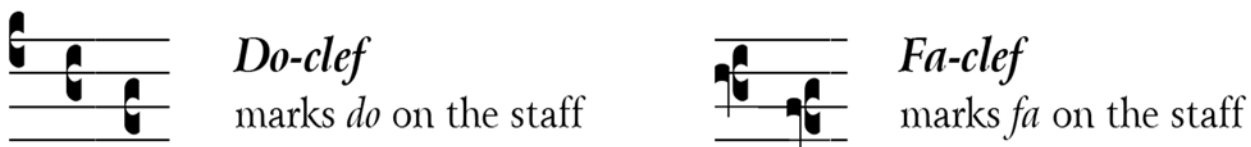




Staff and Clef Signs

Chant is notated on a *four-line staff*. Notes fall on lines and spaces, as they do on the modern five-line staff, and moving from a line to a space represents the movement of one degree in the scale, at the interval of either a whole step or a half step. The staff can be extended by the use of *ledger lines*.

The chant staff accommodates melodies of varying range by using two types of moveable *clefs*:



Clef signs are placed first on every line of chant. They mark the position of either *do*  or *fa*,  on the staff (and thus the position of the semi-tones, or half-steps, in a diatonic scale), and from these the singer determines the relative positions of all the other degrees in the scale. In longer pieces, the range might shift part way through the piece, and may require a *clef change*. The new clef appears following a double bar, and *do* (or *fa*) is repositioned accordingly. The various placements of the different clefs can be confusing, but they are necessary to keep the majority of notes for a given melody on the staff. In time, with consistent use of *solfeggio* (*do-re-mi*), finding the relative position of notes on the different clefs will become second nature.

