

ARTICULATION MARKS

Accent

An accent is an emphasis, stress, or stronger attack placed on a particular note, set of notes, or chord.



Tenuto

The word "tenuto" means "to hold," however, the precise meaning of tenuto is contextual. It can mean either hold the note in question its full length, a bit longer with slight rubato, or to play the note slightly louder or more stressed.



Marcato

Marcato indicates that a note, chord, or passage is to be played louder or more forcefully than the surrounding music. Though similar to an accent, a marcato typically suggests a sharp attack and is usually louder than an accent.



Staccato

The word "staccato" means "detached," it signifies a note has a shortened duration and is separated from the notes before and after it.



Staccatissimo

Staccatissimo is interpreted as shorter than the staccato, but composers in the past used these symbols interchangeably. It doesn't show up in newer or updated sheet music very often.

