

# Ligatures and coloration in late renaissance music

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Note values

Maxima Long Breve Semibreve Minum Semiminum Fusa

Coloration A black note loses one third of its value and is always imperfect.

A partially colored note consist of two notes, each note half the value of the whole note. The second note is colored.

## Ligatures

Any note	tail on the right			Long
First note	tail	left	upward	Semibreve second note also Semibreve
			downward	Breve
	no tail	falls		Long
		rises		Breve
Middle note	if first note has a left upward tail, then the second note is a			Semibreve
	all other middle notes			Breve
Final note	square (not oblique)	descending		Long
		ascending	tail	Long
			no tail	Breve
	oblique	in two-note ligature, if first note has a left upward tail		Semibreve
		all other oblique notes		Breve

(Apel, Willi. *Die Notation der polyphonen Musik 900-1600*. Breitkopf 1970; Donnington, Robert. *The interpretation of early music*. Faber and Faber New edition 1989; Morley, Thomas. *A plain & easy introduction to practical music* (London, 1597). Edited by Alec Harman. The Norton Library 1973.