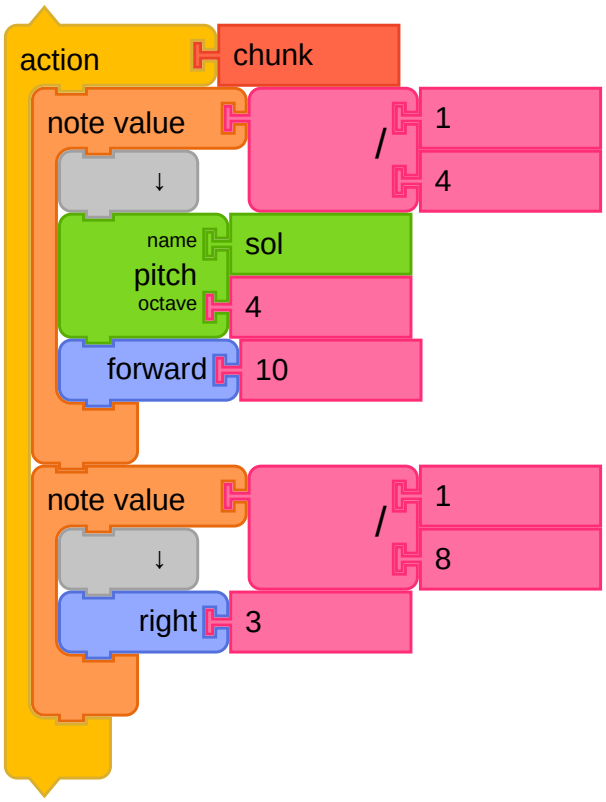
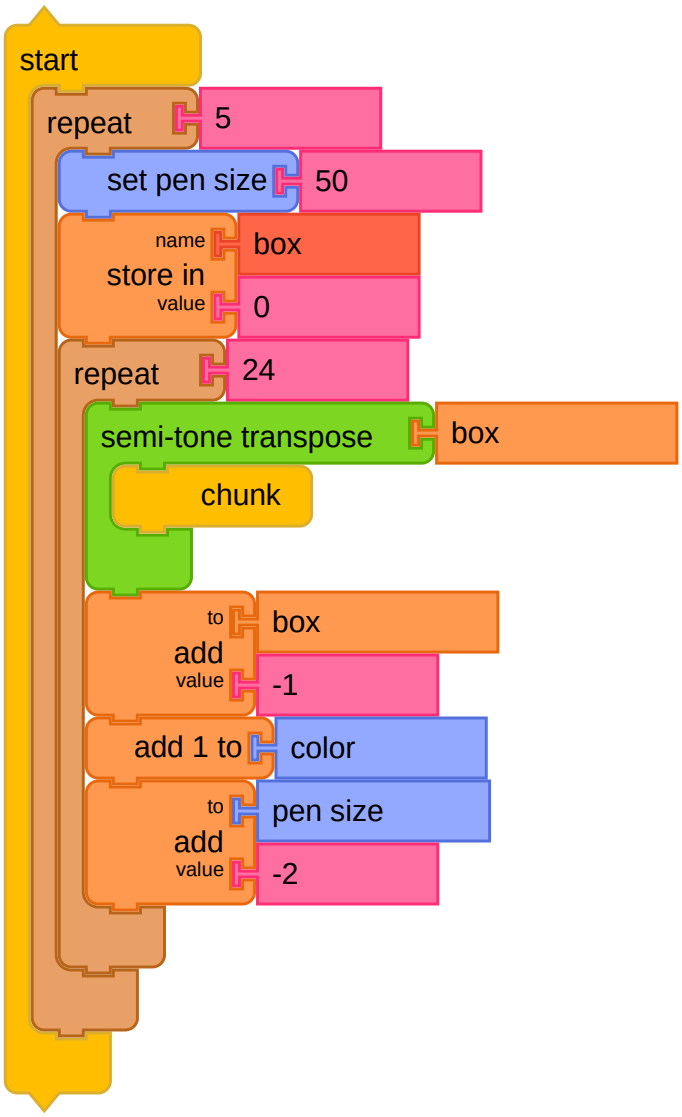
