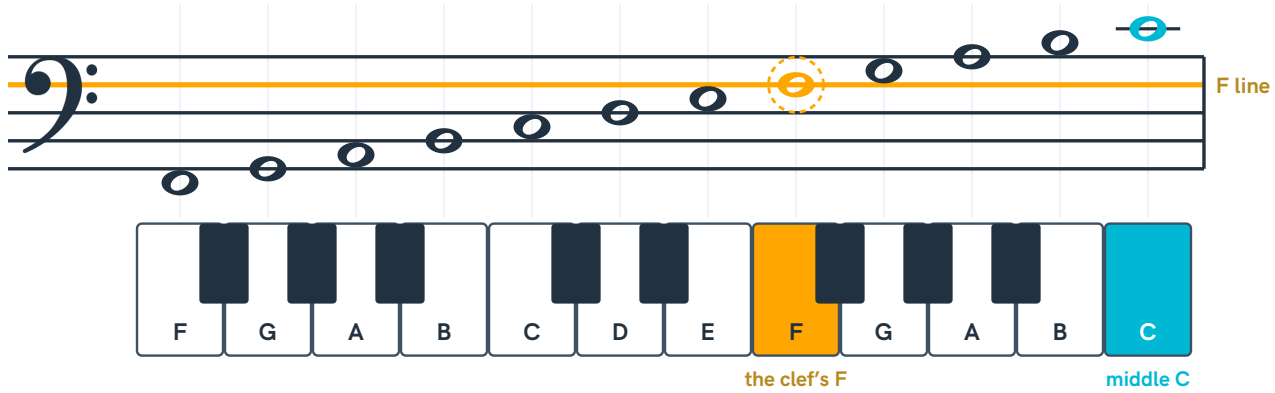
The Bass Clef & the Grand Staff

The **bass staff** holds the lower notes, usually played by the **left hand**. It works just like the treble staff (Handout 351), but its **clef** names a different line.

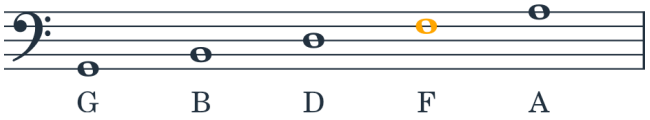
THE BASS CLEF NAMES A LINE: F



The bass clef is also called the **F clef**. Its two dots sit on either side of **line 4** and make that line **F**: the first F below middle C. Say the alphabet from F to name the rest. Up the staff: G, A, B, then **middle C** on a ledger line. Down the staff: E, D, C, B, A, and G on the bottom line.

TWO MEMORY TRICKS

The lines bottom to top



Good **B**oys **D**o **F**ine **A**lways

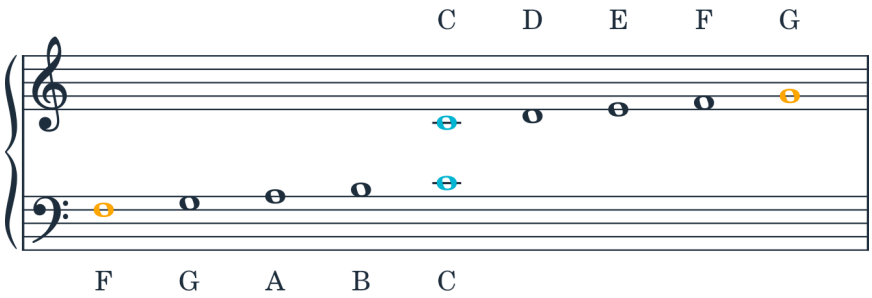
The spaces bottom to top

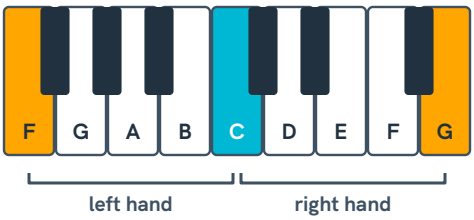


All **C**ows **E**at **G**rass

Careful: the same spot has a different name on each staff. The bottom line is G on the bass staff, but E on the treble staff.

THE GRAND STAFF: THE STAVES MEET AT MIDDLE C





The same nine keys: **F** to **G**, with middle C in the middle.

A **brace** joins the treble staff (top) and the bass staff (bottom) into the **grand staff**, the staff of piano music. The staves meet at **middle C**: the bass staff reaches up to it on a ledger line, the treble staff reaches down to it on a ledger line, and both mean the same key (Handout 57). The left hand usually reads the bass staff and the right hand the treble, but a staff shows how high a note sounds, not which hand plays it (Handout 336). The Note Reading Chart maps the whole grand staff.

Try it Play the five line notes of the bass staff from the bottom up, saying **G B D F A**, then the four space notes, **A C E G**. Then play up the grand staff above: left hand **F G A B C**, right hand **C D E F G**, thumbs sharing middle C, naming each note. Practice: **Exercise 02** (the bass staff), **Exercise 03** (the grand staff) and **Exercise 23** (across middle C).

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