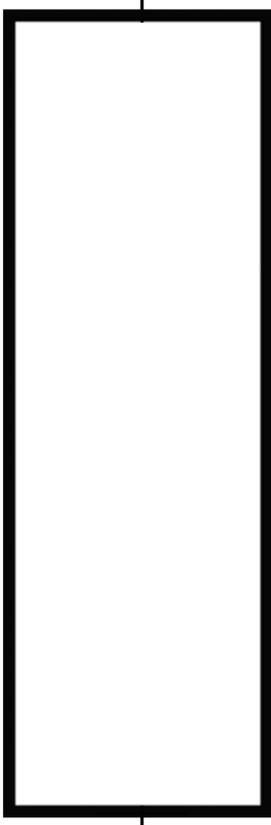
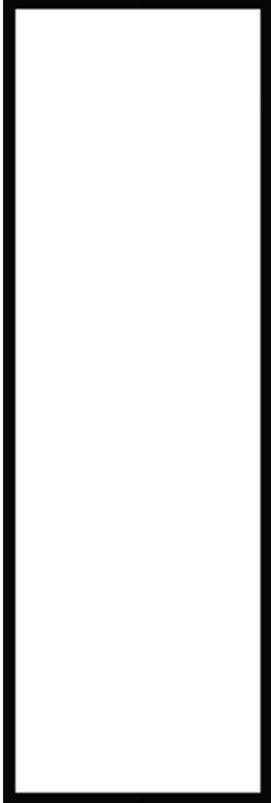
A - shes, A - shes, we all fall down!



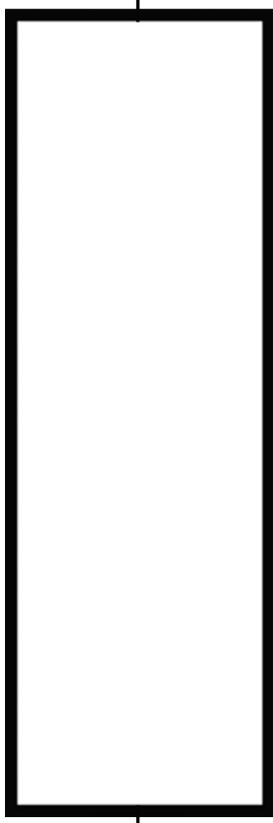
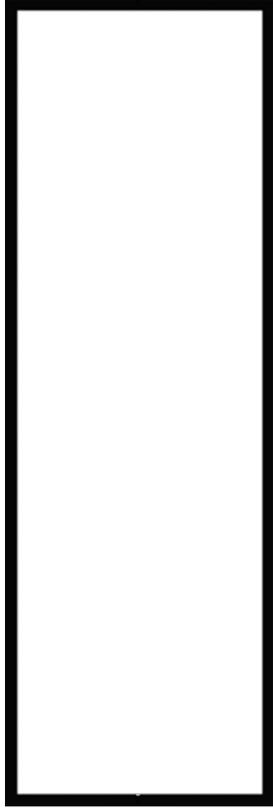
Ring Around the Rosies

Anonymous

Ring - a round the ro - sies, a po - cket full of po - sies.



A - shes, A - shes, we all fall down!



A 4x5 grid of musical notes. The first two rows contain quarter notes with stems pointing up. The first row has solid black note heads, and the second row has hollow white note heads. The last two rows contain quarter notes with stems pointing down, all with solid black note heads.