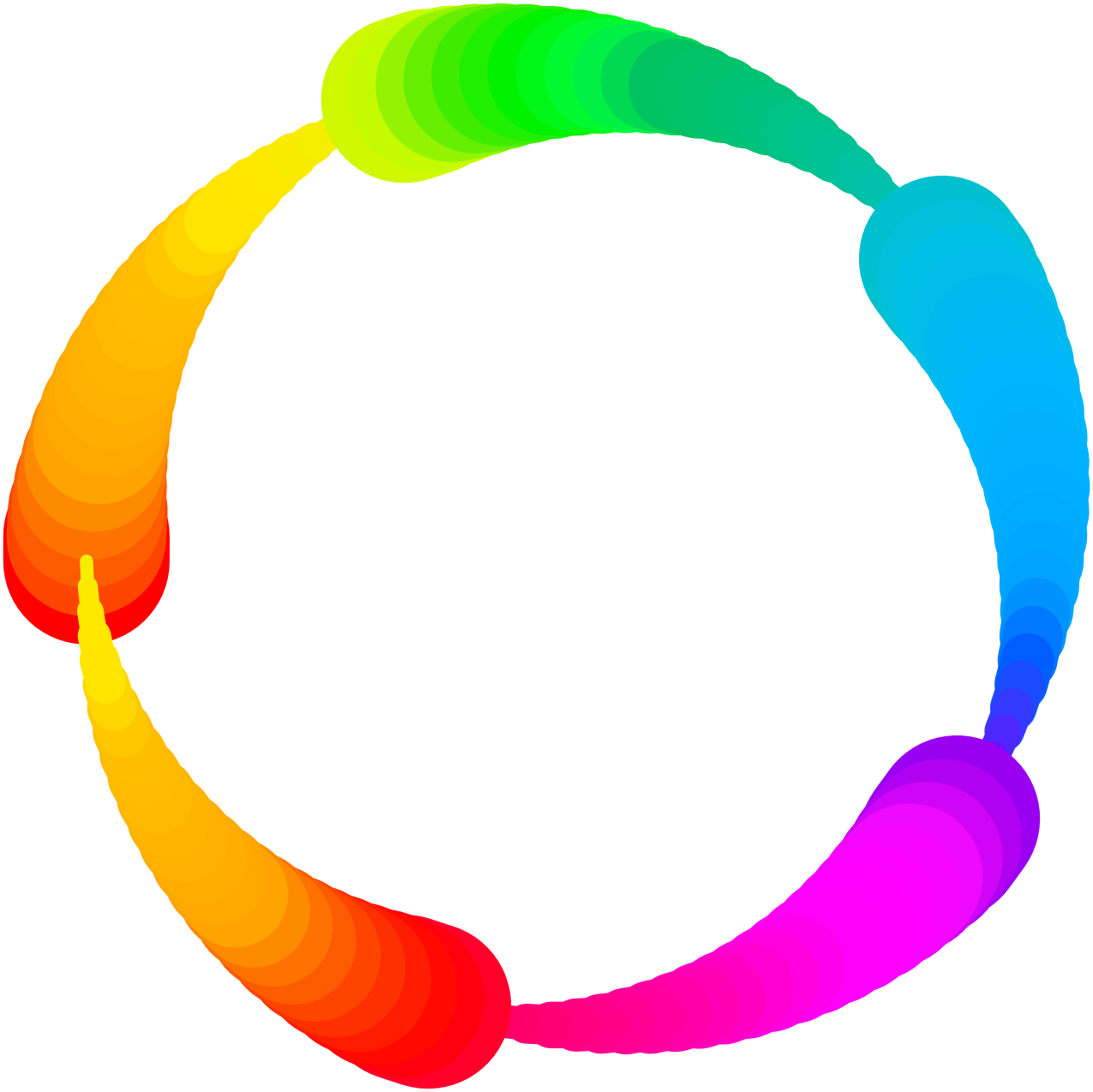
3.6 Adding graphics

