



Repeats and Bars

| | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| |] |] |] |] |] |] |
| [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| [1] | [2] | | | | | |

Chord Symbols

| | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| m or min | minor e.g. "Am7" A202 |
| maj | major |
| din | diminished |
| aug or + | augmented |
| sus | sustained |
| 7, 9 ... | 7th, 9th, etc. |

Lyrics

| | |
|---|--|
| - | break between syllables within a word |
| - | last syllable is to be held for an extra note |
| = | one note is skipped |
| - | appears as a space; puts multiple words under note |
| ^ | appears as hyphen; multiple syllables under note |
| | advances to the next bar |

Decorations**Short Forms**

| | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|---------|
| . | Staccato | S | segno |
| ~ | Irish roll/turn | O | coda |
| T | trill | J | slide |
| H | fermata | R | roll |
| L | accent or emphasis | u | upbow |
| M | inverted mordent | v | downbow |
| P | mordent | | |

Dynamics

| | | |
|--------------|--------|------------------------------|
| !crescendo! | or !<! | start of a < crescendo mark |
| !crescendo! | or !<! | end of a < crescendo mark, |
| | | placed after the last note |
| !diminuendo! | or !>! | start of a > diminuendo mark |
| !diminuendo! | or !>! | end of a > diminuendo mark, |
| | | placed after the last note |
| !pppp! | !ppp! | !pp! |
| | !p! | !mp! |
| | !mf! | !f! |
| | !ff! | !fff! |
| | !fff! | !ffff! |
| | !ffff! | !sfz! |

Ornaments

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| !trill! | "tr" trill, also !trill(! and !trill!) |
| !lowermordent! | short squiggle with a line through it |
| !uppermordent! | short squiggle |
| !mordent! | same as !lowermordent! |
| !pralltriller! | same as !uppermordent! |
| !accent! | > mark |
| !>! | same as !accent! |
| !emphasis! | same as !accent! |
| !fermata! | fermata or hold (arc above dot) |
| !invertedfermata! | |
| !tenuto! | horizontal bar |
| !trem1/2/3/4! | tremolo (on 2nd note) |
| !xstem! | stem up to staff above |
| !slide! | !turnx! |
| !invertedturnx! | !arpeggio! |

Text Annotations

| | | | |
|------------|-----------------|--------|---------------|
| "..." | above staff | "..." | below staff |
| "<..." | left of note | ">..." | right of note |
| "@x,y ..." | explicit offset | | |

Fingering & Phrasing

| | |
|----------------|--|
| !0! - !5! | fingerings |
| !plus! | left-hand pizzicato, or rasp for brass |
| !wedge! | small filled-in wedge mark |
| !open! | small circle above note indicating |
| | open string or harmonic |
| !thumb! | cello thumb symbol |
| !snap! | snap-pizzicato mark |
| !turn! | a turn mark |
| !roll! | a roll mark (arc) as used in Irish music |
| !breath! | a breath mark (apostrophe) after note |
| !shortphrase! | vertical line on the upper part of staff |
| !mediumphrase! | same, but extending down to the middle |
| !longphrase! | same, but extending 3/4 of the way down |
| !upbow! | V mark |
| !downbow! | squared n mark |

Repeat/Section Symbols

| | |
|----------|--|
| !segno! | 2 s-like symbols separated by diagonal |
| !coda! | a ring with a cross in it |
| !D.S.! | the letters D.S. (Da Segno) |
| !D.C.! | the letters D.C. (Da Coda or Da Capo) |
| !dacoda! | !dacapo! |
| | !fine! |

Correct Order of Elements

<grace notes><chord symbols><decorations><accidentals>
 <NOTE><octave><note length><tie>

General MIDI Instruments

Specify inline with [I: MIDI=program <n - 1>]

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Acoustic Grand | 22 Accordion |
| 2 Bright Acoustic | 23 Harmonica |
| 3 Electric Grand | 24 Tango Accordion |
| 4 Honky-Tonk | 25 Acoustic Guitar(nylon) |
| 5 Electric Piano 1 | 26 Acoustic Guitar(steel) |
| 6 Electric Piano 2 | 27 Electric Guitar(jazz) |
| 7 Harpsichord | 28 Electric Guitar(clean) |
| 8 Clarinet | 29 Electric Guitar(muted) |
| 9 Celesta | 30 Overdriven Guitar |
| 10 Glockenspiel | 31 Distortion Guitar |
| 11 Music Box | 32 Guitar Harmonics |
| 12 Vibraphone | 33 Acoustic Bass |
| 13 Marimba | 34 Electric Bass (finger) |
| 14 Xylophone | 35 Electric Bass (pick) |
| 15 Tubular Bells | 36 Fretless Bass |
| 16 Dulcimer | 37 Slap Bass 1 |
| 17 Drawbar Organ | 38 Slap Bass 2 |
| 18 Percussive Organ | 39 Synth Bass 1 |
| 19 Rock Organ | 40 Synth Bass 2 |
| 20 Church Organ | 41 Violin |
| 21 Reed Organ | 42 Viola |