Twinkle Twinkle little star cards

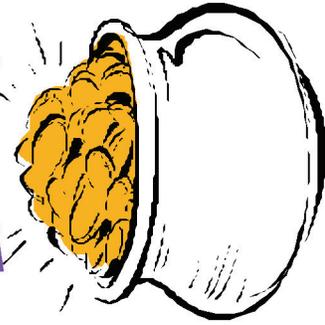
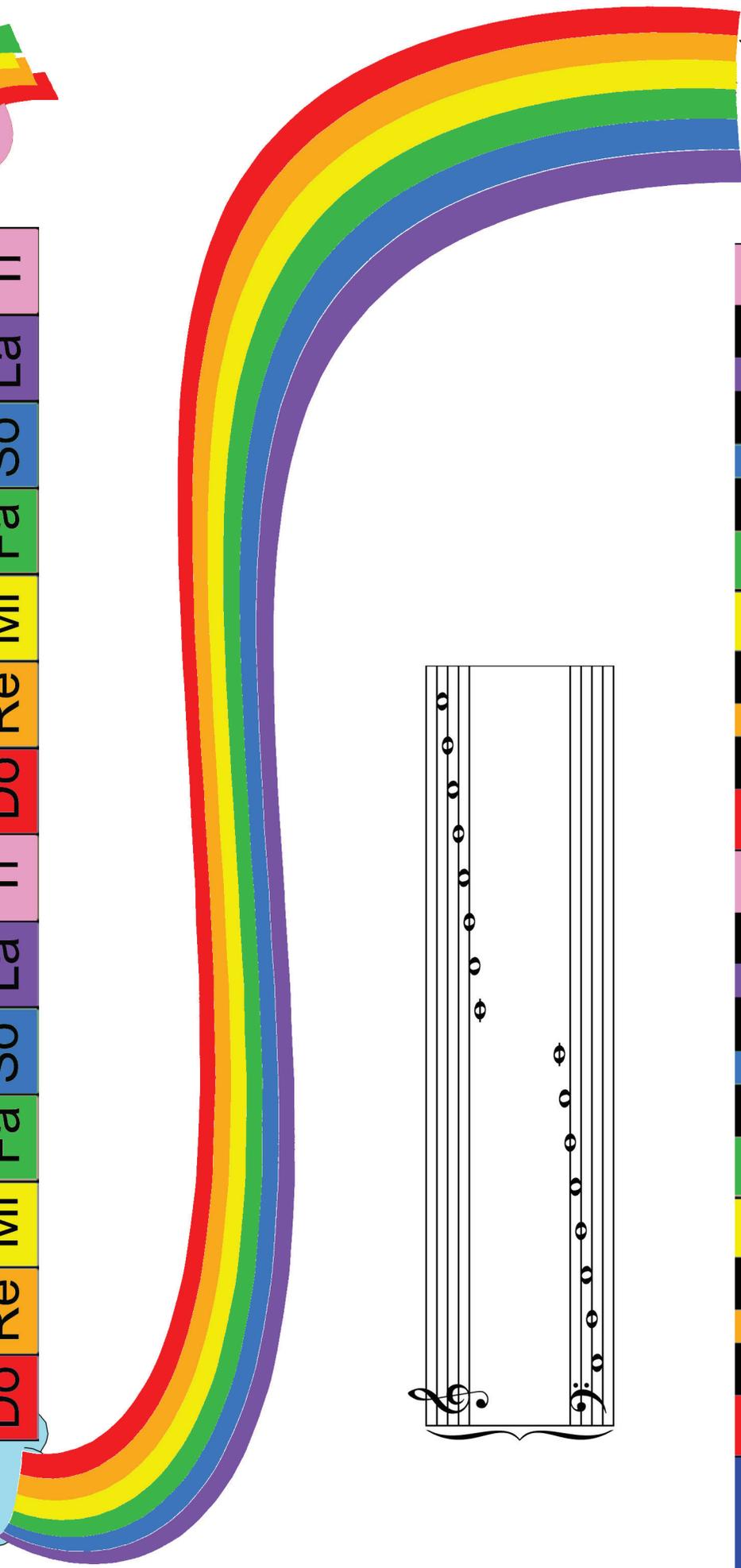
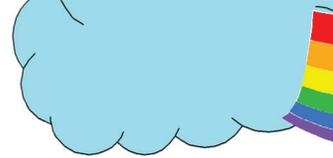
A 2x6 grid of musical notes. The top row contains six quarter notes with stems pointing up and solid black note heads. The bottom row contains six quarter notes with stems pointing down and solid black note heads.

Ring Around the Rosies cards

A 1x6 grid of musical notes. The first four notes are quarter notes with stems pointing down and solid black note heads. The fifth note is a quarter note with a stem pointing down and a hollow white note head. The sixth note is a quarter note with a stem pointing down and a hollow white note head.



Do	Re	Mi	Fa	So	La	Ti	Do	Re	Mi	Fa	So	La	Ti
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----



Start	Do	Re	Mi	Fa	So	La	Ti	Do	Re	Mi	Fa	So	La	Ti
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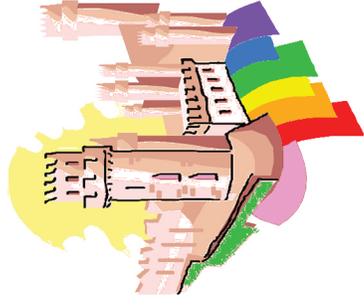
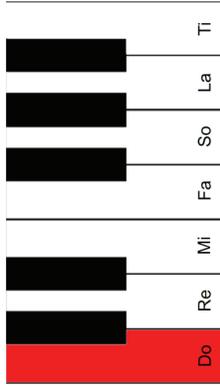
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Rainbow Castle

Tamsyn Spackman

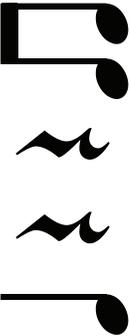
Rain - bow Cas - tle up in the sky. Rain - bow Cas - tle, where I can fly.

I want to go to Rain - bow Cas - tle, Rain - bow Cas - tle, up in the sky.