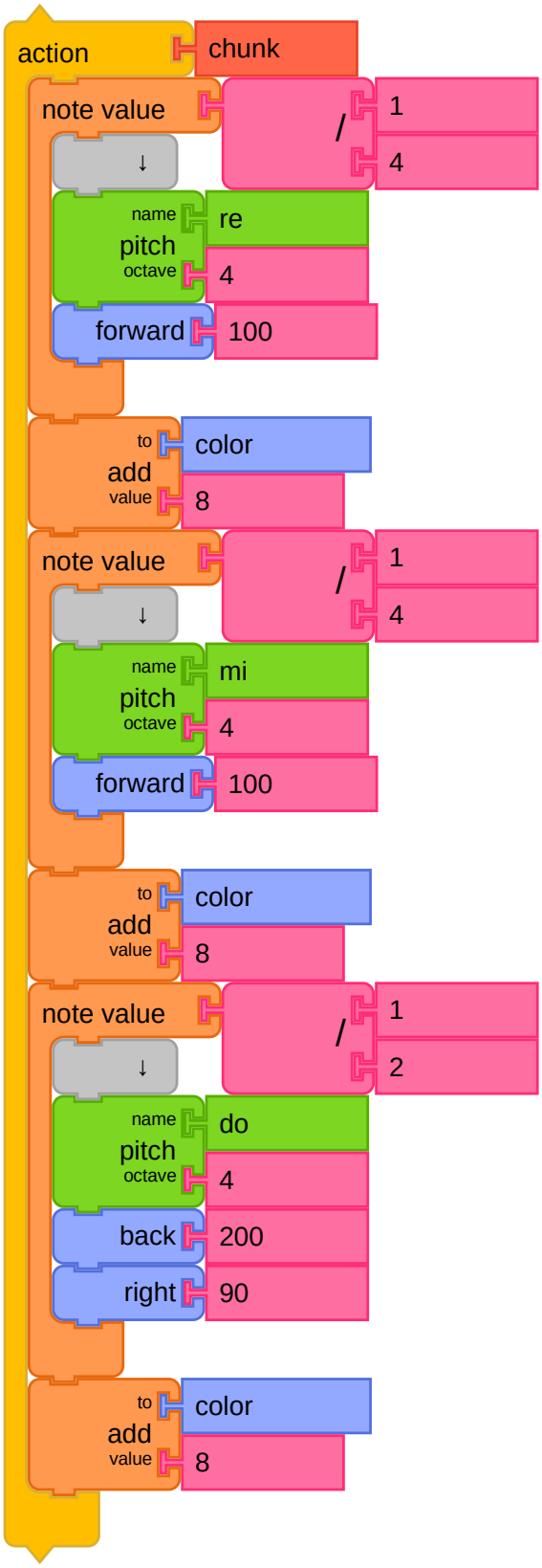


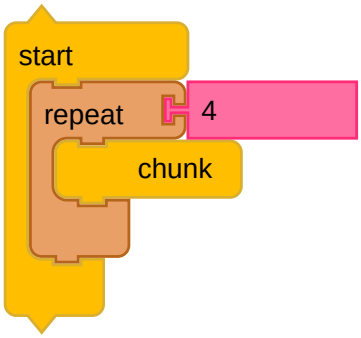




Turtle graphics can be combined with the music blocks. By placing graphics blocks, e.g., *Forward* and *Right*, inside of *Note value* blocks, the graphics stay in sync with the music. In this example, the turtle moves forward each time a quarter note is played. It turns right during the eighth note. The pitch is decreased by one half step, the pen size decreases, and the pen color increases at each step in the inner repeat loop.

