



Introducing Figurenotes

FIGURENOTES



www.figurenotes.org



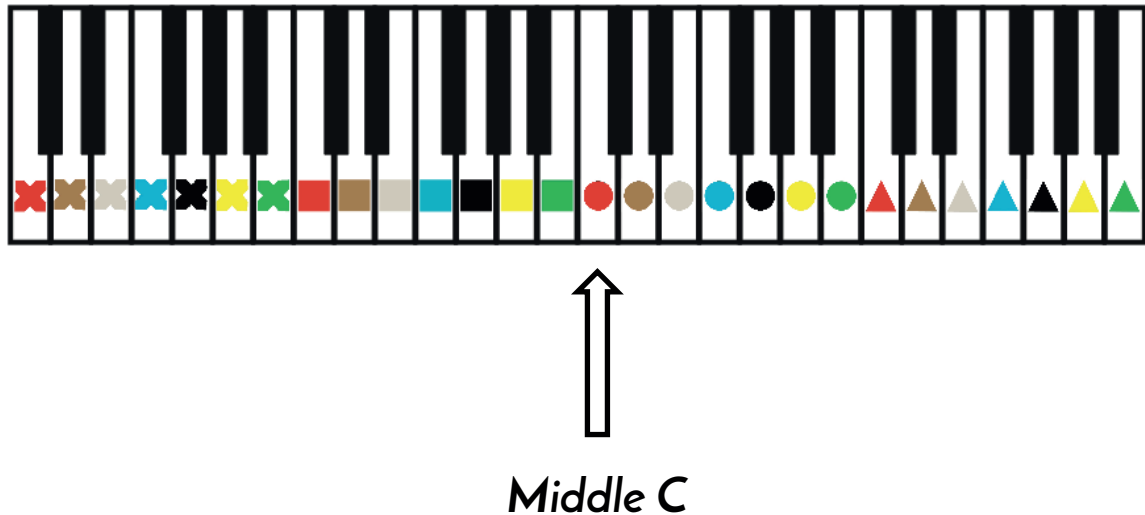
These Figurenotes resources are brought to you by Drake Music Scotland.

Take a look at their work at www.DrakeMusicScotland.org

Charity number: SC026908

The Basics

Figurenotes is a form of notation that uses shape and colour to show rhythm and pitch.



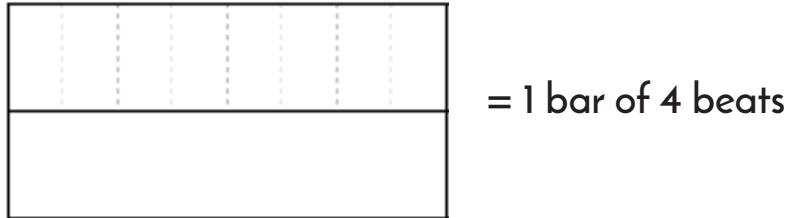
*Each note has a colour, each octave has a shape.
The colours repeat for each octave.*



*This Finnish education tool takes you through 3 stages to get to conventional notation. This allows you to play and progress on your instrument and build your reading skills at your own pace. Invented in 1996 at Resonaari, a music school for people with disabilities, Figurenotes has been further developed by Drake Music Scotland since 2010.
Extremely adaptable, truly inclusive, and fun!*

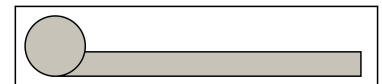
Rhythm

Music is divided into boxes, just like bars. Each bar is the same size.
 The notes take up a portion of the bar.

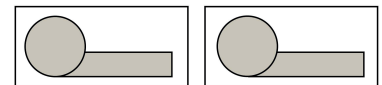


The note is as long as it looks.

