

# N-arrow

➔ NOTATION

A modern contour notation system designed for clarity, precision and practical use

# N-arrow Notation User Guide

## 1. Purpose

N-arrow Notation is a compact melodic notation system designed for quick sketching, motif analysis, algorithmic composition, DAW-style thinking and any workflow where clarity is preferred over traditional staves. It separates pitch / duration from melodic contour, making musical behaviour instantly visible.

## 2. System Overview

Each note is written in two rows:

**Upper row:** arrows showing contour

**Lower row:** pitch + duration ( text-based piano roll )

Example:

↑	↘	→	↗
C3/4	A2/8d	A2/8	E3/2

## 3. Arrow Symbols ( Contour Layer )

Arrow	Meaning	Description
↑	Step up	Small upward movement
↓	Step down	Small downward movement
→	Repeat	Same pitch as previous note
↗	Leap up	Larger upward interval
↘	Leap down	Larger downward interval

Notes:

**"Step" vs "Leap"** is intentionally flexible

**Arrows** create a visual shape

#### 4. Pitch + Duration Layer

Pitch uses note names with octave numbers ( C3, A2, F#4 etc )

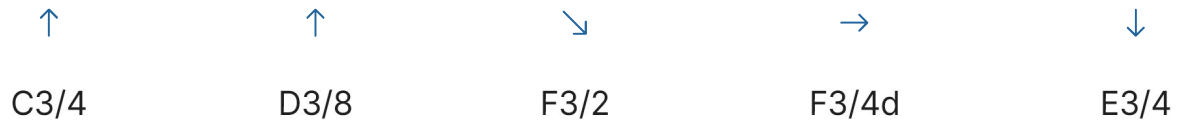
Duration uses simple *fractional* notation:

Duration	Meaning
/1	Whole
/2	Half
/2d	Half dotted
/2dd	Half double dotted
/2t	Half triplet
/4	Quarter
/4d	Quarter dotted
/4dd	Quarter double dotted
/4t	Quarter triplet
/8	Eighth
/8d	Eighth dotted
/8dd	Eighth double dotted
/8t	Eighth triplet
/16	Sixteenth
/16d	Sixteenth dotted
/16dd	Sixteenth double dotted
/16t	Sixteenth triplet
/32	Thirty-second
/64	Sixty-fourth
/?	Your own duration

## 5. How the Two Rows Work Together

The lower row tells you what the notes are. The upper row tells you how the notes behave.

Example:



Interpretation:

Rising motion, a leap, a plateau, a fall

## 6. Why N-arrow Works

**Fast** - no staves, beams or clutter

**Clear** - contour is instantly visible

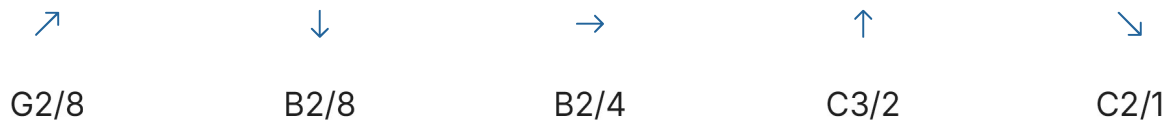
**Modular** - pitch, duration and shape are separate

**Easy to read** - no ambiguous symbols

**DAW friendly** - mirrors piano-roll logic

**Algorithm ready** - ideal for motif analysis of code driven composition

## 7. Full Example Phrase



Interpretation:

Leap up, step down, repeat, step up, leap down

## 8. Optional Extensions

Symbol	Meaning
·	Staccato
~	Tie
!	Accent
( )	Motif Grouping
R	Rest

Example:

(                     E2/8 ·                     E2/8~                     C2/4!                    R/2                    )

## 9. Who N-arrow Is For

**Composers, Coders, DAW users and Game-audio designers**

## 10. Add Your Own Symbols

The symbols above form the core of the N-arrow Notation system. When you're working on your own music feel free to create additional shorthand or markings that help your workflow. These personal extensions don't change the N-arrow Notation system - they simply help you express ideas in your own way.

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