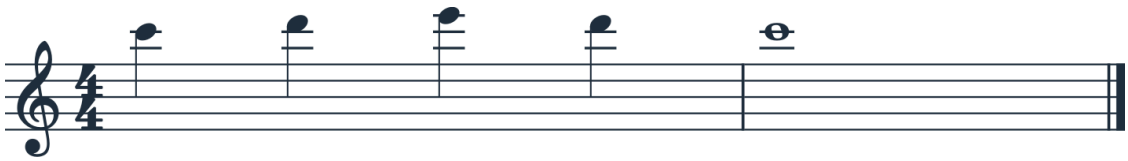
Octave Signs: 8va & 8vb

the notation elevator — same notes, written where you can actually read them

When music climbs too high (or dives too low), the ledger lines pile up into a hedge. The fix: write the passage a comfortable octave lower and hang an **8va** bracket over it — "play everything under this bracket **one octave higher** than written." Below the staff, **8vb** means one octave **lower**. Same music, far friendlier to read.

THE HARD WAY — LEDGER HEDGE



THE EASY WAY — SAME NOTES UNDER 8VA



Both lines SOUND identical. The dashed bracket ends where normal reading resumes (Italian: *loco* — "in place").

Try it Play the first line as written, then the second line remembering the elevator: read it low, **play it high**. Your eyes will thank composers forever. Rule of thumb: 8va's bracket tells you exactly where the magic starts and stops — the moment it ends, come straight back down. Practice: Exercise 78.

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