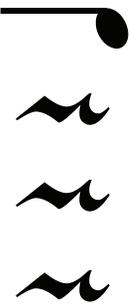




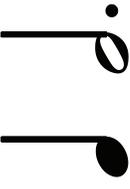
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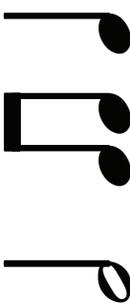
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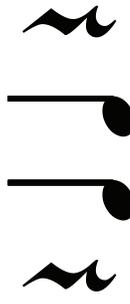
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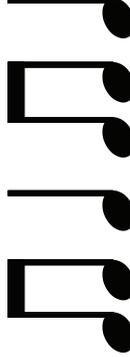
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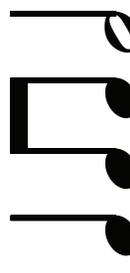
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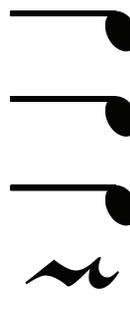
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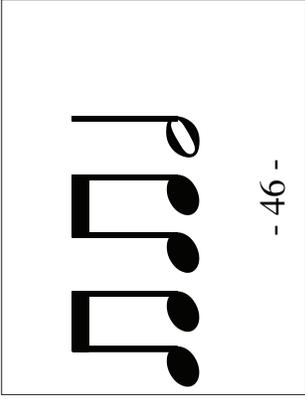
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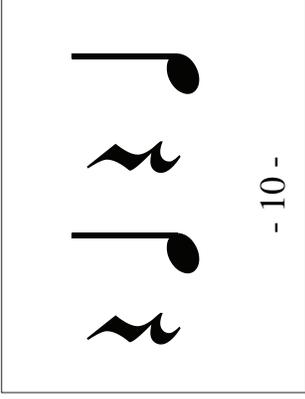
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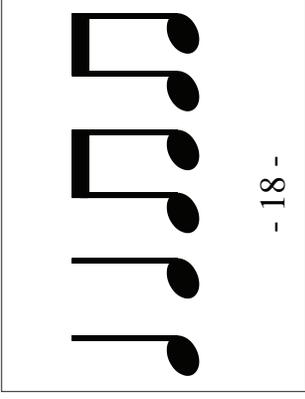
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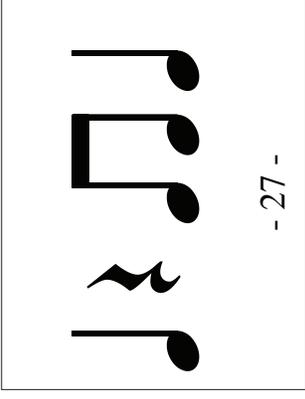
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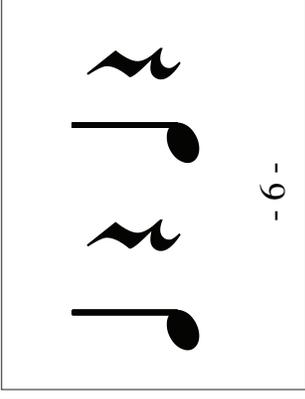
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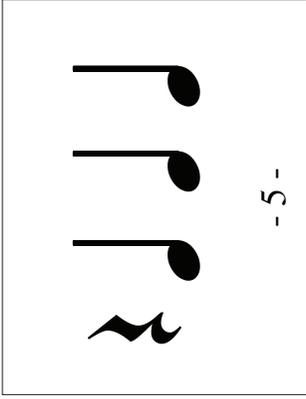
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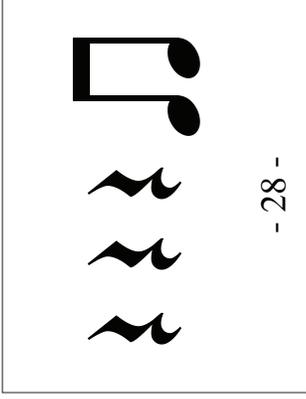
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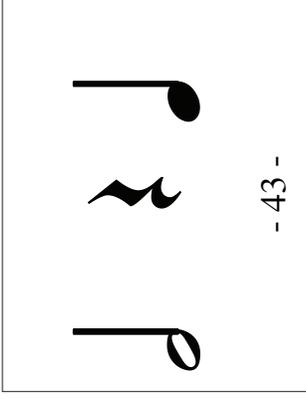
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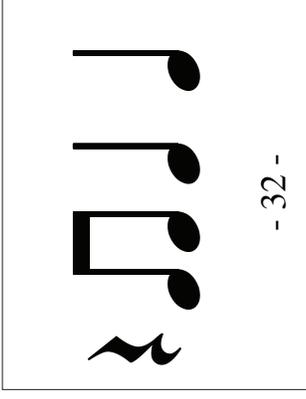
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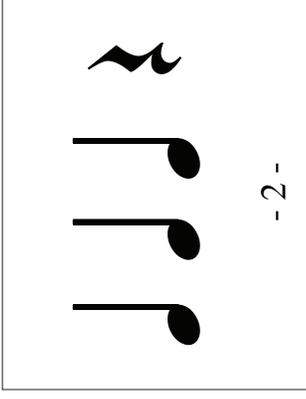
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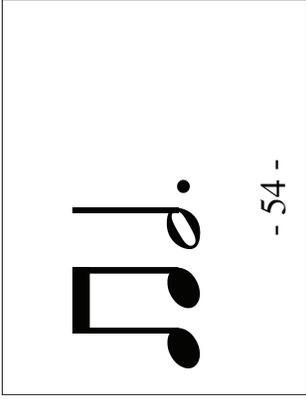
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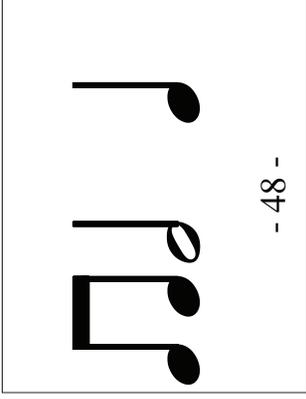
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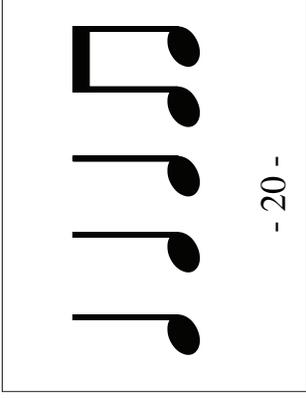
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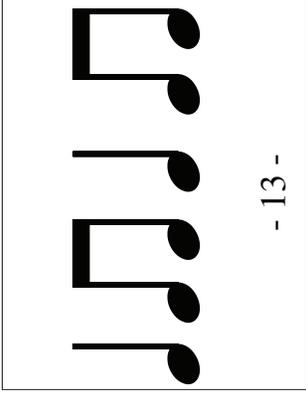
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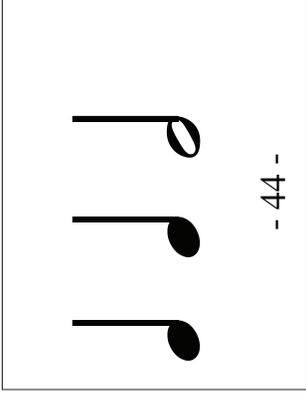
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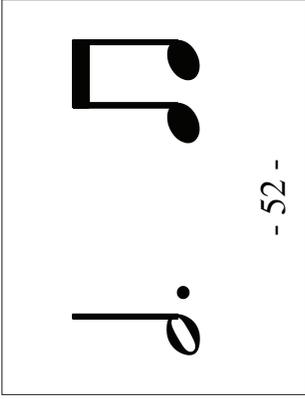
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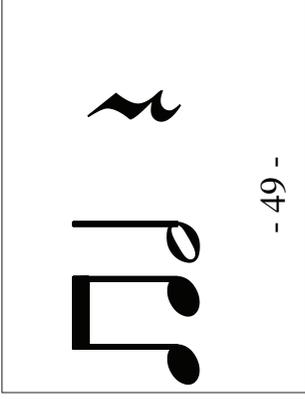
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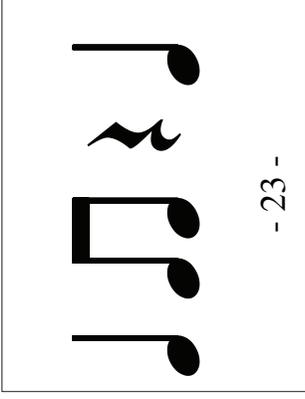
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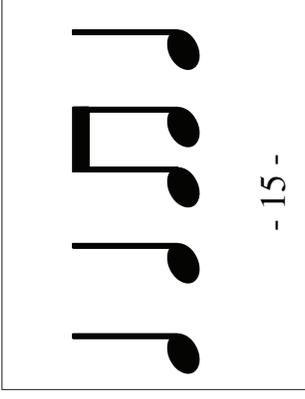
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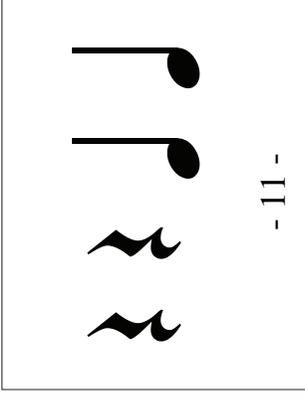
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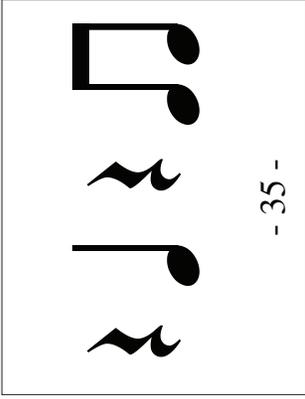
