

Chapter 12

Slurs

12.1 Single Slur Sign for Short Slurred Phrases

Single slur (simple short slur): ⠠

The single slur sign is used for a short phrase of two, three, or four notes. This sign is brailled after each note of the phrase except the last.

Example 12.1.1

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time. The first staff contains a sequence of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4. Slurs are placed over the first three notes (G4-A4-B4) and the last three notes (G4-F4-E4). The second staff contains notes: G4, A4, B4, C#4, D4, E4, F4, G4. Slurs are placed over the first three notes (G4-A4-B4) and the last two notes (F4-G4). Below the notation is the Braille notation for the slurs, consisting of two lines of Braille characters corresponding to the slurs in the music.

12.2 Two Ways to Indicate a Long Slur

	Opening Sign	Closing Sign
Doubled long slur	⠠⠠	⠨
Bracket long slur	⠠⠠	⠠⠠

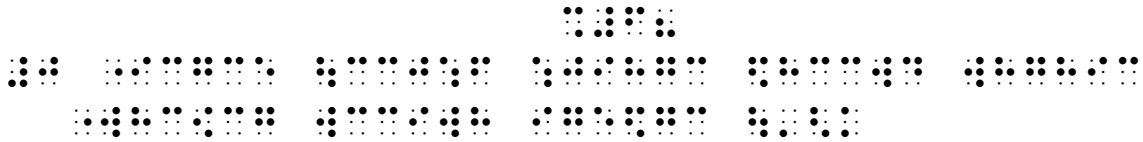
When five or more notes are slurred together, you may indicate the long phrase by doubling the single slur after the first note and by brailing one single slur after the next-to-last note.

Alternatively, you may use a pair of signs called “bracket slurs” to enclose the phrase of five or more notes. The opening bracket slur is brailled before the first note of the phrase. The closing bracket slur is brailled after the last note of the phrase.

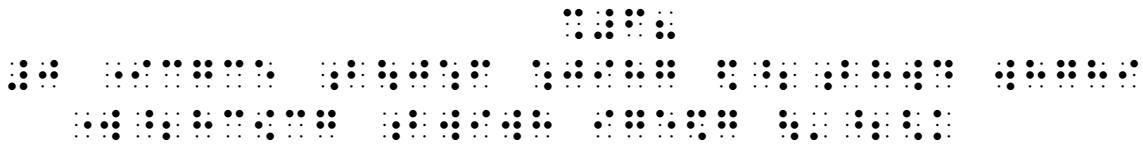
Example 12.2.1



(a) Using doubled long slur



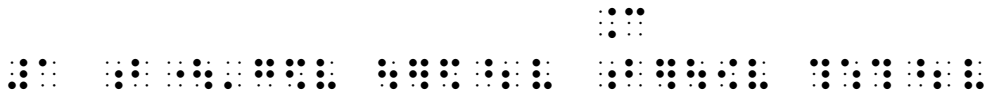
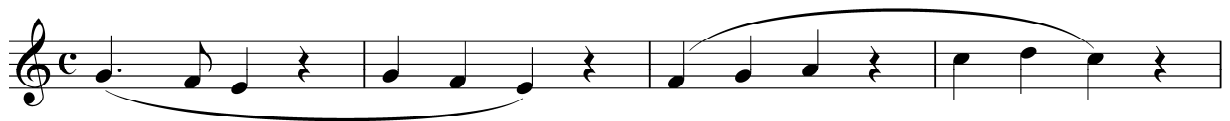
(b) Using bracket long slur



Bracket slurs are generally preferred for long phrases in instrumental music. Interestingly, the shape of the bracket slurs in braille suggests the shape of the long curved line in print. Notice that the beginning bracket slur starts with lower dots in one cell followed by higher dots in the next cell. Conversely, the closing bracket slur starts with higher dots in one cell followed by lower dots in the concluding cell. These easily identifiable shapes make the phrasing obvious to the braille reader.

For purposes of determining the number of notes in a phrase, a rest within the phrase is treated as if it were a note.

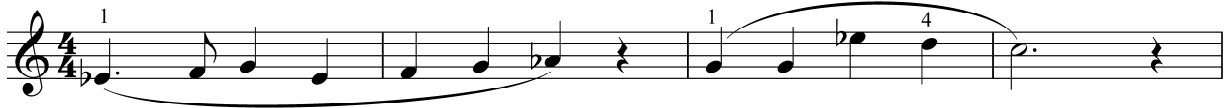
Example 12.2.2



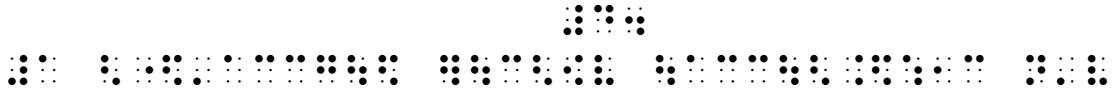
12.3 Order of Signs with Slurs

As always in braille music transcription, the order of signs is crucial. The opening bracket slur precedes any accidental or octave mark before the note. Brailled after a note, the single slur or closing bracket slur follows the dot for a dotted note as well as the finger mark for any note.

