

Ornamentation



Acciaccatura

A short, quick note. Usually played before the beat. Also called a 'grace note'.



Trill

A quick shake with the note above.

Trill

When a grace note is above the trill starts on the note above

In the Classical era (Mozart, Beethoven etc.) sometimes a grace note didn't appear before a trill, but the trill still started on the higher note, as per the second example.



Glissando

Notes played in rapid succession.

Best for pianos and harps, but also tuned percussion.

Turn

The turn starts at the note above and 'turns' around the note

Inverted Turn

The inverted note starts on the note below



Lower Mordent

When an accidental is above or below *any* ornament sign the accidental applies to the ornament (non chord tone).

Upper Mordent



Appoggiatura

A non-harmony note which takes half the value of the next note. Mostly used at cadences and for melodic decoration. Sometimes appoggiaturas are actually written out - in the last bar D is a non-harmony note - don't get caught out.