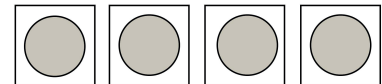
1 x 4 beat note (semibreve)



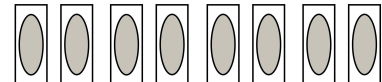
2 x 2 beat notes (minims)



4 x 1 beat notes (crotchets)



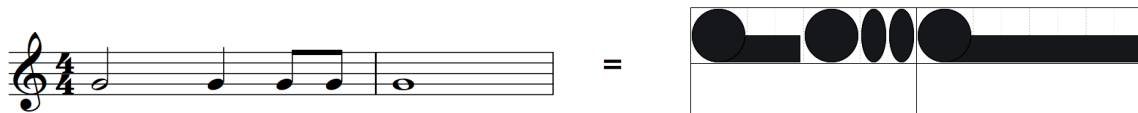
8 x 1/2 beat notes (quavers)



Rest are indicated by empty boxes or gaps.



Conventional Notation Rhythm vs Figurenotes Rhythm:



Progression

Work through 3 simple stages to reach conventional notation.
 Musicians reading at any stage can play together.

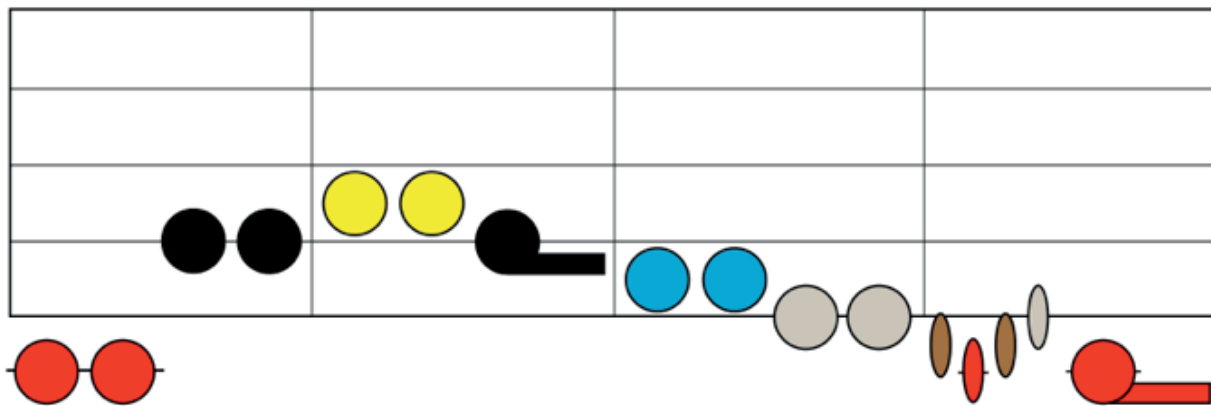
Stage 1

Figurenotes notation



Stage 2

Now put it on a staff



Stage 3

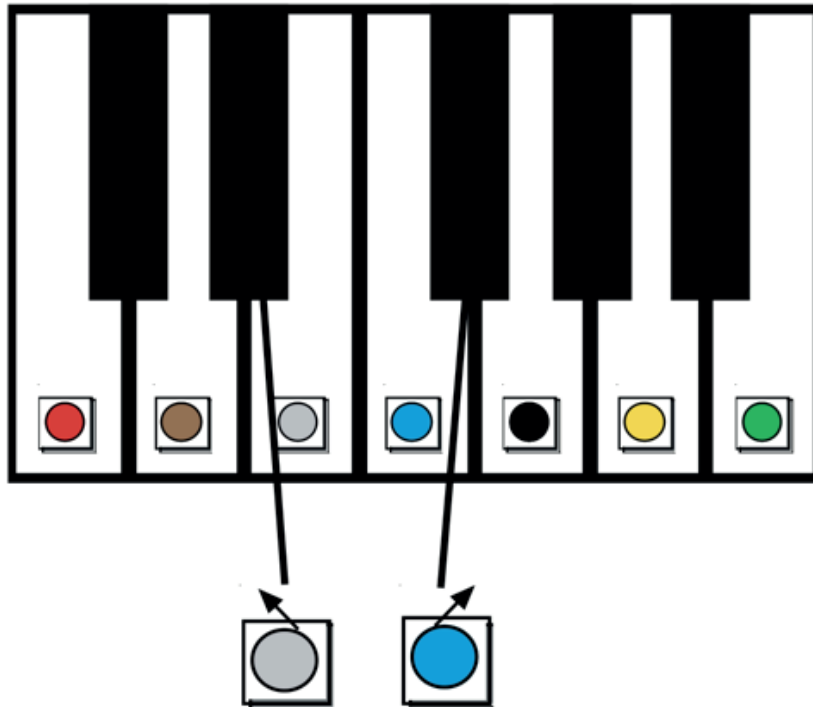
Coloured note-heads



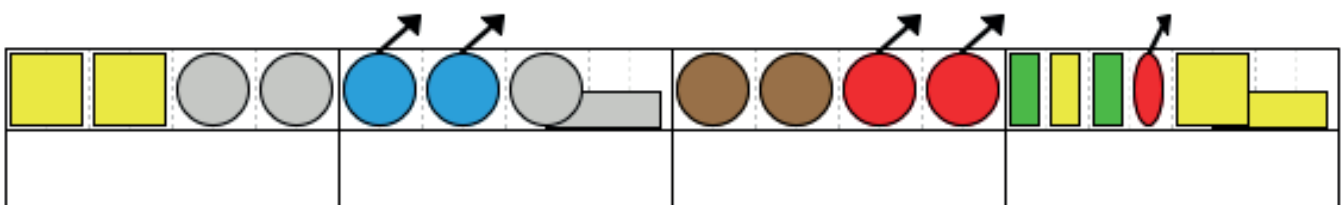
Then take the colours away and you are reading conventional notation.

Sharps and Flats

To play sharps and flats on stickered instruments, move your hand in the direction of the arrow.

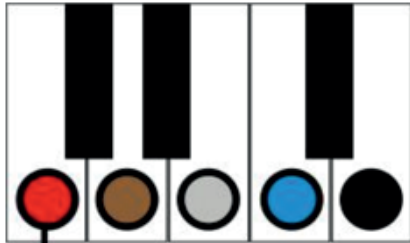


Match the Figurenotes shape and move your hand in the direction of the arrow.
 This gives a literal interpretation of an abstract concept.
 This also makes music theory much easier to grasp later on in your learning.



Chords

Chords are explained very easily using the keyboard.



