LuteScribe attempts to offer an editing experience that reflects the underlying Tab commands used, yet at the same time is displayed in a way that is familiar to tabulature readers. In this way it is possible to play directly from the tabulature you are editing.

To achieve this it uses some visual formatting rules for the top row of the tabulature which shows the command character. The rationale is to present the tabulature in a familiar way and to de-emphasise the display of common characters that are not needed to be read when playing the tabulature (e.g. x, b, B etc). The lines of tabulature that indicate the courses and frets use a historic style font

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Element | Tab command character | Font symbol shown in lutesribe | Notes |
| Whole note | W | W | These command characters are shown using a custom font which renders the character using a symbol familiar to readers of tabulature,  e.g. (1 = 1, 2 = 2 etc) |
| Half note | W | w |
| 0 flags | 0 | 0 |
| 1 flag | 1 | 1 |
| 2 flags | 2 | 2 |
| 3 flags | 3 | 3 |
| 4 flags | 4 | 4 |
| 5 flags | 5 | 5 |
| Dal segno | D | d |
| Fermata type 1 | Y | y |
| Fermata type 2 | Y | Y |
| Common time | C | C |
| Cut time | C | c |
| Continue previous item | x | x | These command characters are shown in a small light grey font to be less visually prominent.  (e.g. x, b, B)  For those items having a bar line, the element is shown with a single border. |
| Bar line | B | vertical bar |
| Heavy bar line | B | heavy vertical bar |
| Complex bar line | bB, .b, BB etc | Vertical bar | these items are shown in a green font to convey they are not a standard bar line  (e.g. bB BB) |
| *<other Tab command>* | *<various>* | *<character shown as standard asci font symbol>* |  |