

Arduino Tutorial 11 - Music by Tone and Pulse

Precis Arduino has a function (or command) called – TONE.

It can play notes to a speaker – for example an 8 ohm speaker with a 100 ohm resistor in series. The speaker earth is connected to Arduino ground. One end of the 100 ohm resistor is connected to the speaker and the other to one of the Arduino pins.

How to use: The function takes the form `tone(pin_Number,Note, Duration);`

The “pin_Number” can be any of the pins. (Avoid pin 3 and pin 11 as it interferes with PWM)
Use a variable to store the pin – eg `int speaker = 8;`

The “Note” is the frequency in hertz, and is usually contained in an array such as :

```
int melody[] = {  
    NOTE_C4, NOTE_G3,NOTE_G3, NOTE_A3, NOTE_G3,0, NOTE_B3, NOTE_C4};
```

The “Duration” is how long the tone is played for – and is also contained in an array, such as :

```
int noteDurations[] = {  
    4, 8, 8, 4,4,4,4,4 };
```

To play the melody, you use a loop – with a counter for the number of notes.

The number of notes can be stored in a variable – `num_notes`, and calculated as :

```
int num_notes = sizeof(melody) / sizeof(int); // calculates the number of notes
```

NOTE – the function `sizeof` returns the number of **bytes** the array occupies in memory.

Since each element of our “melody” array is an integer, we must divide by the size of an integer to arrive at the number of ELEMENTS (or notes) in the array.

A sample code to play a small melody is included below.

pitches.h To play the notes, you need to include a file called `pitches.h`

This file has the frequency of all the notes.

This is NOT a library file. It is added to your sketch in an extra TAB.

Since this file is part of your Arduino sketch, the command is

```
#include “pitches.h”
```

NOTE - As this is NOT a library file, the name is in inverted commas.

If it was a library file, it would need `#include <pitches.h>`

HOW to add `pitches.h`

After making your main sketch, you will notice on the right hand side of the IDE a small down arrow. This is used to add extra TABS, very similar to extra tabs in your web browser.

Click the down arrow (on the right hand side of the IDE) – click NEW TAB -

It asks for a NAME – type `pitches.h` then press enter.

COPY the data for `pitches` file from below (or from the main Arduino site), and paste it into the tab.

When you SAVE your sketch, an extra file will be created called `pitches.h`

Our Arduino tutorials are on [our U3A Website - here.](#)

```

// Sample Code for Arduino using the NOTE command.
// Connect an 8 ohm speaker in series with a 100 ohm resistor to pin 5.
// connect the speaker ground to the Arduino ground pin.

#include "pitches.h"

int melody[] = {
    NOTE_C4, NOTE_G3,NOTE_G3, NOTE_A3, NOTE_G3,0, NOTE_B3, NOTE_C4};

int noteDurations[] = {
    4, 8, 8, 4,4,4,4,4 };

int num_notes = sizeof(melody) / sizeof(int); // calculate the number of notes.
int speaker = 5; // pin that our speaker is connected to
void setup()
{
    for (int thisNote = 0; thisNote < num_notes; thisNote++)
    {
        // to calculate the note duration, take one second divided by the note type.
        //e.g. quarter note = 1000 / 4, eighth note = 1000/8, etc.
        int noteDuration = 1000/noteDurations[thisNote];
        tone(speaker, melody[thisNote],noteDuration);

        // Allow delay between notes - 30% works well:
        int pauseBetweenNotes = noteDuration * 1.30;
        delay(pauseBetweenNotes);
        // stop the tone playing:
        noTone(speaker);
    }
}

void loop()
{ // nothing needed here – we only want to play the tune once – hence the code is in setup.
}

```

NOTE – you can change the pause between notes, by making it **variable**.
How – insert an extra “note” of 0 between each note in the melody array, and add a corresponding time into the note_duration array for the 0 note.

pitches.h file data

```
/*  
Definition for Arduino pitches.h file used with NOTE command.  
*/
```

```
#define NOTE_B0 31  
#define NOTE_C1 33  
#define NOTE_CS1 35  
#define NOTE_D1 37  
#define NOTE_DS1 39  

```

```
#define NOTE_B4 494
#define NOTE_C5 523
#define NOTE_CS5 554
#define NOTE_D5 587
#define NOTE_DS5 622
#define NOTE_E5 659
#define NOTE_F5 698
#define NOTE_FS5 740
#define NOTE_G5 784
#define NOTE_GS5 831
#define NOTE_A5 880
#define NOTE_AS5 932
#define NOTE_B5 988
#define NOTE_C6 1047
#define NOTE_CS6 1109
#define NOTE_D6 1175
#define NOTE_DS6 1245
#define NOTE_E6 1319
#define NOTE_F6 1397
#define NOTE_FS6 1480
#define NOTE_G6 1568
#define NOTE_GS6 1661
#define NOTE_A6 1760
#define NOTE_AS6 1865
#define NOTE_B6 1976
#define NOTE_C7 2093
#define NOTE_CS7 2217
#define NOTE_D7 2349
#define NOTE_DS7 2489
#define NOTE_E7 2637
#define NOTE_F7 2794
#define NOTE_FS7 2960
#define NOTE_G7 3136
#define NOTE_GS7 3322
#define NOTE_A7 3520
#define NOTE_AS7 3729
#define NOTE_B7 3951
#define NOTE_C8 4186
#define NOTE_CS8 4435
#define NOTE_D8 4699
#define NOTE_DS8 4978
// end of data for pitches.h file
```

Christmas – Jingle Bells

// To keep the melody array small, we have replaced NOTE_ with N in both the main sketch
// and in the pitches.h code.

```
int melody[] =
{
    NG4,NE5,ND5,NC5,NG4,NG4,NE5,ND5,NC5,NA4,
    NA4,NF5,NE5,ND5,NB4,NG5,NG5,NF5,ND5,NE5,
    NG4,NE5,ND5,NC5,NG4,NG4,NE5,ND5,NC5,NA4,
    NA4,NF5,NE5,ND5,NG5,NG5,NG5,NG5,NG5,NA5,NG5,NF5,ND5,NC5,NG5,
    NE5,NE5,NE5,NE5,NE5,NE5,NE5,NG5,NC5,ND5,NE5,
    NF5,NF5,NF5,NF5,NF5,NF5,NE5,NE5,NE5,NE5,NE5,ND5,ND5,NE5,ND5,NG5,
    NE5,NE5,NE5,NE5,NE5,NE5,NE5,NG5,NC5,ND5,NE5,
    NF5,NF5,NF5,NF5,NF5,NF5,NE5,NE5,NE5,NE5,NG5,NG5,NF5,ND5,NC5,
};

int noteDurations[] =
{
    8,8,8,8,2,8,8,8,2, // 10
    8,8,8,8,2,8,8,8,2, // 10
    8,8,8,8,2,8,8,8,2, // 10
    8,8,8,8,8,8,16,16,8,8,8,4,4, // 15
    8,8,4,8,8,4,8,8,8,2, // 11
    8,8,8,16,16,8,8,8,16,16,8,8,8,4,4, // 16
    8,8,4,8,8,4,8,8,8,2, // 11
    8,8,8,16,16,8,8,8,16,16,8,8,8,2, // 15
};
```