

Chapter
4

Understanding Tied and Dotted Notes

So happy together

When two notes are tied together, the first note will hold through the second note without re-attacking. Tied notes are used for very long notes that cover several measures and also for rhythms that are difficult to notate without ties.

In this example, ties allow notes to be held from one measure to the next.

Example 18

The image shows two staves of music in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The first staff contains a sequence of notes: quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter. A tie connects the fourth and fifth notes. Below the notes are fingerings: 1, 2, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4. The second staff contains a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note. A tie connects the fourth and fifth notes. Below the notes are fingerings: 1, 2 and 3, 4 and 3, 2 and 3, 4 and 3.

The best way to visualize tied notes when you are reading is to cross the second note out in your mind. Especially because beginners often want to play/sing the second note.

This image is identical to the previous one but includes annotations. Above the first staff, the text "hold through ..." is placed above the tie. Above the second staff, "hold through ..." is placed above the tie, and another "hold through ..." is placed above the final note. Large 'X' marks are drawn over the second notes of the tied pairs in both staves.