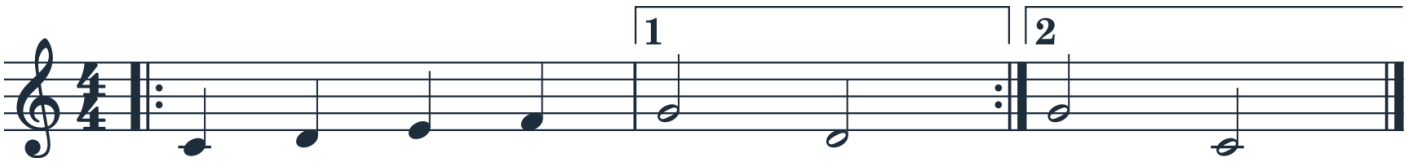Navigation Signs

repeats, endings, double bars and D.C. al Fine — the map of a piece
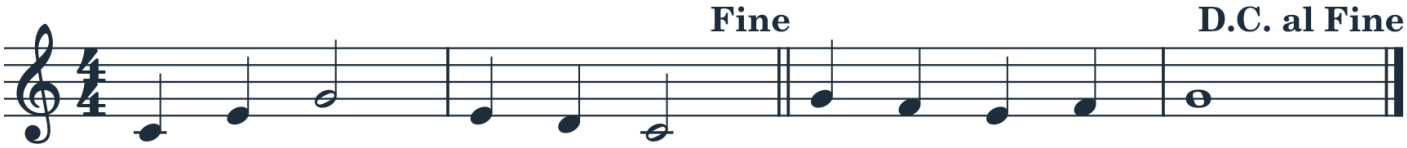
Written music saves paper with road signs. You already know the repeat sign's dots; here is the full navigation kit: **numbered endings** give a repeat a different exit the second time; a **double barline** (two thin lines) marks the end of a section; the **final barline** (thin + thick) ends the piece; and **D.C. al Fine** sends you back to the top for one more pass that stops at *Fine*.

REPEATS WITH FIRST & SECOND ENDINGS



Play through ending **1**, repeat from the start — then **skip ending 1** and take ending **2**.

D.C. AL FINE



Da Capo al Fine — "from the head, to the end": at **D.C. al Fine**, jump back to the very beginning and play until the word **Fine**. Note the light double barline marking the section.

Try it Trace each example with your finger BEFORE playing, saying the route out loud ("bar 1, ending 1, back to the start, skip to ending 2…"). Musicians call this **mapping the form** — ten seconds of tracing saves ten wrong turns. Then find a D.C. al Fine in any songbook and map it the same way. Practice: Exercise 60.

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