

Notes on the Staff

Below you will see how to relate the natural notes (no sharps or flats) of the musical staff to the mandolin in first position.

The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. The notes are G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A. Below the staff is a mandolin fretboard with frets 0, 2, 4, 5, 0, 2, 3, 5, 0, 1, 3, 5. The notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A are written below the fretboard.

You might notice that the note names begin to repeat after every seven letters:

A B C D E F G A

Sometimes these notes are accompanied by a # (sharp) or a b (flat) symbol, indicating you should raise or lower the note, respectively, by a half step.

The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. The notes are F, F#, E, Eb. Below the staff is a mandolin fretboard with frets 3, 4, 5, 4. The notes F, F#, E, Eb are written below the fretboard.

After adding all of the natural notes and the sharp/flat notes, we get 12 total in our musical alphabet:

A A# B C C# D D# E F F# G G# A

or

A Bb B C Db D Eb E F Gb G Ab A

Notice the notes with arrows between them:

A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
	↑			↑		↑			↑		↑	
A	Bb	B	C	Db	D	Eb	E	F	Gb	G	Ab	A

These are called "enharmonic tones." That is simply a term that means that these notes sound the same, even though they can be spelled two different ways.

Rhythmic Durations

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 1 - 2 3 - 4 1 2 3 4 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and