



## For those with experience in standard Western music notation

### Rhythm

Bandojo rhythm notation is generally the same as that of standard Western notation. Colored circles correspond to note heads. Dots next to a note head extend the duration as in standard notation.

### Stems

Stems in the current version of Bandojo notation are more or less detached from the actual note head but are otherwise interpreted the same as in standard notation. Detachment is due to assumptions that the music notation software makes in creating notes. We hope to correct this in the future.

### Pitch

The main difference between notation systems is with respect to pitch. From the user's perspective, Bandojo is oriented to scale degree with the actual pitch determined by the currently selected accompaniment and the current tonic, which defines a scale at a particular key center. The user only needs to know which scale degree to play. Therefore, the notation reflects this using a color code system and scale degree numbers that also correspond to the Melody Palette. A user can reference notes either by color or number since they always correspond to each other. For example, red ('1') is always the first note of the current scale (tonic note).

While vertical spacing follows the same vertical contour as in standard staff notation, the proportional distance of one scale step does not correspond to 1/2 the note head size. Also, there are no horizontal staff lines since they are not relevant and would clutter the page.

One very important difference between notation systems is the meaning of dots above and below note heads. The dot in Bandojo song sheets indicates the relative octave above and below the *middle* octave register. When the tonic is 'C', the *middle register* spans C4-B4 (the register starting with middle 'C'). With other tonic notes, the entire *middle register* shifts to the current tonic. So, for example, when the tonic is 'G', the *middle register* spans G4-F#5.

### Harmony numbers in squares above the implied staff

Bandojo incorporates the concept of harmonic progression. Rectangle-enclosed numbers indicate the chord root by scale degree. The tonic triad, for example, is represented as 1. Chord members always correspond to the notes of the current scale so there is no need to indicate the chord type (e.g., major or minor).

### Scale indicator at the top left of the song sheet

Bandojo needs to know which scale to play. The appropriate scale is indicated at the top left of the song sheet. Typically, the user chooses an accompaniment that defaults to the desired scale in order for Bandojo to play the correct notes in the accompaniment and map the scale notes to the melody palette.

Some songs may require a scale change during the course of the song. These changes are placed in the score as needed. One way to make the change is to choose an appropriate accompaniment. Other ways are discussed elsewhere.