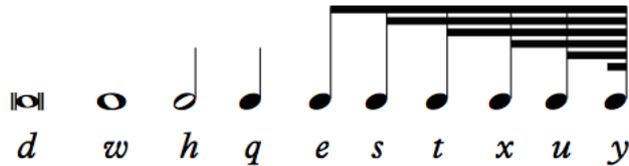
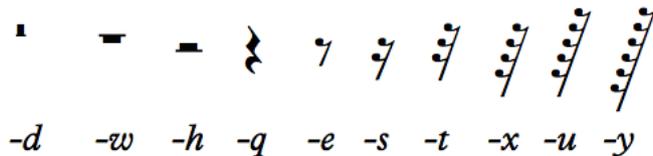


# Length

The OMN language provides for a textual equivalent to the many symbols used in traditional staff notation. In the parameter of LENGTH these symbols represent exact durations of virtual time.



Here are the standard values of note-lengths. The most commonly-used are represented in the OMN language by the first letter of their American arithmetic name, so w is a whole-note, h is a half-note, q is a quarter note and so on.



Here are the standard values of rest-lengths. The most commonly-used are represented in the OMN language by the first letter of their American arithmetic name but with the prefix of a - (minus) sign, so -w is a whole-note rest, -h is a half-note rest, -q is a quarter note rest and so on. To assist with multiple rests -12 will produce 12 bars of whole-note rests.

' (q q q)



Here is a list of three quarter-notes. The list has to begin with a ' (a quote) and be enclosed by parentheses ( ).

' (q -e e q)



The example above shows note-lengths and rest-lengths in combination.

Length 8 will produce 8 bars of whole-notes lengths.

' (8 h q q)



Length -8 will produce 8 bars of whole-notes rests.

' (-8 h q q)



## *Dotted length*

Symbol: . .. ...

OMN dots are used the same way as in the standard notation. The maximum dots in OMN length is 3 (q...).

## *Tuplet*

The OMN system of rhythmical notation is initially constructed on the principle of duple divisions. Here the individual note-lengths stand for their face value.

w = (h h)

h = (q q)

q = (e e)

and so on.

The other divisional types must make do by borrowing from this binary series: duplet (2), triplet (3), quadruplet (4), quintuplet (5), sextuplet (6), septuplet (7), octuplet (8), nontuplet (9) etc...

When we write these values we use the same note-values as the immediately preceding binary division.

' ((3w 3w 3w) (3h 3h 3h) (3q 3q 3q))



This means for example that a triplet division of the quarter note uses eighth notes.

' ((5w = = = =) (5h = = = =) (5q = = = =))



This means for example that a quintuple division of the quarter note uses sixteenth notes.

## *Repeat*

Note: =

Rest: -

' ((e. s q =) (e. s q =))



The use of repeat symbols for note-lengths and rest-lengths is fundamental to OMN. Its use can give score scripts a very particular style and appearance. Composers will soon discover different approaches will suit particular situations when writing for percussion or in the notation of repetitive textures.

' ((q -e = q) (q - e. t =))







The tie as an attribute is necessary when a tie goes across one list to join a length symbol in an adjacent list.

### *Extended length*

Note: ==

Rest: --

' (s == -- = - === - == = --)



Both note-lengths and rest-lengths can be extended simply by bringing the symbols together in the same way pitches come together to produce chords. In percussion writing this can provide further clarity because only one length value needs to be set at the beginning of the list.

' (3q == -e = s - = - == --)



### *Extended periodic length*

' (s== = = = = =)



' (5q== = = 7q=== = = =)



' (5q== - = 7q=== = - =)



'(s== == -- = - ==== - == = --)



## Ratios

OMN notation allows the use of ratio values if more convenient

'((q = e = h) (q - e. t =))



same as:

'((1/4 1/4 1/8 1/8 1/2) (1/4 -1/4 3/16 1/32 1/32))

Many functions automatically output ratios as a default rather than OMN symbols. This can usually be changed by setting a keyword within the function such as `:omn t`. The `tie` mechanism in both its forms works with ratios.

'((q\_e e q) (q -3q = = h))



same as:

'((1/4\_1/8 1/8 1/4) (1/4 -1/12 1/12 1/12 1/2))

## Examples:

M. Ravel, Bolero, 1928

' ( ( e 3e = = e 3e = = e = )  
 ( e 3e = = e 3e = = = = ) )



G. Ph. Telemann, 12 Fantasie per clavicembalo TWV 33, n.1, 1732

' ( ( s a4 d5 fs4 d5 g4 d5 )  
 ( s a4 d5 fs4 d5 g4 d5 )  
 ( s a4 d5 cs5 b4 a4 g4 )  
 ( s fs4 d4 e4 cs4 e d4 ) )



D. Scarlatti, Sonata B-Dur, 1736

' ( ( e e5 3e g5 bb4 g4 e a4 )  
 ( 3e a5 c4 a4 e bb4 3e g5 bb4 g4 )  
 ( s a4 c6 c6 a5 a5 f5 )  
 ( s f5 d5 d5 c5 d5 bb5 ) )