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 43 Cello | 86 Lead 6 (voice) |
| 44 Contrabass | 87 Lead 7 (fifths) |
| 45 Tremolo Strings | 88 Lead 8 (bass+lead) |
| 46 Pizzicato Strings | 89 Pad 1 (new age) |
| 47 Harp | 90 Pad 2 (warm) |
| 48 Timpani | 91 Pad 3 (polysynth) |
| 49 String Ensemble 1 | 92 Pad 4 (choir) |
| 50 String Ensemble 2 | 93 Pad 5 (bowed) |
| 51 Synth Strings 1 | 94 Pad 6 (metallic) |
| 52 Synth Strings 2 | 95 Pad 7 (halo) |
| 53 Choir Aahs | 96 Pad 8 (sweep) |
| 54 Voice Oohs | 97 FX 1 (rain) |
| 55 Synth Voice | 98 FX 2 (soundtrack) |
| 56 Orchestra Hit | 99 FX 3 (crystal) |
| 57 Trumpet | 100 FX 4 (atmosphere) |
| 58 Trombone | 101 FX 5 (brightness) |
| 59 Tuba | 102 FX 6 (goblins) |
| 60 Muted Trumpet | 103 FX 7 (echoes) |
| 61 French Horn | 104 FX 8 (sci-fi) |
| 62 Brass Section | 105 Sitar |
| 63 Synth Brass 1 | 106 Banjo |
| 64 Synth Brass 2 | 107 Shamisen |
| 65 Soprano Sax | 108 Koto |
| 66 Alto Sax | 109 Kalimba |
| 67 Tenor Sax | 110 Bagpipe |
| 68 Baritone Sax | 111 Fiddle |
| 69 Oboe | 112 Shanai |
| 70 English Horn | 113 Tinkle Bell |
| 71 Bassoon | 114 Agogo |
| 72 Clarinet | 115 Steel Drums |
| 73 Piccolo | 116 Woodblock |
| 74 Flute | 117 Talko Drum |
| 75 Recorder | 118 Melodic Tom |
| 76 Pan Flute | 119 Synth Drum |
| 77 Blown Bottle | 120 Reverse Cymbal |
| 78 Skakuhachi | 121 Guitar Fret Noise |
| 79 Whistle | 122 Breath Noise |
| 80 Ocarina | 123 Seashore |
| 81 Lead 1 (square) | 124 Bird Tweet |
| 82 Lead 2 (sawtooth) | 125 Telephone Ring |
| 83 Lead 3 (calliope) | 126 Helicopter |
| 84 Lead 4 (chiff) | 127 Applause |
| 85 Lead 5 (charang) | 128 Gunshot |

Accented Characters etc.

| Accent | Examples | Encodings |
|-----------------|----------|----------------------|
| grave | À à Ò ò | \A \a \O \o |
| acute | Á á Ó ó | \A \a \O \o |
| circumflex | Â â Ô ô | \A \a \O \o |
| tilde | Ã ã Õ õ | \A \a \O \o |
| umlaut | Ä ä Ö ö | \A \a \O \o |
| cedilla | Ç ç | \C \c |
| ring | Å å | \O \o |
| slash | Ø ø | \O \o |
| breve | Ă ă Ȫ ȫ | \uA \uA \uE \uE |
| caron | Š š Ž ž | \uS \uS \uZ \uZ |
| double acute | Ő ő Ű ű | \uO \uO \uU \uU |
| ligatures | ß Æ æ | \ss \AE \ae \oe |
| copyright | © | \copy; or \u0022 |
| sharp/nat./flat | # ♯ ♭ | \u266f \u266e \u266d |

ABC Quick Reference Card

Version 0.6 - ABC v2.1 & some abcm2ps v6 - Steve Merrony

Information & Headers

```
%abc %abc-2.1 - First Line of file
B:book
C:composer
D:discography
F:file URL
G:group G:flute
H:history
I:instruction
K:key [clef] [middle=x] K:G, K:AMix - Last Header*
L:note unit length L:1/8
M:metre M:4/4
m:macro m: -n2 = (3o/n/m/ n
N:notes
O:origin
P:parts P:A, P:ABAC, P:(A2B)3
Q:tempo Q:"allegro" 1/4=120
R:rhythm R:R, R:reel
r:remark
S:source
s:symbol line s: fpp! ** !ff!
T:title T:
U:user defined U: T = !trill!
V:voice V:4 clef=bass**
W:words W: Lyrics after tune
w:words w: Lyrics inline
X:reference number X:
Z:transcriber Z: First Header
Also put copyright info here
```

