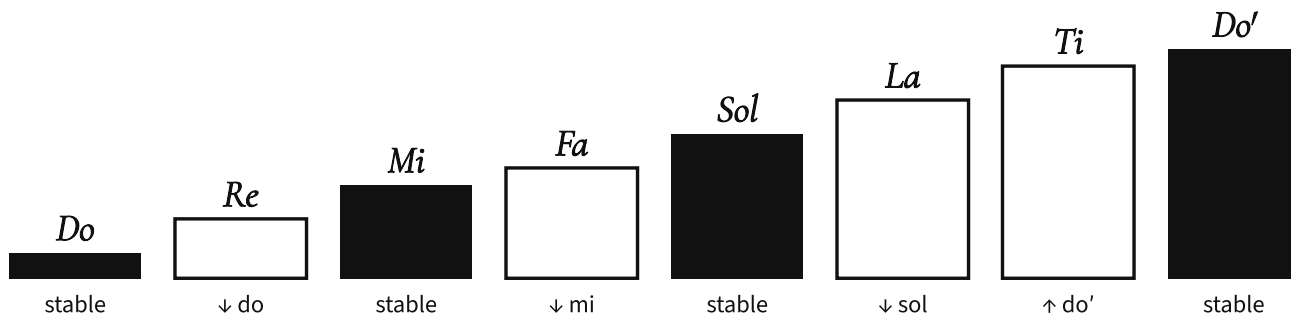


Solfège hand signs

Curwen & Kodály · musictheoryprint.com

One sign for each syllable, made in front of the body and rising with the pitch: *do* about waist level, *la* about eye level. Each sign shows what the note wants to do: *do*, *mi* and *sol* look steady; *fa* and *ti* point toward *mi* and *do*; *re* suggests motion to *do*, and *la* to *sol*.

<i>Do</i> 1 · TONIC Closed fist. The lowest sign: about waist level. Looks stable.	<i>Re</i> 2 · SUPERTONIC Flat hand, fingers pointing upward at a slant. Higher than <i>do</i> . Leans down to <i>do</i> .	<i>Mi</i> 3 · MEDIANT Flat hand, palm down, held level. Higher than <i>re</i> . Looks stable.	<i>Fa</i> 4 · SUBDOMINANT Fist with the thumb pointing down. Higher than <i>mi</i> . Leans down to <i>mi</i> .
<i>Sol</i> 5 · DOMINANT Open hand, palm facing in, fingers forward, like a handshake. Higher than <i>fa</i> . Looks stable.	<i>La</i> 6 · SUBMEDIANT Relaxed hand, fingers drooping down from the wrist. About eye level. Leans down to <i>sol</i> .	<i>Ti</i> 7 · LEADING TONE Index finger pointing up. Higher than <i>la</i> . Leans up to <i>do</i> .	



Height of the bar = semitones above *do*. Solid = stable, open = leaning.

Hand signs: developed by John Curwen from the tonic sol-fa of Sarah Glover and adopted by Zoltán Kodály, who added upward and downward movement. Handshapes are the form commonly taught in classrooms; teachers vary in small details. Heights and tendencies: Wikipedia, Kodály method.

Degree names: [Wikipedia](#). Syllables and how movable and fixed do work: [Wikipedia, Solfège](#). Which way each note leans, and the hand signs: [Wikipedia, Kodály method](#). Text of those articles: [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), shared under the same licence. musictheoryprint.com/charts/solfège-chart