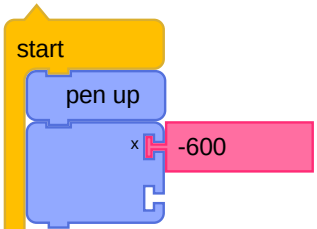
RUN LIVE (https://musicblocks.sugarlabs.org/index.html?id=1523494709674021&run=True)

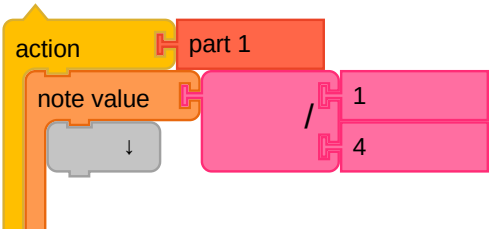


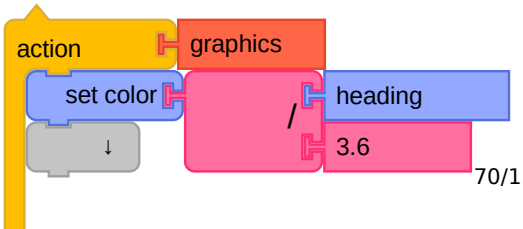


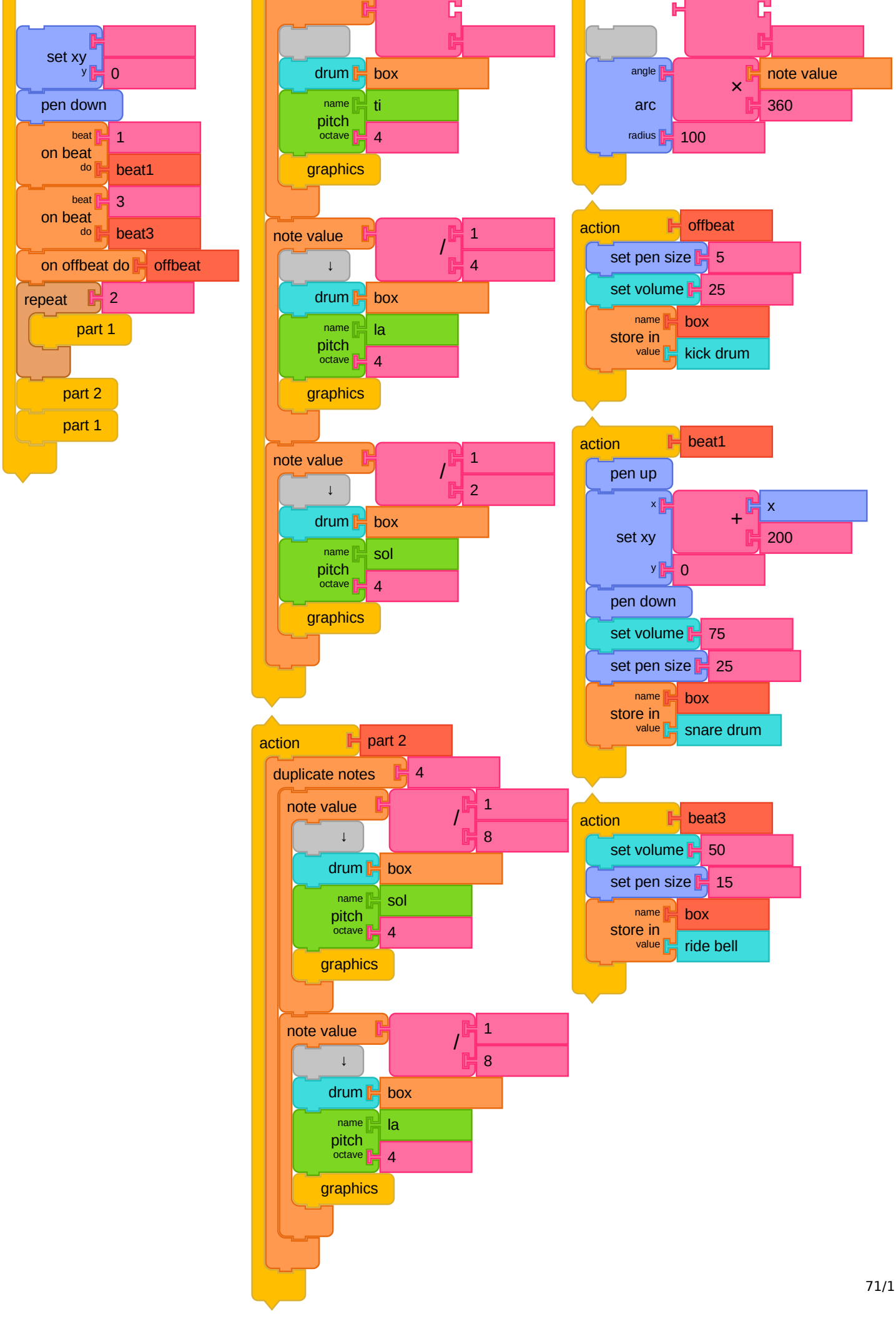
Another example of graphics synchronized to the music by placing the graphics commands inside of *Note value* blocks