* Clefs

```
treble Treble (default)
treble-8 Treble 8ve below eg. tenors
treble+8 Treble 8ve above eg. piccolo
bass Bass
bass3 Baritone
alto4 Tenor
alto Alto
alto2 Mezzosoprano
alto1 Soprano
perc No clef
perc Percussion
```

** Voices

```
The voice name is a digit or a word followed by:
clef= clef of the voice
perc= percussion staff
name=xxx name at the left of the first staff
sname=xxx name that appears left of later staves
merge indicates that this voice belongs to
the same staff as the previous voice
up or down forces the note stem direction
gstem=up/down/auto forces the grace note stem direction
stem=up/down/auto forces the note stem direction
dyn=up/down/auto forces the placement of dynamic marks
lyrics=up/down/auto forces the placement of the lyrics
middle=<note> specify name of note on middle line
staffscale=n sets the scale of the associated staff
stafflines=n sets the number of lines of the staff
```

Extended Information Fields

```
%abc-creator mxm12abc-0.6
%abc-version 2.0 % use for pre-2.1 ABC
%abc-charset iso-8859-1 % default is UTF-8
%abc-include mydefs.abb
```

Formatting

Page Format

```
%pageheight <length> %rightrightmargin <length>
%pagewidth <length> %indent <length>
%topmargin <length> %landscape <logical>
%bottommargin <length> %staffwidth <length>
%leftmargin <length>
```

Fonts (Most take a font name and size as parameters)

```
%titlefont %measurefont
%subttitlefont %repeatfont
%composerfont %textfont
%partfont %voicefont % w:
%tempofont %vocalfont % M:
%chordfont %wordfont % M:
%headerfont
%historyfont The specifiers $1, $2, $3 and
%footfont $4 can be used to change the
%annotationfont font within an ABC_string
%infofont %setfont-1/2/3/4 <ft> <sz>
```

Spacing

```
%topspace <length> %titlecaps <logical>
%titlespace <length> %subtitlespace <length>
%titlesleft <logical> %composerspace <length>
%aligncomposer <integer> % -1 left, 0 centre, 1 right
%musicspace <length> % between comp. & 1st staff
%partspace <length> %wordspace <length>
%vocalspace <length> %textspace <length>
%infospace <length> % between systems
%staffsep <length> % between staves
%sysstaffsep <integer>
%barsperstaff <integer> % space between parts
%parskipfac <number> % space between lines of text
%lineskipfac <logical> % stretchlast <logical>
%stretchstaff <number> % shrinking notes
%maxshrink <integer> % splittime <logical>
%maxstaffsep <length>
%maxsysstaffsep <length>
%newpage
%scale <number> % scale EVERYTHING
%staves eg. [(SA) (TB)] for short score
%vksip <length>
```

Measures/Bars

```
%measurefirst <integer> % number of 1st measure
%barnumbers <integer> % numbers every n bars
%measurenb <integer> % same as %barnumbers
%measurebox <logical>
%setbarnb <integer> % set measure #
%contbarnb <logical> % repeat numbering
%alignbars <integer> % align bars for next n lines
```

Text

```
%text <ABC String> %endtext
%textoption <string> %sep [# # #]
%center <ABC String> %header
%begintext %footer
```

Misc

```
%autoclef <logical>
%begins - %ends <logical>
%stemdown <logical>
%comball <logical>
%combinevoices <logical>
%dateformat <string>
%encoding <integer> % 0 - 6 for ISO-Latin-n
%EPS <string> % include external EPS file
%exprabove <logical>
%exprbelow <logical>
%flatbeams <logical>
%freechord <logical> % print '#', 'b' and '=' stet
%gchordbox <logical>
%graceslurs <logical>
%hyphencont <logical>
%infoline <logical> % rhythm & origin on same line
%linebreak $ or ! or <EOL> or <none>
%musiconly <logical> % don't output lyrics
%noneperpage <logical>
%partbox <logical>
%postscript <string>
%printparts <logical> % P:
%printtempo <logical>
%sep <length> <length> <length> % separator
%shiftnotison <logical>
%squarebreve <logical>
%stlurheight <float> % <1.0 to flatten
%staff <number> % use nth staff
%staffnonote <logical> % don't show empty staves
%stemheight <float>
%straightflags <logical>
%timewarn <logical> % cautionary time sigs
%tuplets <integer> <integer> <integer>
%vocalabove <logical>
%withxrefs <logical> % print X: index in title
%writefields <list of field identifiers> [logical]
%writehistory <logical>
```

Notes

```
C,, C, C (middle-C) c c' c''
^ sharp
^^ double sharp { ) slur
= natural .( ) dotted slur
- flat - ) tie below
Z double flat {/g} grace note
Z bar's rest {3} 3 notes in time of 2
x invisible rest {p;q:r} p notes in time of q
X invisible bar rest for next r notes
y spacer [ceg] chord
- tie & overlay temp voice
```

Symbol

Meaning

000