

THE TIE LESSON

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What is a tie?

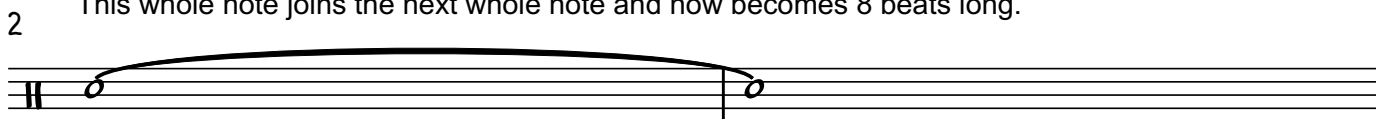
In music notation, a **tie** is a curved line that connects the heads of two notes of the same pitch. They are tied together to become one new note.

They are to be played as a single note with a duration equal to the sum of the individual note values. Strike the first note which will then "ring" for the duration of both notes together. Do not strike the instrument for the second note.

In this example you strike the first half note which will ring for four beats total as it is tied to another half note.



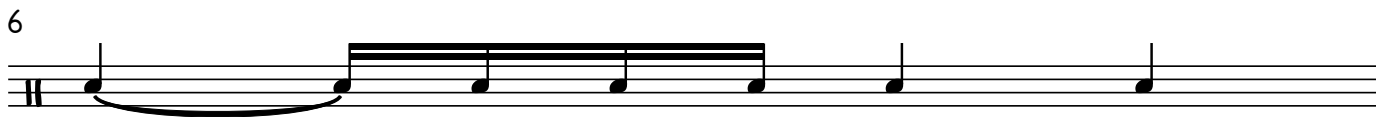
In this example the whole note is tied across the bar line to another whole note. This whole note joins the next whole note and now becomes 8 beats long.



In this case the quarter note is tied across the barline which now equals two beats. We couldn't use a half note on beat four because it would not fit. So the tie is used to create a 2 beat note duration.



You can also tie together 2 notes with different note durations when there is no single note value to express it.



Here is an example where it is up to the composer which method to use. These two bars will sound identical. This change in notation, choosing the tie rather than a dot does not affect performance, but is just written differently.