RUN LIVE (https://musicblocks.sugarlabs.org/index.html?id=1523106271018484&run=True)

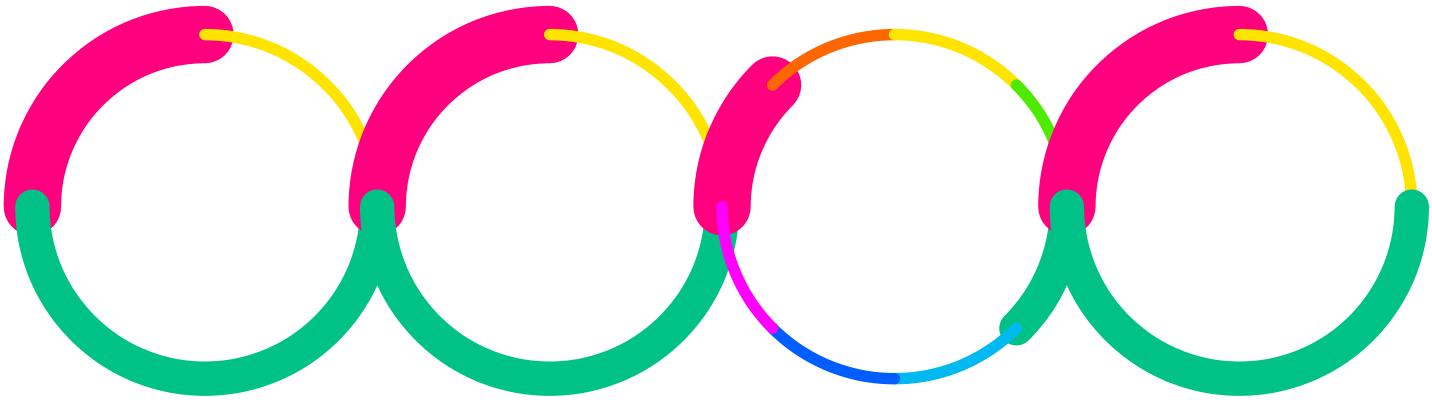




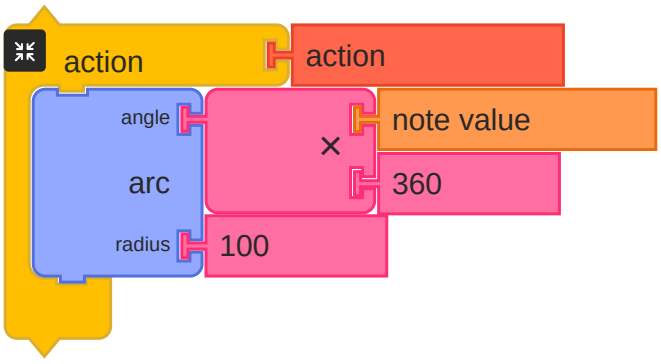



set xy
y
0
pen down
beat
on beat
do
1
beat1
beat
on beat
do
3
beat3
on offbeat do
offbeat
repeat
2
part 1
part 2
part 1
drum
box
name
pitch
octave
ti
4
graphics
note value
/
1
4
↓
drum
box
name
pitch
octave
la
4
graphics
note value
/
1
2
↓
drum
box
name
pitch
octave
sol
4
graphics
action
part 2
duplicate notes
4
note value
/
1
8
↓
drum
box
name
pitch
octave
sol
4
graphics
note value
/
1
8
↓
drum
box
name
pitch
octave
la
4
graphics
angle
arc
radius
×
note value
360
100
action
offbeat
set pen size
5
set volume
25
name
store in
value
box
kick drum
action
beat1
pen up
x
set xy
y
+
x
200
0
pen down
set volume
75
set pen size
25
name
store in
value
box
snare drum
action
beat3
set volume
50
set pen size
15
name
store in
value
box
ride bell

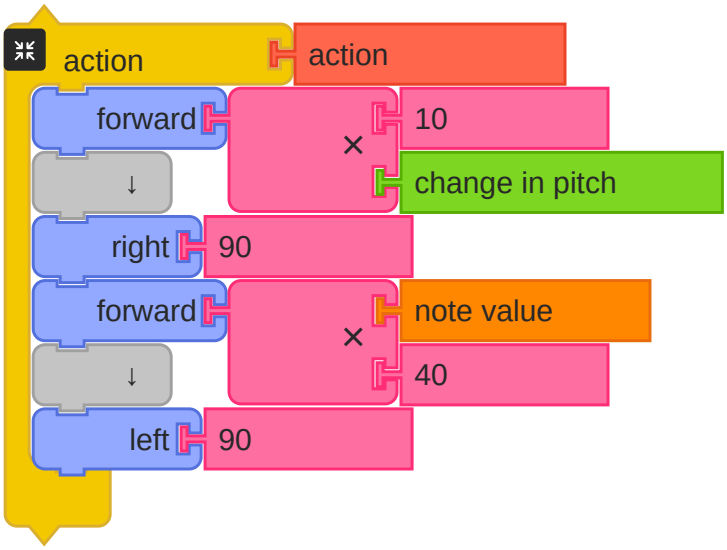
Another approach to graphics is to use modulate them based on the beat. In the example above, we call the same graphics action for each note, but the parameters associated with the action, such as pen width, are dependent upon which beat we are on. On Beat 1, the pen size is set to `50` and the volume to `75`. On Beat `3`, the pen size is set to `25` and the volume to `50`. On off beats, the pen size is set to `5` and the volumne to `5`. The resultant graphic is shown below.



The *On-Every-Note-Do* block lets you specify an action to take whenever a note is played. In the example above, the note value is used to determine the portion of an arc to draw, i.e., a 1/4 note draws a 1/4 circle, a 1/2 note draw 1/2 circle, and a whole note draws a full circle.



The *On-Every-Note-Do* block is found in the Crab Canon project on the Planet to "plot the music". The mouse moves up and down based on the change in pich between notes and to the right in proportion to the note value.