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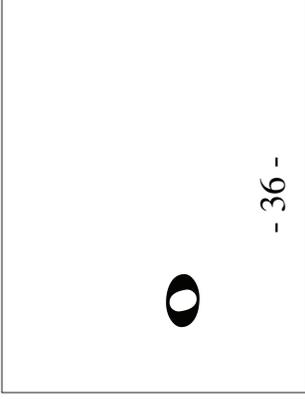
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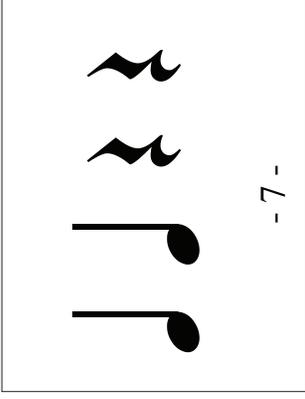
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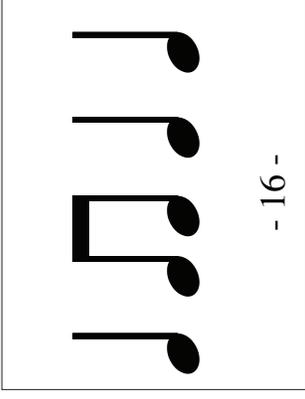
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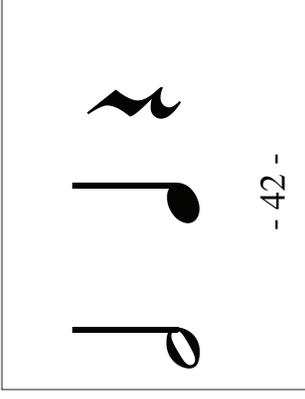
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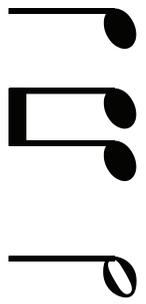
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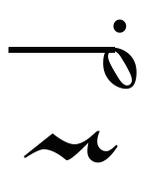
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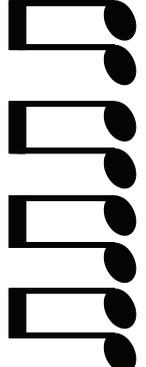
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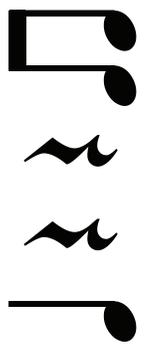
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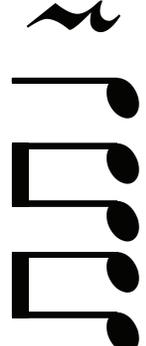
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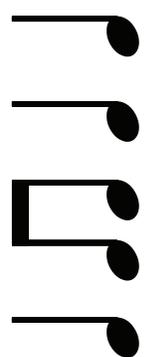
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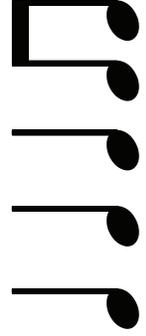
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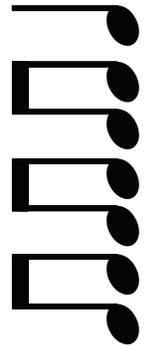
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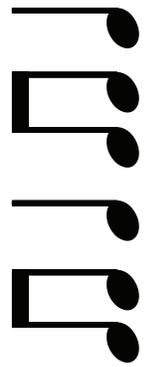
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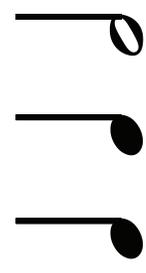
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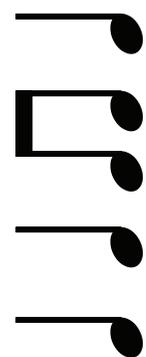
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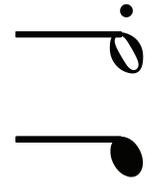
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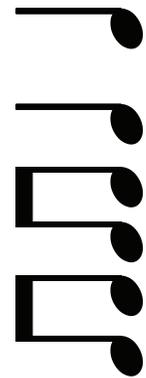
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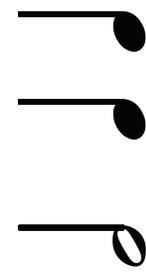
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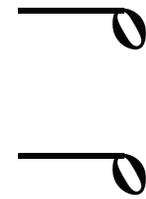
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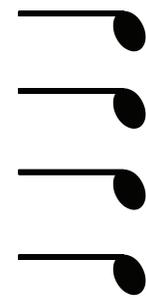
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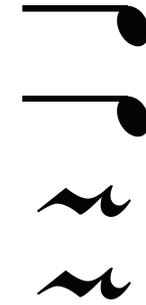
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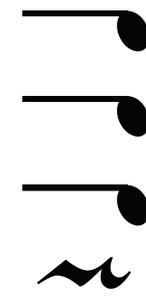
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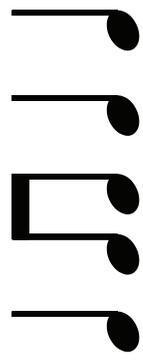
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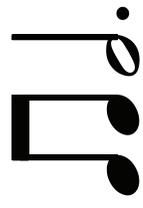
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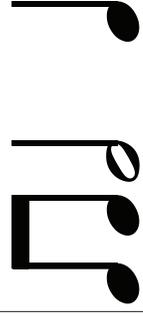
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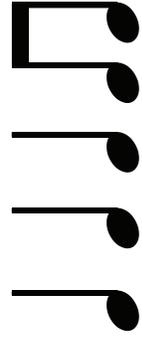
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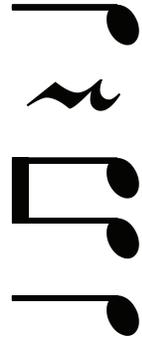
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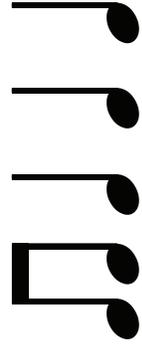
