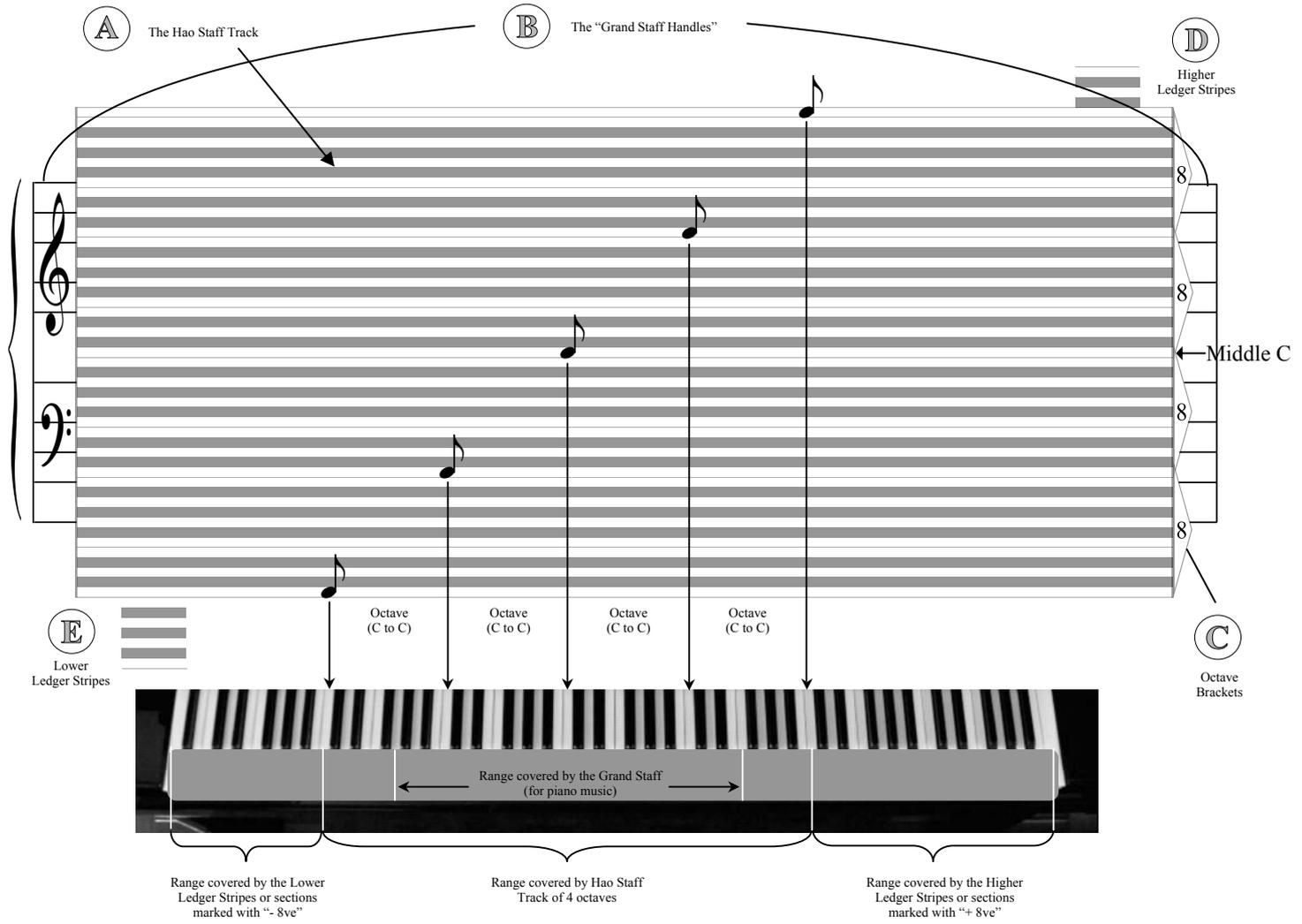


The Standard Design of the Hao Staff (Piano Roll) Sheet Music Format



A	The Hao Staff Track	This is THE STAFF, where the music notes are entered. The gray and white “key stripes” are arranged in the same order and pattern as the black and white keys on the piano keyboard. The Track covers the 4 Octaves (each beginning and ending on C) in the middle of the piano keyboard.
B	The “Grand Staff Handles”	These are important design elements of the Hao Staff. The “Handles” are actually the “head” and “tail” of the Grand Staff (for piano music). The “head” of the Grand Staff consists of the G clef, F clef and the two “five-line” staves bracketed together. The Hao Staff Track replaces the “body” of the Grand Staff. The “tail” of the Grand Staff reappears on the right hand side of the Hao Staff Track. Note that the lines of the Grand Staff staves are connected with the corresponding “white key stripes” on the Hao Staff Track. This design serves two important purposes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It provides the reference for the “key stripes”. By the Grand Staff “Handles”, one can tell exactly what note each “key stripe” represents. 2. One can learn and use the Hao Staff without losing the Grand Staff. In fact, the Hao Staff can effectively help the beginners to learn the Grand Staff!
C	Octave Brackets	They show the user the range of each of the 4 Octaves on the Main Track. They help the user to find the keys in the right Octave, especially for music covering a wide pitch range.
D	Higher Ledger Stripes	Short additional “key stripes” for notes out of the range of the Hao Staff Track (on the high side).
E	Lower Ledger Stripes	Short additional “key stripes” for notes out of the range of the Hao Staff Track (on the low side).

The Hao Staff User Guide

- The Hao Staff is a new STAFF ONLY, taking the Grand Staff's place. All the common music notations (e.g. time signatures such as 4/4, music notes of different time values such as semi-breves \circ , minims \downarrow , crotchets \uparrow , quavers \downarrow , semi-quavers \downarrow , etc., ties and dots, rests - ζ γ γ etc., dynamics, and various mood or performance directions, ornaments and embellishments, etc.) are used on the Hao Staff in the same way.
