

WOODWORKER'S JOURNAL

Old-fashioned Music Box

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Translating a song into a pin arrangement

The music box drum has 64 slats: enough to play a song that's up to 8 measures (bars) in length, with each individual measure divided into one whole note, two half notes, four quarter notes, or eight eighth notes, or any combination thereof. Each pin set into the drum activates one note at a time, and their arrangement determines the tune the music box will play. To create a "map" of the location of the pins in the slats, start by creating a numbered list 64 lines long (computer or paper, your choice). Now divide the list into 8 measures of 8 beats each. Hence, lines 1-8 are the first measure divided into 8 beats; lines 2-16 are the second measure, also divided into 8 beats. If the song has words, add each word at the correct measure and beat. Now add the notes of the song you've chosen on the lines of your list, each on the measure and beat they're played on. For example, take a look at the first two measures of "Heart and Soul"

Heart and Soul Pin Map

Slat #	Measure #	Beat #	Lyric	Notes
1.	1	1	Heart	G C
2.	1	2		
3.	1	3	and	G C C2
4.	1	4		
5.	1	5	soul	G C C2
6.	1	6		
7.	1	7		
8.	1	8		
9.	2	1		
10.	2	2	I	C
11.	2	3	fell	B
12.	2	4	in	A
13.	2	5	love	B B2
14.	2	6	with	C C2
15.	2	7	you	D D2
16.	2	8		
17.	3	1	heart	C E
18.	3	2		
19.	3	3	and	C E E2
20.	3	4		
21.	3	5	soul	C E E2
22.	3	6		
23.	3	7		
24.	3	8		
25.	4	1		
26.	4	2	the	C E
27.	4	3	way	B D
28.	4	4	a	A C
29.	4	5	fool	B D
30.	4	6	would	C E
31.	4	7	do	D F
32.	4	8		
33.	5	1	mad-	E G2 G3
34.	5	2		
35.	5	3		
36.	5	4		
37.	5	5	-ly	G C C2
38.	5	6		
39.	5	7		
40.	5	8		
41.	6	1		
42.	6	2	be-	F A2
43.	6	3	-cause	E G2
44.	6	4	you	D F
45.	6	5	held	C E
46.	6	6		
47.	6	7	me	B D
48.	6	8		
49.	7	1	tight	G C C2
50.	7	2		
51.	7	3		
52.	7	4		
53.	7	5		
54.	7	6	and	D
55.	7	7	stole	E
56.	7	8	a	F
57.	8	1	kiss	E G2
58.	8	2		
59.	8	3	in	D F
60.	8	4	the	C E
61.	8	5	nig-	G D E2
62.	8	6		
63.	8	7	-ght	G B D D2
64.	8	8		