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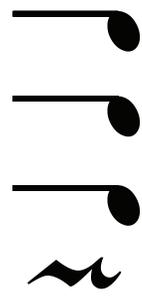
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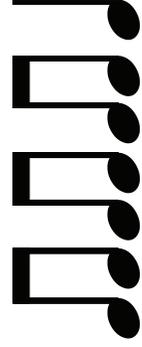
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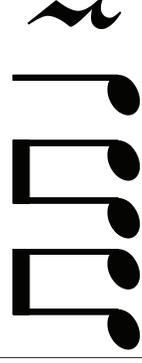
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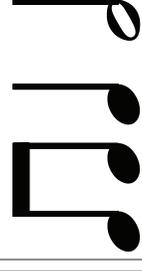
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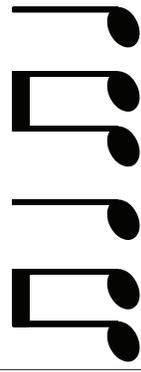
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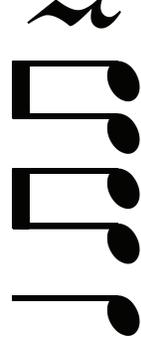
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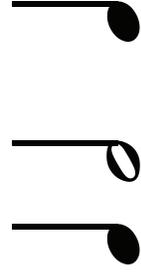
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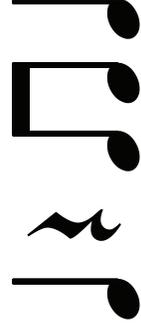
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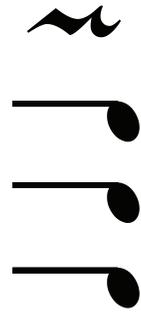
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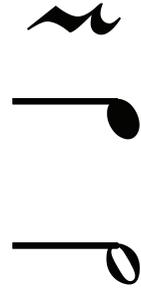
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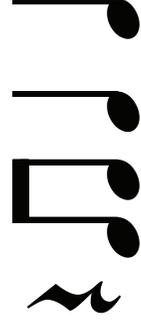
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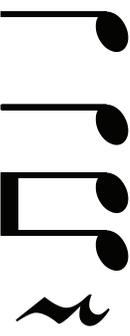
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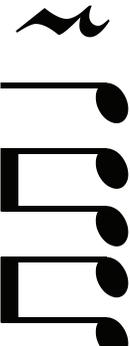
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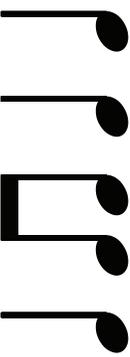
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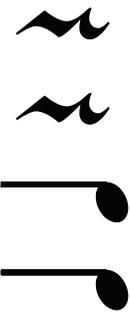
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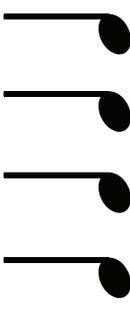
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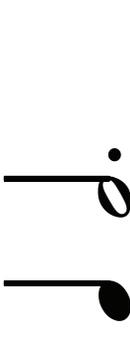
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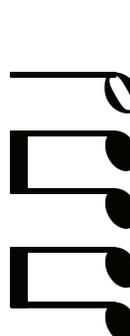
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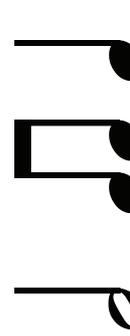
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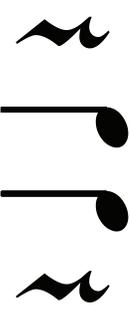
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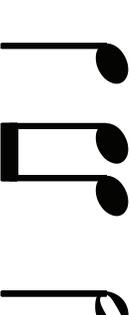
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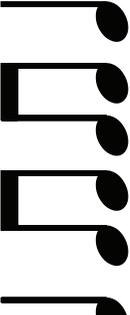
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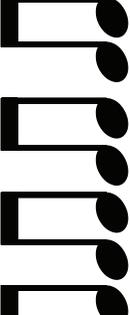
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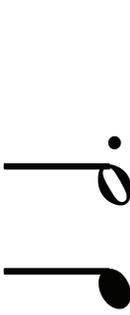
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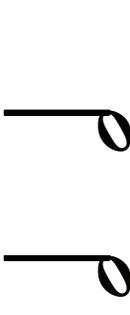
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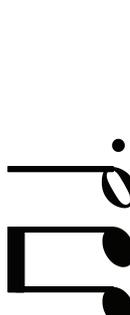
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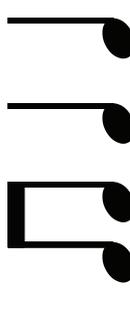
