




Musical Elements Table

Musical element	Definition
<p>Timbre/tone colour</p>	<p>This is <i>how</i> something sounds. Your brain can hear that one thing sounds different to another thing because of its timbre. The characteristics of a sound. A human voice has a different timbre than a guitar. A timbre is made distinctive by the different ways it creates sound waves and its frequency spectrum.</p> 
<p>Pitch</p>	<p>This is how high or low the instrument is playing. It could be high like a flute or low like a bass drop. It can go up and down a whole lot, and can have a big variety of pitches.</p>
<p>Texture</p>	<p>This is what is going on in a piece at any one time. Like the pattern of the instruments. There are three different types of texture;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. homophonic. This is a chordal base with a melody over it. 2. Monophonic; this is a melody played solo or in unison. 3. polyphonic; this is a collection of melodies played together <p>A texture can also refer to the nature of the instrumentation. You can describe this as the 'vertical characteristics of a piece of music.'</p>

	<p>The diagram is a 2x2 grid with a vertical red line on the left and a horizontal red line on top. The top-left quadrant is labeled 'Monophonic' and shows a single blue wavy line with the text 'One single line' below it. The bottom-left quadrant is labeled 'Homophonic' and shows a blue wavy line above a horizontal line, with the text 'Melody vs. chords' below it. The bottom-right quadrant is labeled 'Polyphonic' and shows two blue wavy lines, one above the other, with the text 'two or more melodies' below it.</p>
Dynamics	<p>This is how loud or soft a piece of music is. Some common words to describe soft, moderate and loud are; <i>piano</i>, <i>mezzo-piano</i>, <i>mezzo-forte</i> and <i>forte</i>. These words are Italian.</p> <p><i>p mp mf f</i></p> <p>Piano = quiet Mezzo piano = quite quiet Mezzo forte = quite loud forte = loud In pop/jazz notation you can just use the words loud, soft, etc.</p>
Tempo	<p>This is how fast or slow the music is. Some words for slow music are <i>largo</i>, <i>larghetto</i>, <i>långsam</i> and some words for fast music are <i>allegro</i>, <i>allegretto</i>, <i>presto</i>, <i>scherzo</i>. The tempo can change in a</p> <p>Allegro</p> <p>song. This is measured by beats per minute (BPM). It usually doesn't change in pop music and it is easy to mistake tempo changes with changes of duration (see below).</p>
Duration	<p>This is the rhythm of a piece of music. If it is made up of dotted rhythms it will have a different character to a piece of music with triplets or semibreves.</p> <p>The notation shows a 4/4 time signature. The first measure has a triplet of eighth notes (indicated by a bracket and the number 7) followed by a dotted quarter note. The second measure has a triplet of eighth notes (indicated by a bracket and the number 7) followed by a dotted quarter note.</p>
Structure	<p>There are many different structures to a piece of music. Some are <i>ternary</i>, <i>sonata</i> and <i>blues</i>. The most common ways the structure is formed is through the verse, chorus, bridge pop music form. This structure is common</p>

throughout pop music.

Drei Chi - ne - sen mit dem Kon - tra - bass sa - ßen auf der Stra - ße und er - zähl - ten sich was. Da

kam die Po - li - zei, fragt: "Was ist denn das?" Drei Chi - ne - sen mit dem Kon - tra - bass!

Silence

This is how the musical structure is formed using the available forces (instruments) and how they sometimes don't play.

1 1/2 1/4 1/8 1/16 1/32 1/64