
Pickup Bars

Adding a pickup bar to a blank score

- Click the bar rest in the first measure
- Shift-M (M=meter) to open the Meter popover
- Enter the time signature, then a comma, then the number of beats you want for your pickup. Examples:
 - 4/4, 1 (4/4 with one-beat pickup)
 - 4/4, .5 (4/4 with half-beat pickup)
 - 4/4, 1.5 (4/4 with one and a half-beat pickup)
 - 6/8, 1 (6/8 with one 8th note pickup)

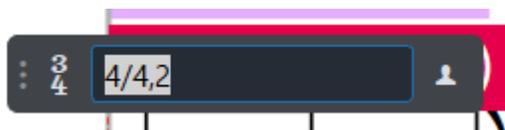
Using the meter popover is better than using the right-hand panel, because it allows you to enter half-beats, for when you need, for example, a three 8th note pickup in 4/4 time. In the panel you can select a half-beat but you cannot select one and a half beats – so always use the Shift-M popover.

Changing the duration of an existing pickup bar

If you already have a pickup and need to change the duration of the pickup, here's how. See the example below.

The image shows a musical score for Tenor Lead and Bari Bass. The Tenor Lead staff is in 4/4 time and has a pickup bar at the beginning. A signpost above the pickup bar reads "SYSTEM BREAK" and "4/4 (q, 1+1+1+1)". The lyrics are "And we are friends, we are friends, Ev - en". The Bari Bass staff is in 4/4 time and has a pickup bar at the beginning. The lyrics are "And we are friends, we are friends, Ev - en".

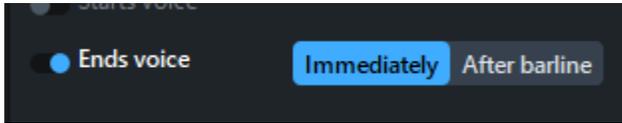
The arranger wanted a 1.5 beat pickup for this tag. The pickup has some extra space at the end. Why? Double-click the signpost for the time signature and you'll see this



When the music was set up initially, it was set up with a 2-beat pickup, we only need 1.5 beats. There should be rests, how to unhide them?

Here's how to fix both problems.

The extra space at the end of the pickup bar is because of a hidden rest. To get the rests back, select the E in the tenor and the F in the baritone, then open the Properties Panel (Ctrl-8 Windows Cmd-8 Mac). Under "Notes and Rests", look for "Ends Voice". Click the blue button to de-select it.

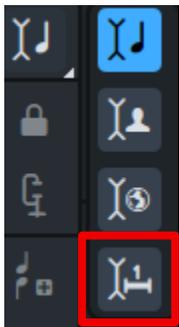


The 8th rests should now re-appear.

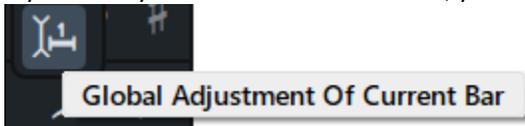


To get rid of the extra 8th rests, go to the left panel and look for the Insert icon

Select the icon then **long press** – left click, then hold down the mouse until a menu appears. When it appears, select the bottom choice



If you move your mouse over that choice, you'll see that it's called "Global Adjustment of Current Bar."



When that choice is selected, the Insert icon will change to show which property is active.

Now, with the global adjustment selected, select the 8th rest in the tenor and hit the delete key. Both 8th rests go away.

SYSTEM BREAK
4/4 (q, 1+1+1+1)

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

Now, if you double click the signpost for the time signature, you'll now see that the pickup has changed to 1.5 beats.



When finished, it's a good idea to long press on the Insert bar, then choose the top option (the default). Once you've done that, **click on the Insert button to de-select it. Inputting notes with the insert button selected will quickly make a mess of your music.**

To lengthen a pickup, it's a similar process. Here we have an 8th note pickup.

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

If we want a quarter note pickup instead, here are the steps:



- Select Insert Mode, then select Global Adjustment of Current Bar
- Select the notes in the pickup. Select the top one, shift-click to select the bottom one. This will select all of them.
- Shift-Alt (Shift-Option on Mac) + right arrow to lengthen the note.
- The same method can shorten a pickup bar as well. To turn a quarter note pickup into an 8th note, make sure the global adjustment is on, then select the quarter note in the pickup bar. Use Shift-Alt (Shift-Option)+ left arrow to shorten it.

Changing a pickup bar to a regular bar (and keeping the music)

How to turn a pickup measure into a regular one **without** losing the music? This is the only method I've found that doesn't re-beam your entire score. Here's some music with 1.5 beat pickup.



The image shows a musical score for Tenor Lead and Bari Bass in 4/4 time. The first measure (bar 1) contains a pickup measure with a 1.5-beat pickup. The second measure (bar 2) contains the main music. The score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The Tenor Lead part starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The Bari Bass part starts with a quarter note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, and a quarter note B3. The pickup measure in bar 1 contains a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The main music in bar 2 contains a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4.

STEP 1. Select the barline at bar 1 and add a (redundant) 4/4 time signature. (Shift-M then 4/4)



STEP 2. Select Insert Mode, then select "Global Adjustment of Current Bar"

STEP 3. With the global adjustment selected, select the initial 4/4 and put in a regular 4/4 time signature (Shift-M then 4/4)

You should now have a regular measure where the pickup used to be.



The image shows the same musical score as before, but now the pickup measure in bar 1 is a regular measure. The second measure (bar 2) now contains a pickup measure with a 1.5-beat pickup. The score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The Tenor Lead part starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The Bari Bass part starts with a quarter note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, and a quarter note B3. The pickup measure in bar 1 contains a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The main music in bar 2 contains a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4.

STEP 4. Remove the redundant 4/4 in what is now bar 2. Select the 4/4, then hit the delete key.,



The image shows the same musical score as before, but now the redundant 4/4 time signature in bar 2 has been removed. The score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The Tenor Lead part starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The Bari Bass part starts with a quarter note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, and a quarter note B3. The pickup measure in bar 1 contains a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The main music in bar 2 contains a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4.