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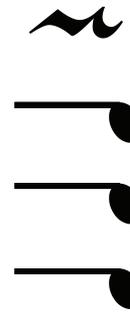
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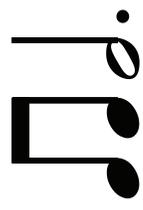
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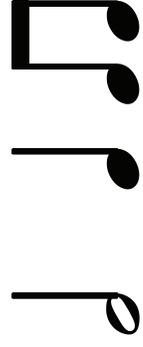
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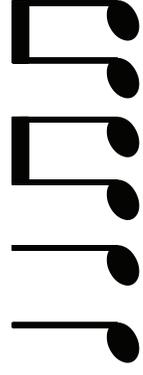
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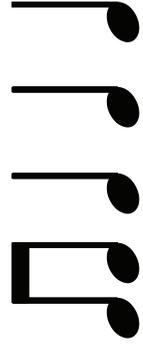
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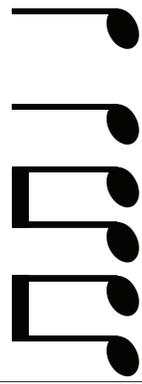
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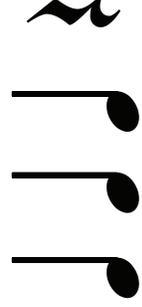
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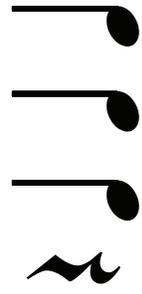
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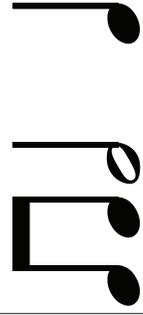
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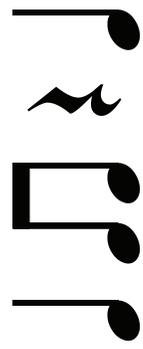
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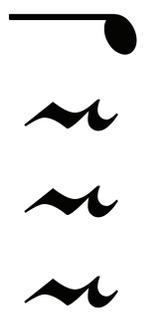
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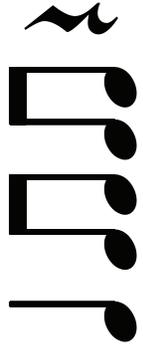
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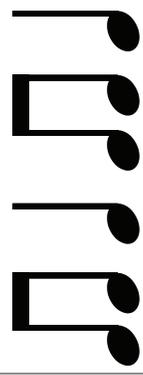
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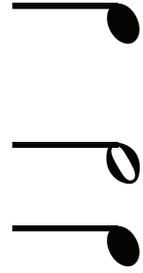
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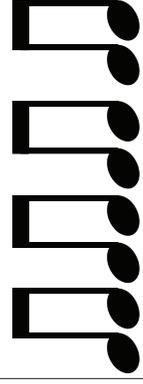
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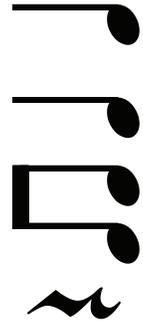
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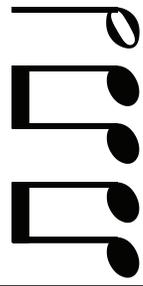
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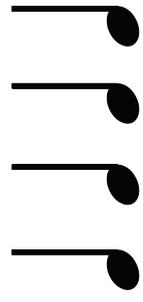
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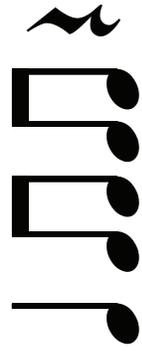
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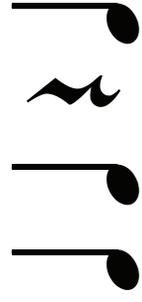
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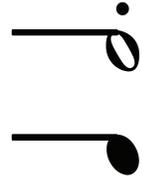
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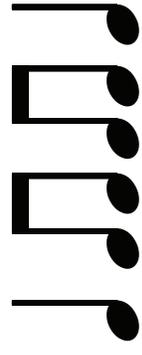
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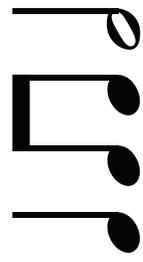
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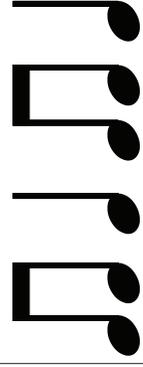
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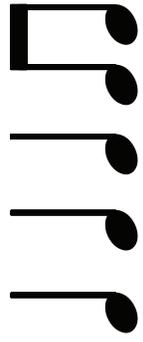
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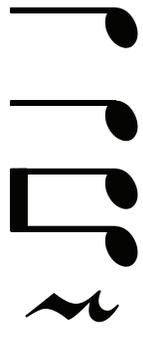
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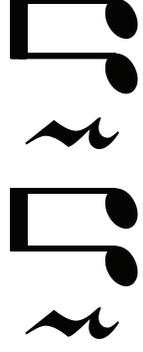
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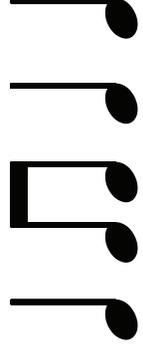
