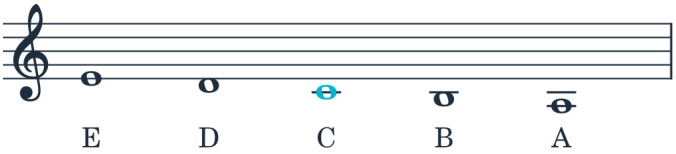
Ledger Lines

when the music climbs off the staff — little rungs extend the ladder, above and below

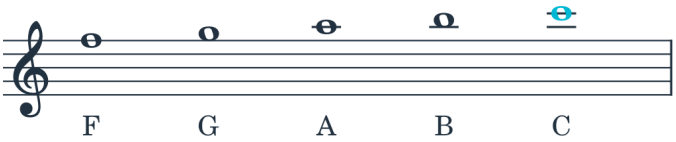
The staff has only five lines — but the piano has 88 keys. (The staff and its clefs: Handouts 351–352.) When a note leaves the staff, we draw it tiny private line-segments called **ledger lines**: the staff's ladder, continued. Nothing else changes — lines and spaces keep alternating in the same alphabet order. The cyan notes are your anchors: **Middle C** lives on the FIRST ledger line below the treble staff **and** the first above the bass staff — same key, two addresses — and the outer cyan C's mark two octaves' reach.

TREBLE · BELOW THE STAFF



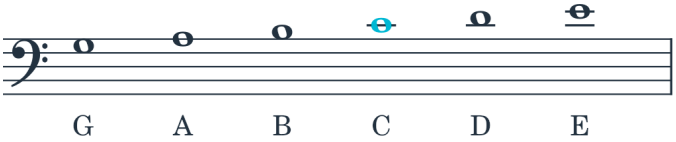
Walking down from E in the staff: D, then **Middle C on its first ledger line**, then B and A reaching toward the bass world.

TREBLE · ABOVE THE STAFF
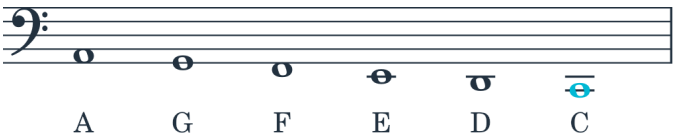


Up past the top line F: G sits just above, A takes the **first ledger line**, B floats, and **high C** crowns the second.

BASS · ABOVE THE STAFF



From G up through A and B — and there is **Middle C again**, now on the first ledger line ABOVE the bass staff, with D and E beyond.

BASS · BELOW THE STAFF



Down past the bottom line G into the growl zone: F, E, D… landing on the mighty **low C**, two ledger lines down.

Try it Ledger notes are read the same way as staff notes: **count line-space-line-space from a note you know**. Speed comes from anchors, not counting — memorize the four cyan C's above, and every ledger note becomes "one or two steps from a C." Flash-card each run backwards and forwards until the counting disappears.

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