



Middle C

A 440 Hz

Scientific Pitch Notation

Middle C is designated C4 in scientific pitch notation because of the note's position as the fourth C key on a standard 88-key piano keyboard.

Scientific Pitch Notation is a system of letters, numbers, and/or symbols used to easily reference a specific note or frequency, and a few variations of pitch notation exist. The main system used in the U.S. is “scientific pitch notation” (or SPN), which was first proposed in 1939 by the Acoustical Society of America. SPN may be formatted in the following ways: C4, C₄, C(4), C[4]. When writing SPN accidentals, the sharp or flat sign is placed between the note and its number.