RUN LIVE (https://musicblocks.sugarlabs.org/index.html?id=1522885323588493)

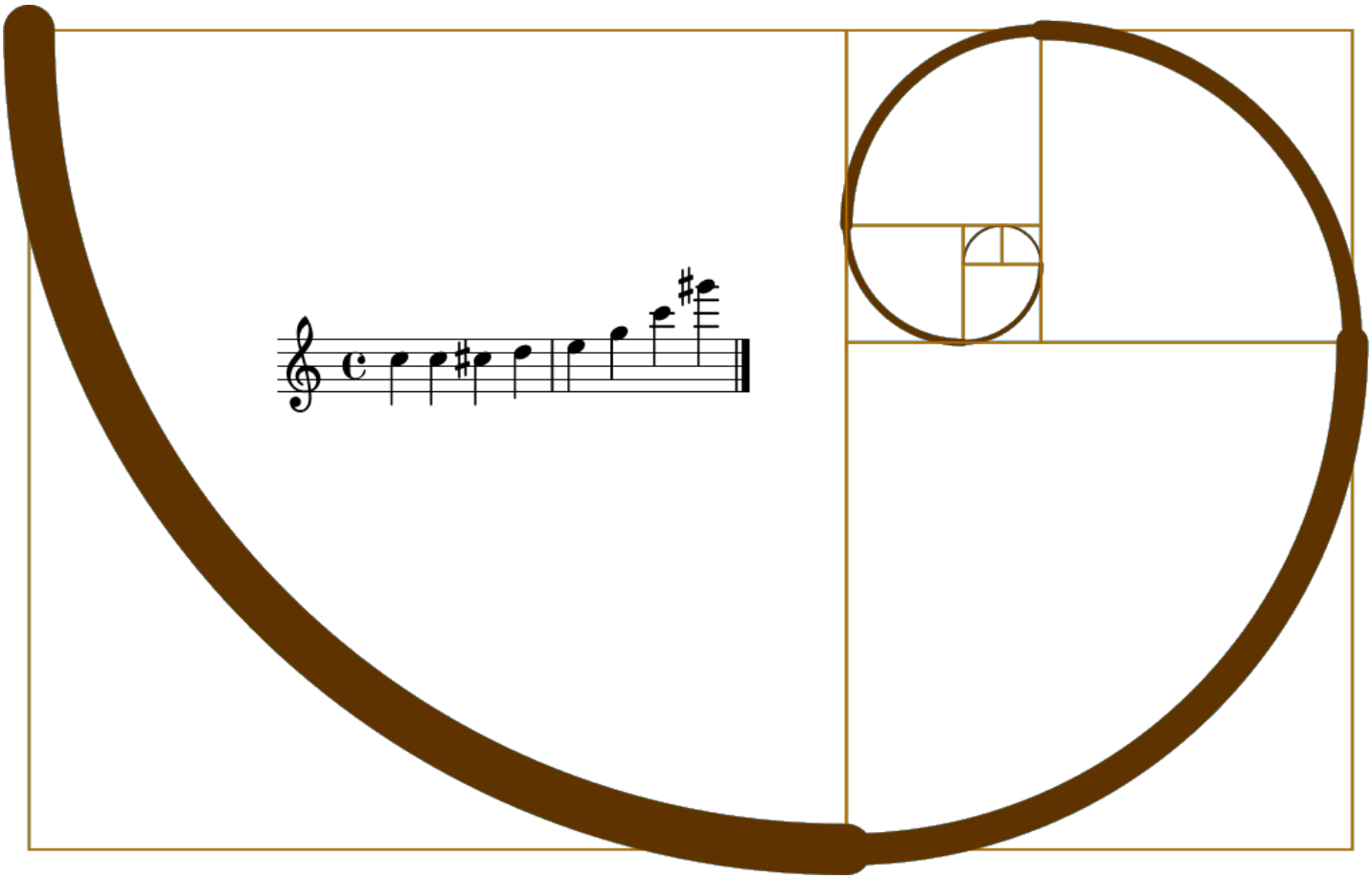
Music Blocks has an internal "conductor" maintaining the beat. When the Run button is clicked, the program begins and an internal master (or "conductor") clock starts up. All of the music tries to stay synced to that clock.