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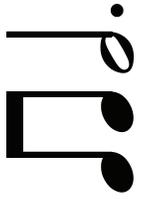
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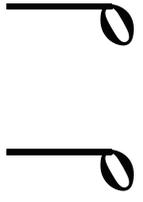
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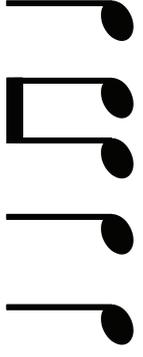
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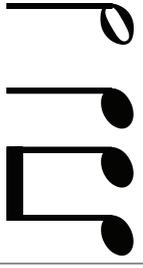
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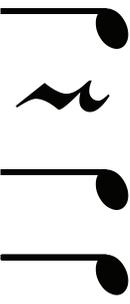
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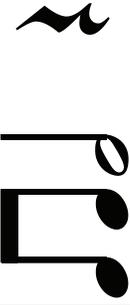
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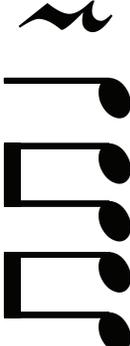
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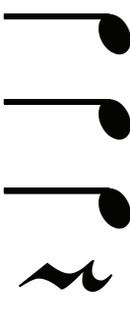
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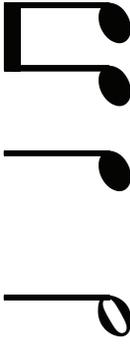
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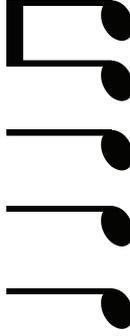
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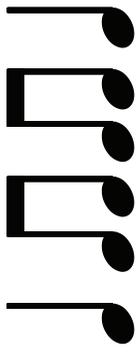
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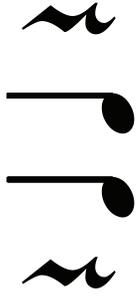
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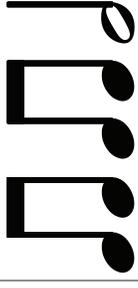
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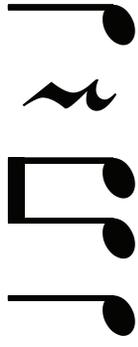
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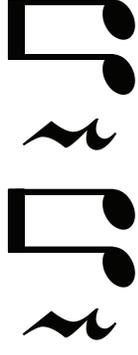
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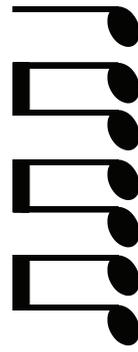
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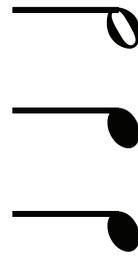
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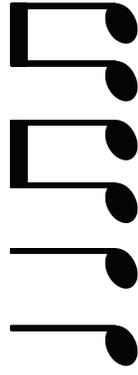
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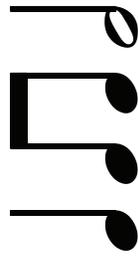
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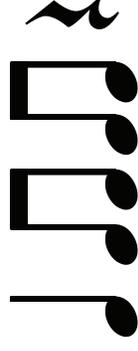
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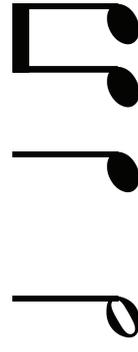
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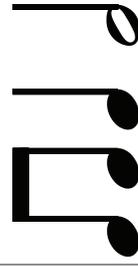
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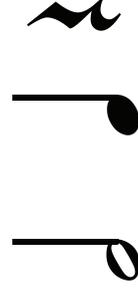
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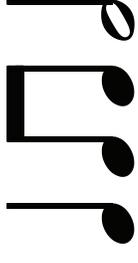
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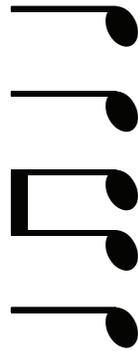
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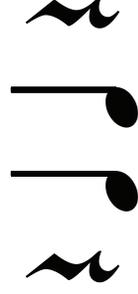
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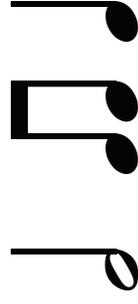
