

Ties, Slurs & Dots

Music

Three marks that change duration or phrasing, and how to tell them apart.

Tie

- Joins two notes of the SAME pitch
- One sound, held for both values
- Used across a barline where no single note fits
- Play once, hold through

Slur

- Curves over notes of DIFFERENT pitch
- Play smoothly, one bow or one breath
- Each note is still sounded
- A phrase mark, not a duration

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

The dot is the third: a dot after a note adds half its value. A double dot adds half, then half of that again.

Dotted half = 3 beats. Double-dotted half = $3\frac{1}{2}$. A dot never shortens anything.