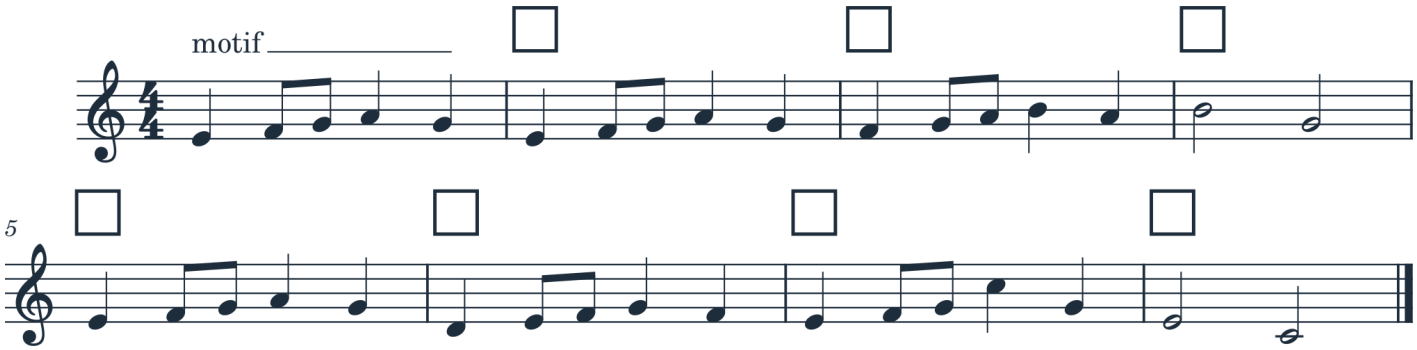
Find the motif and the sequence

Each tune grows from one short **motif**. Compare every later piece of the tune with the motif and write in its box how the motif came back. (Handout 355.)

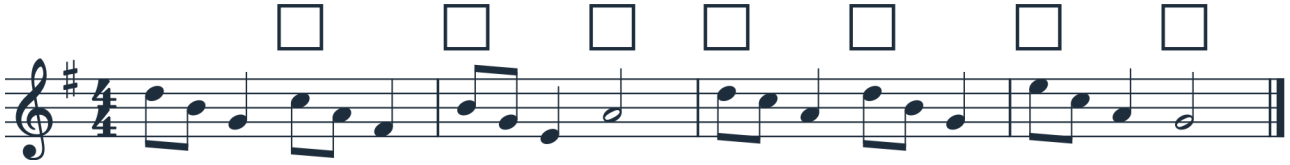
LISTEN
Scan to hear each phrase
tissimo.co/worksheets/find-the-motif

R Repeat the **same notes**, the same rhythm	**S↑** **S↓** Sequence the **same shape** right away, starting **higher** or **lower**	**V** Varied the same rhythm, but **some steps changed**	**N** New **not the motif**: new music

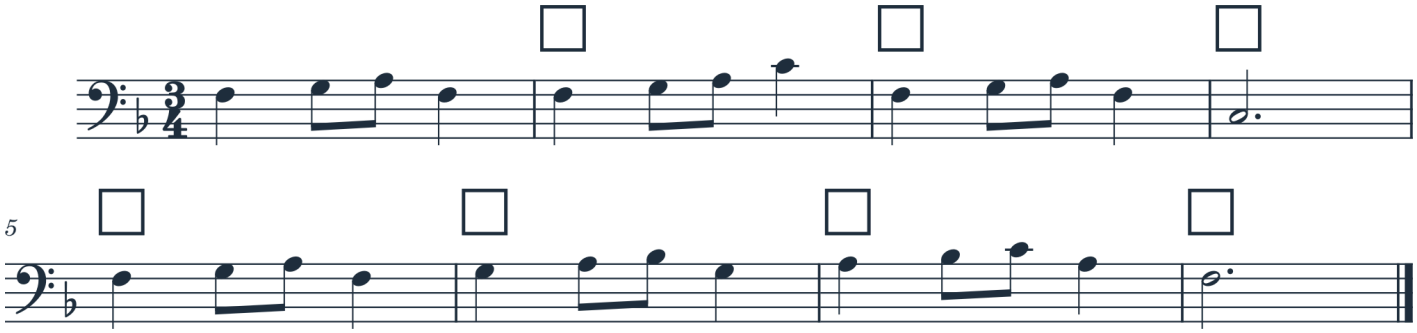
PHRASE 1 C major — the motif is bar 1. Label bars 2–8.
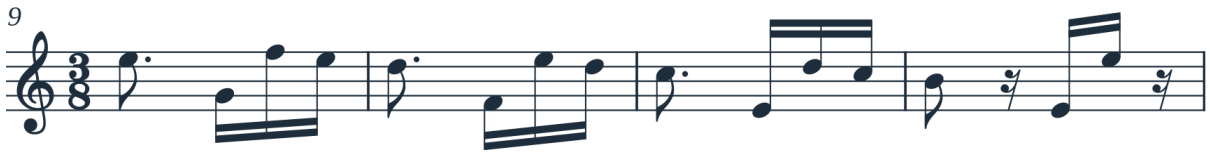


PHRASE 2 G major — this motif lasts only **two beats**, so there is a box every two beats. Bracket the motif first.



PHRASE 3 F major, **left hand** — a motif in the bass clef. Bracket it, then label bars 2–8.



PHRASE 4 Beethoven, *Für Elise*, bars 9–12 — no boxes. **Bracket** the motif, then each time it comes back, and label it.



Hint Check the **rhythm** first. Same rhythm as the motif? Compare the steps and skips: the same notes are **R**; the same shape right away, starting on another note, is **S↑** or **S↓**; anything else is **V**. Not the motif at all? **N**. Then play each phrase and listen for the motif.

Answers (flip the page): 1. bars 2–8: R S↑ N R S↓ V N 2. motif D–B–G; the boxes: S↓ S↓ N V R S↑ N 3. motif F–G–A–F; bars 2–8: V R N R S↑ S↑ N 4. motif E–G–F–E (bar 9, or from the G); bar 10 S↓, bar 11 S↓: a sequence, a step lower each time; bar 12 N

© 2026 Tissimo. All rights reserved.