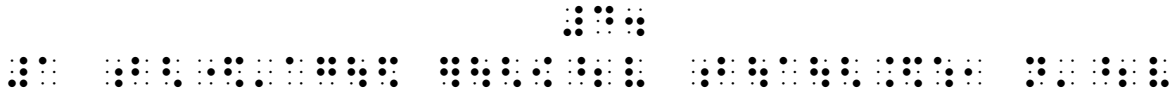
Example 12.3.1



(a) Using doubled long slur



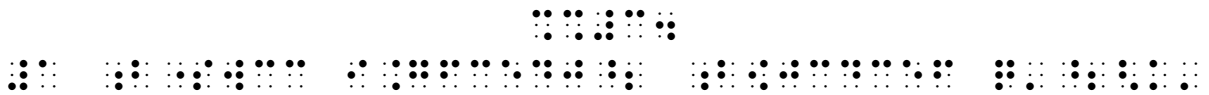
(b) Using bracket long slur



12.4 Layered Slurs

When printed music uses two levels of slurring, bracket slurs are used for the large dimension. Single slurs, doubled if necessary, are used for the smaller units.

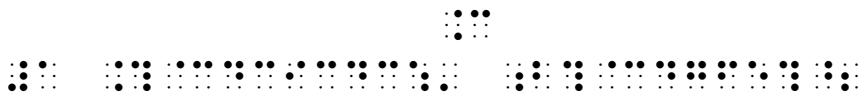
Example 12.4.1



12.5 Slurs and Ties Together

When a note is both slurred and tied to another note, the slur is unnecessary in braille and is omitted in nonfacsimile transcriptions. The tied notes count as one note in determining whether the phrase is long or short. Refer to Section 13.5 of MBC-2015 for the proper way to transcribe slurs and ties in facsimile.

Example 12.5.1



12.6 Tied Note at Beginning or End of a Phrase

When a tied note occurs at the beginning or end of a phrase, the placement of the slurs in printed notation is very inconsistent. The following examples illustrate the use of (a) bracket slurs or (b) doubled single slurs in such situations.

Example 12.6.1



- a. Braille notation for Example 12.6.1 (a)
- b. Braille notation for Example 12.6.1 (b)

Example 12.6.2



- a. Braille notation for Example 12.6.2 (a)
- b. Braille notation for Example 12.6.2 (b)

Example 12.6.3



- a. Braille notation for Example 12.6.3 (a)
- b. Braille notation for Example 12.6.3 (b)

Example 12.6.4



- a. Braille notation for Example 12.6.4 (a)
- b. Braille notation for Example 12.6.4 (b)

12.7 Distinction between Slur and Tie in Braille

In print, when a curved line connects two notes of identical pitch, it is usually brailled as a tie. However, if the two notes differ in fingering, a single slur is used in braille.

Example 12.7.1



12.8. Additional Types of Slurring

When you look into Section 13 of MBC-2015, you will notice that along with the information presented here, there are paragraphs about various kinds of complex or unusual slurring. Some of those situations will be discussed later in this textbook; others will not be mentioned since they seldom occur. It is helpful to know about such possibilities so that if and when you encounter them in your transcription career, you can consult MBC-2015 for

guidance. Similarly, when you have the time and energy for exploring the code, becoming acquainted with other parts of MBC-2015 is a valuable strategy.

12.9 Order of Signs

For the signs that you have learned so far, the correct order is as follows:

Preceding the note:

- reminder tie
- opening bracket slur
- accidental
- octave mark

Following the note:

- dot
- finger mark
- single slur, opening doubled slur
- closing bracket slur
- tie
- double bar
- music hyphen

Drills for Chapter 12

(Correct transcriptions of these drills are at the end of this chapter)

Drill 12.1

Andante

Drill 12.2

Vivace

Drill 12.3

Please use the double slur for long phrases in this drill.

Un poco lento

Drill 12.4

Please transcribe the music of Drill 12.3 using the bracket slur for long phrases.

Drill 12.5

Andantino



Exercises for Chapter 12

(Submit the following exercises to your instructor in BRF file format)

Exercise 12.1

Please use the double slur for long phrases in this exercise.

Allegretto



Exercise 12.2

Please transcribe the music of Exercise 12.1 using the bracket slur for long phrases.

Exercise 12.3

Use your own judgment in choosing a method for long phrases in the remaining exercises.

Moderato

Exercise 12.4

Andante

Exercise 12.5

Leggiero

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