Chapter 20

Tremolos and Ornaments

There are two different types of tremolo devices: the repetition of a single note or "fractioning," and the rapid alternation between a pair of notes. Both are abbreviations of the shorter value of the notes to be played. Slashes are used to indicate the rhythm. Both tremolos require a pair of braille signs (prefix and value).

20.1 Repeated Note Tremolo or Fractioning



Example 20.1.1



If four or more consecutive notes are shown with the same fractioning, the fractioning sign may be doubled. For the beginning of the doubling, only the second half of the sign is brailled twice. To conclude the doubling, the complete two-cell sign is brailled once after the last affected note.

Example 20.1.2

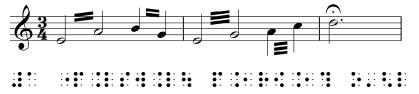


20.2 Alternation Tremolo



The alternation tremolo sign, consisting of the prefix (dots 46) and the value indicator, is brailled between the two notes. This sign may not be doubled. Since the two printed notes have the same value, the note values of the measure will add up to too many beats, but this is ignored by the performer. The pair of printed notes represent the total rhythmic value of each tremolo.

Example 20.2.1



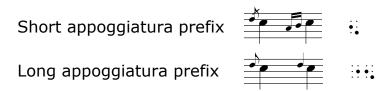
Observe the different value sign of the alternation tremolo sign for 64th notes. You would expect that dots 13 would be the second half of the sign but this sign is unavailable because dots 46, 13 is the measure-division sign for part-measure in-accords. The second half of the sign for tremolo in 64ths is therefore dot 1 rather than dots 13.

20.3 Ornaments

An ornament—such as an appoggiatura, a trill, a turn, or a mordent—is brailled in front of the note that it embellishes. The ornament is shown in the same braille line with the embellished note. A word-sign expression or an opening bracket slur precedes the ornament. The ornament is followed by an accent sign or other sign of articulation that pertains to the embellished note. A full-measure or part-measure repeat includes any ornaments associated with the affected notes.

The interpretation, names, and symbols for ornaments vary greatly among composers, editors, publishers, styles, and historical eras of music. As the transcriber you must identify and braille the printed symbols according to your best understanding, even though you know that different performers may render the ornaments in various ways. Consult MBC-2015, Table 16, for guidance regarding jazz ornaments and other unusual ornaments.

20.4 Appoggiatura (grace note)



The sign for the appoggiatura is brailled before the small note to which it applies and before an accidental or octave mark. Appoggiaturas are always brailled at true value and are never grouped. The note values of appoggiaturas are not included in the sum of rhythmic values of the notes in the measure.

The short appoggiatura sign may be doubled when there are four or more successive appoggiaturas on a note. There can be only one long appoggiatura for an embellished note. If appoggiaturas appear at the end of the measure in print, they are brailled in the same way, even though the embellished note does not appear until the next measure.

Example 20.4.1



Example 20.4.2



Small slurs are often shown with the notes of an appoggiatura. In nonfacsimile transcriptions these are brailled with the single slur signs. Refer to MBC-2015 Section 13.9 for appoggiatura slurs imbedded within phrases.

Example 20.4.3



Since an appoggiatura is not included in the sum of rhythmic values of the measure, it does not affect the braille grouping of other notes. An eighthnote appoggiatura within or following a group of 16th notes does not interrupt the grouping, unless the next counted note or rest is an eighth.

Example 20.4.4



20.5 The Trill ::

The sign for the trill is brailled before the affected note and precedes any accidental or octave mark. Fingering for the trill is brailled after the affected note.

Example 20.5.1



An accidental affecting the auxiliary note of a trill is brailled before the trill sign. In a series of four or more notes with trills, the trill sign may be doubled as long as the trill symbol is not altered by an accidental.