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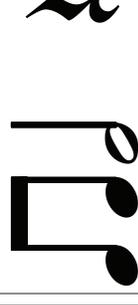
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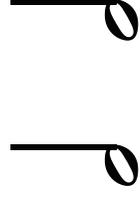
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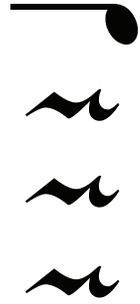
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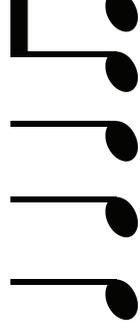
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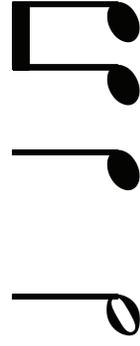
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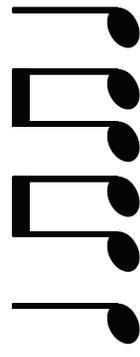
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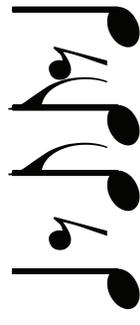
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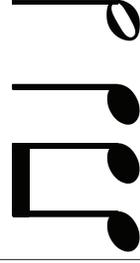
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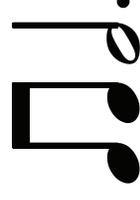
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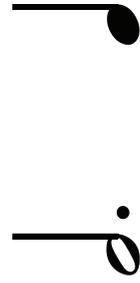
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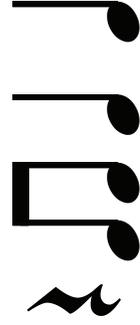
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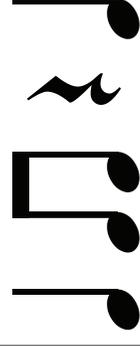
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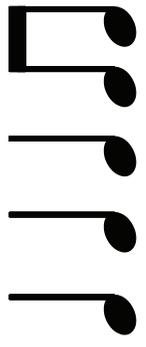
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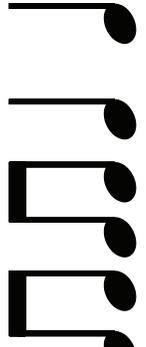
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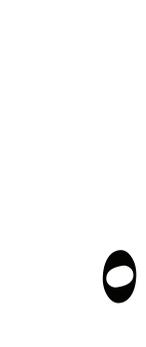
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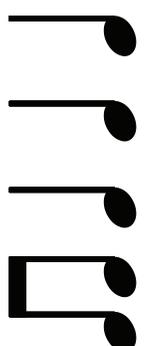
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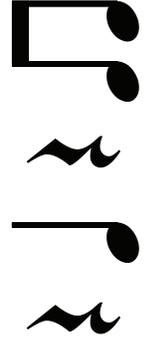
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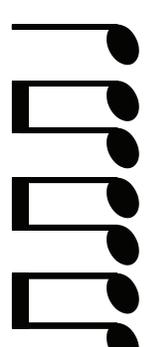
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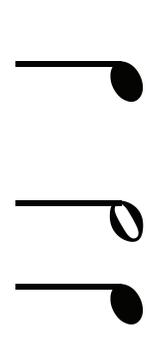
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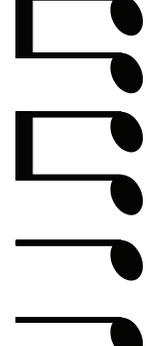
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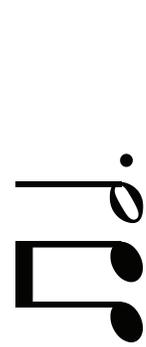
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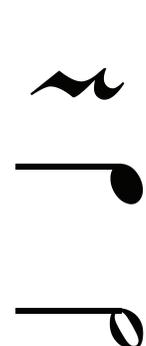
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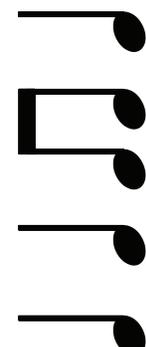
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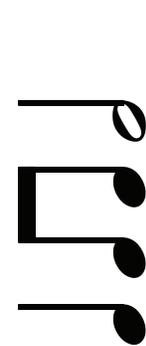
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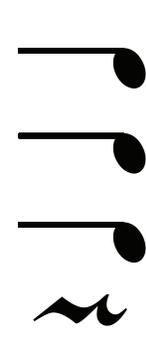
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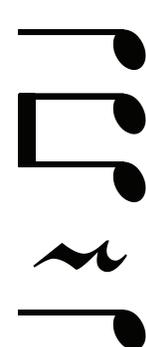
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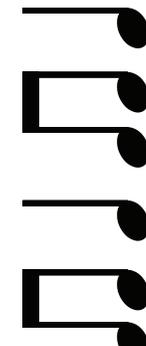
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