

Articulation

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Examples of
Articulations: [staccato](#), [staccatissimo](#), [martellato](#), [marcato](#), [tenuto](#).

In [music](#), *articulation* refers to the musical performance technique that affects the transition or continuity on a single note, or between multiple notes or sounds.

Types of articulations

There are many types of articulation, each with a different effect on how the note is played. In [music notation](#) articulation marks include the [slur](#), [phrase mark](#), [staccato](#), [staccatissimo](#), [accent](#), [sforzando](#), [rinforzando](#), and [legato](#). A different symbol, placed above or below the note (depending on its position on the staff), represents each articulation.

Tenuto	Hold the note in question its full length (or longer, with slight rubato), or play the note slightly louder.
Marcato	Indicates a short note, long chord, or medium passage to be played louder or more forcefully than surrounding music.
Staccato	Signifies a note of shortened duration
Legato	Indicates musical notes are to be played or sung smoothly and connected.
Martellato	Hammered or strongly marked

Compound articulations^{[[edit](#)]}

Occasionally, articulations can be combined to create stylistically or technically correct sounds. For example, when staccato marks are combined with a slur, the result is [portato](#), also known as articulated legato. Tenuto markings under a slur are called (for bowed strings) hook bows. This name is also less commonly applied to staccato or martellato (martelé) markings.

Apagados (from the Spanish verb *apagar*, "to mute") refers to notes that are played dampened or "muted," without sustain. The term is written above or below the notes with a dotted or dashed line drawn to the end of the group of notes that are to be played dampened. The technique is chiefly written for bowed or plucked instruments. Modernists refer to the apogado as "palm mute." On the

guitar, the musician dampens the strings with the palm of the hand and plucks with the thumb. Strictly speaking, the term dampened is correct for this effect in music; since to mute means to silence. Illustration of the apagados may be found in the work of composer for Spanish guitar, Gerardo de Altona.

Portato

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Portato ([Italian](#), past participle of *portare*, "to carry") in music denotes a smooth, pulsing [articulation](#) and is often notated by adding dots under [slur](#) markings.



One type of portato notation, also used for staccato and flying spiccato.

Portato, also known as **articulated legato** or **slurred staccato** or **semi-staccato** or **mezzo-staccato**, means "moderately detached". It is a style of playing between [staccato](#) and [legato](#), and is also referred to as **non-legato**. Mezzo-staccato notes are held for a longer time than with standard staccato notes, but none of the notes is attached to the next (Blood 2012). ^[*not in citation given*]

Portato is a bowing technique for stringed instruments (Anon. 2001), in which successive notes are gently re-articulated while being joined under a single continuing bow stroke. It achieves a kind of pulsation or undulation, rather than separating the notes. It has been notated in various ways. One early 19th century writer, [Pierre Baillot](#) (*L'art du violon*, Paris, 1834), gives two alternatives: a wavy line, and dots under a slur. Later in the century a third method became common: placing "legato" dashes ([tenuto](#)) under a slur (Wall 2001a). The notation with dots under slurs is ambiguous, because it is also used for very different bowings, including staccato and flying [spiccato](#) (Walls 2001a; Walls 2001b).

Currently, Mezzo-Staccato is sometimes indicated in words, by "mezzo-staccato" or "non-legato"; or can be shown by three graphic forms:

- a slur that encompasses a phrase of staccato notes (the most common), or
- a tenuto above a staccato mark (very often), or
- a slur that encompasses a phrase of tenuto notes (less common) (Tsai 2008).

Portato is defined by some authorities as "the same as [portamento](#)" (Kennedy 1994). About one century ago, this articulation was called "portamento". Currently, the word "portamento" is related to the concept of "continuous [glissando](#)", which is very different from Portato. ^[*citation needed*]