Example 20.5.2



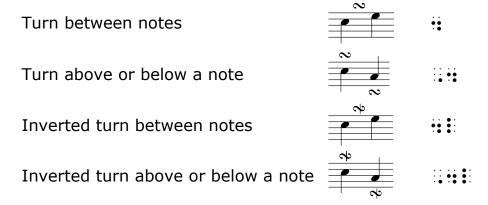
When only one trill symbol appears, followed by a wavy line across two or more tied notes, the trill sign is brailled once, followed by two dots 3s as a line of continuation. The termination sign for a line of continuation is brailled after the last affected note to indicate the termination of the tied trill and the next note requires an octave sign. The termination sign is not

needed if the long trill is immediately followed by some definite mark of conclusion, such as rests or a double bar. When in doubt, terminate the trill.

Example 20.5.3

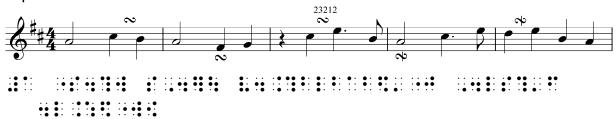


20.6 The Turn

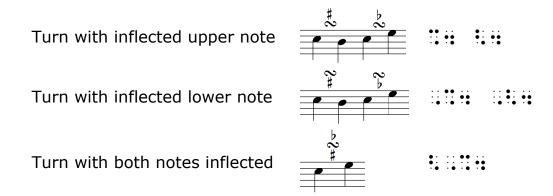


The sign for a turn is always brailled before the affected note, regardless of the position of the printed sign. The basic turn sign (dots 256) indicates a turn that is printed following the affected note. An inverted turn is represented by the basic sign followed by dots 123. When the printed turn sign appears above or below the note, the relevant braille sign is preceded by dot 6. Fingering with a turn is brailled after the affected note.

Example 20.6.1



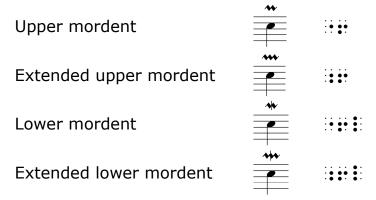
An accidental that modifies the upper auxiliary note of a turn is brailled before the turn sign. An accidental modifying the lower auxiliary note is preceded by dot 6. When accidentals modify both of the auxiliary notes, the accidental for the upper auxiliary note is brailled first, followed by dot 6 and then the accidental for the lower note.



Example 20.6.2



20.7 The Mordent



The sign for the mordent is brailled before the affected note. In the signs for the lower mordent, dots 123 may remind you of the braille letter "L," and this coincidence may serve as a memory aid. Fingering for a mordent follows the affected note. An accidental with a mordent is brailled immediately before the mordent symbol and may appear above or below the mordent in print. There can be only one accidental because a mordent has only one auxiliary note.

Example 20.7.1



Ornaments can be confusing, but there is no need to memorize all of them. Refer to this textbook or MBC-2015 to refresh your memory as needed.

20.8 Order of Signs

Preceding the note:

Following the note:

dot
finger mark
fractioning or tremolo sign
fermata
single slur, opening doubled slur
closing bracket slur
tie
termination sign for line of continuation or "hairpin"
breath mark
terminal music comma
double bar, backward-repeat sign
music hyphen

Drills for Chapter 20

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

Drill 20.1



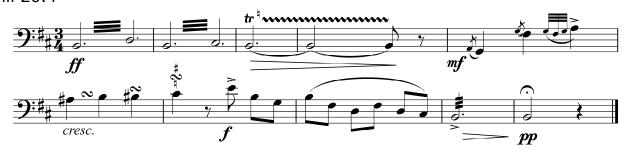
Drill 20.2



Drill 20.3



Drill 20.4



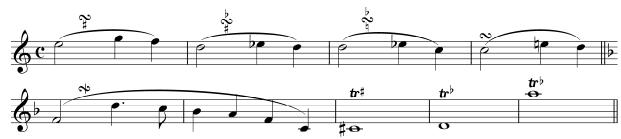
Exercises for Chapter 20

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

Exercise 20.1



Exercise 20.2



Exercise 20.3



Exercise 20.4



Exercise 20.5



Exercise 20.6



Correct transcriptions of the Drills for Chapter 20