- Of course, the most annoying signs - sharp signs (\sharp), double sharp signs (\times), flat signs (\flat), double flat signs ($\flat\flat$), naturals (\natural), and Key signatures (multiples of sharp signs or flat signs) will never appear again.
- There is one special "house rule" for notation on the Hao Staff. Unless specifically indicated by "l.h." (Left Hand) or "r.h." (Right Hand) to the contrary, all notes played by the right hand (usually higher notes) will have their stems pointing upward. All notes played by the left hand (usually lower notes) will have their stems pointing downward.
- Finger indications are the same as the norm for the Grand Staff sheet music – for both hands, "1" represents the thumb, "2" represents the index finger, "3" represents the middle finger, and so on.
- Learn to identify keys focusing on "black & white part" of the keyboard. The "black & white part" of the keyboard is identical to the Hao Staff's "gray & white" key stripes. Those who have already learned to play the piano using the Grand Staff tend to form a habit of focusing on the "all white part" of the keyboard. That may give them some problems initially when trying the Hao Staff. Once one realizes this problem, it is not that difficult to make a forced adjustment. And before long, the following image of the keyboard will be engraved in your mind. Matching notes to piano keys becomes automatic.



- Following on from the previous point – one should IDENTIFY keys focusing on the "black & white part" of the keyboard. But that does not mean that one only touches (when playing the notes) the narrow parts of the white keys. The best way to play different keys depends on the actual situation. A beginner would, of course, benefit from a tutor's advice in this respect, and acquire the "working rules" in the process.
- During the initial stage of using the Hao Staff, one may need to use the Middle C (the C key nearest to the center of the keyboard, which corresponds to the C key stripe in the center of the Hao Staff) as a reference, assisted by the Octave Brackets on the right. This would quickly become unnecessary, as one becomes familiar with the Hao Staff in relation to the keyboard.
- If the next note to play is "miles away" in pitch distance, do not try to find it by counting the number of keys from the preceding note. Find it by skipping over "2 blacks", "3 blacks", "2 + 3 blacks" (octave), and so on.