

The relative value or duration of notes, depends on their *form and colour*, without reference to their position on the staff.

There are *Six* kinds of notes used in modern notation, their names, form, colour and relative value are:—

A SEMIBREVE <i>a white note</i> equals TWO MINIMS		A MINIM <i>a white note with a stem</i> equals TWO CROTCHETS		A CROTCHET <i>a black note with a stem</i> equals TWO QUAVERS	
OR FOUR CROTCHETS		OR FOUR QUAVERS		A QUAVER <i>do with one tail</i> equals TWO S. QUAVERS	
OR EIGHT QUAVERS		OR EIGHT S. QUAVERS		OR FOUR S. QUAVERS	
OR SIXTEEN SEMIQUAVERS		OR SIXTEEN D.S. QUAVERS		OR FOUR D.S. QUAVERS	
OR THIRTYTWO DEMISEMIQUAVERS		OR EIGHT D.S. QUAVERS		OR TWO D.S. QUAVERS	

It will be seen by the above example, that when two or more *Quavers, Semiquavers or Demisemiquavers*, follow in succession, they are tied together by one, two or three, thick lines, which are used instead of hooks or tails.

Notes may be raised or lowered in sound or pitch by the use of characters called **Sharps** and **Flats**.

- a **Sharp**, ($\sharp$) raises the note before which it is placed, *a semitone*.
- a **double-Sharp**, ($\times$) raises the note, *a tone*.
- a **Flat**, ($\flat$) lowers the note, *a semitone*.
- a **double-Flat**, ($\flat\flat$) lowers the note, *a tone*.
- a **Natural**, ($\natural$) restores the note, to its *normal condition*.
- a ($\sharp\sharp$) or ($\flat\flat$) restores the note to which a ($\times$) or ($\flat\flat$) has been added to its *former condition*.

When **Sharps** or **Flats** are introduced in the *course* of a composition, they are termed **accidentals**, and only affect the notes before which they are placed.

Sharps or **Flats**, at the *beginning* of a composition—next after the *clef* affect *all* the notes on the same line, or in the space throughout the composition, and is called the **Signature**.