Step 1

Play the colour of the chord box.
 You might play single notes for a while,
 then progress to more notes when ready.



Step 2

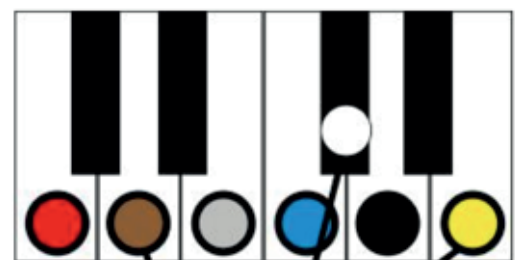
Play the colour and a friend.
 A friend is not a neighbour.
 Stay playing 2 notes as long as you like
 before progressing.



Step 3

Add another friend, not a neighbour.
 Now you are playing a full triad.

If your chord contains sharps or flats,
 these are shown in the chord box.



What to do next

For more information, visit:

www.figurenotes.org

Get inspired by our Figurenews blog:

www.figurenotes.org/figurenews

On Facebook? Like our Figurenotes page

www.facebook.com/figurenotes

or join the conversation in our Facebook group:

'Figurenotes - Let's Make Music'

We're also on Twitter:

[@figurenotes](https://twitter.com/figurenotes)

Access even more resources on our Figurenotes Resource Base.

Here you can download editable versions of the BBC Ten Pieces resources, so you can tailor them to suit your pupils' needs.

If you'd like to stay up to date with training dates and resources, join our mailing list by signing up on our website.

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