For example, if you have multiple voices (mice), they all share the same conductor in order to keep on the same beat. If a voice (mouse) is falling behind, Music Blocks tries to catch up on the next note by truncating it. If it is an 1/8 note behind and the next note is a 1/2 note, then only an 3/8 note would be played, so as to catch up. That is a somewhat extreme example—usually the timing errors are only very very small differences.

But in some situations, the timing errors can be very large. This is when the *No-clock* block is used.

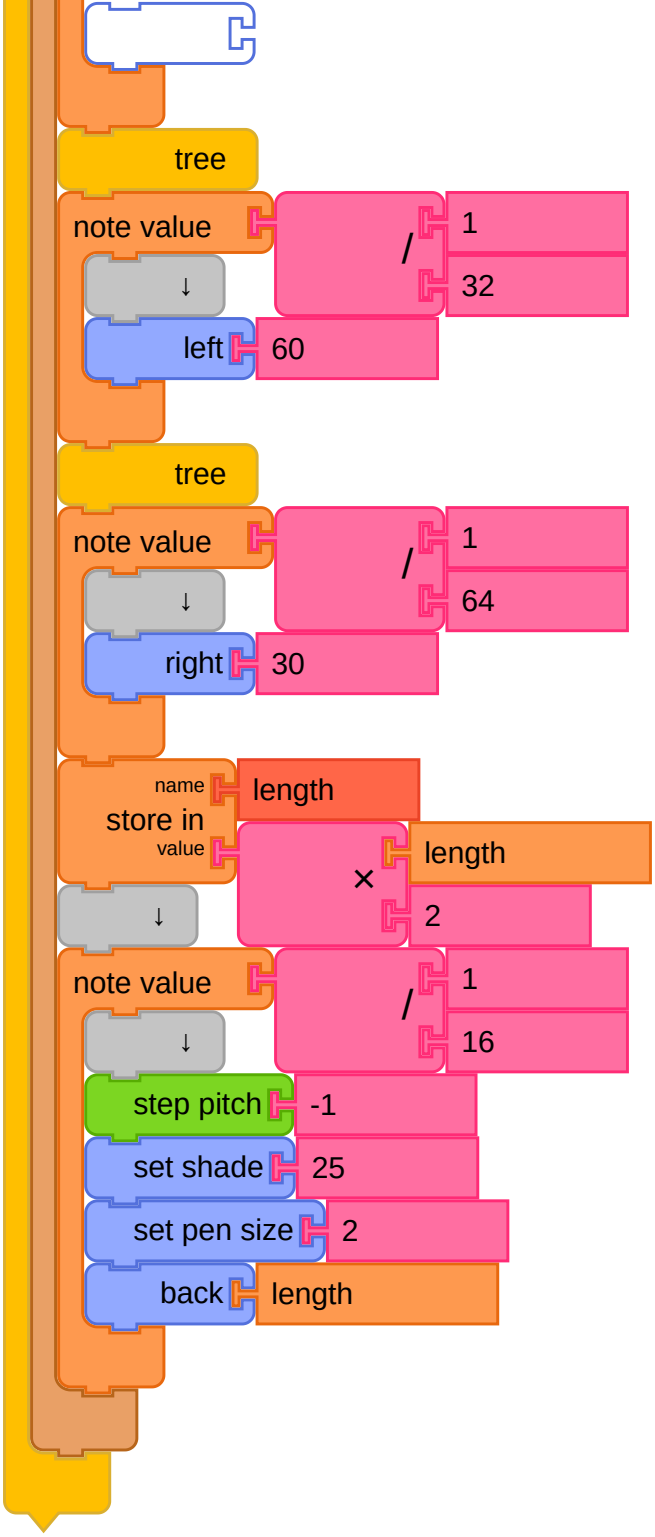
A typical problem is when the music is not played continuously. Imagine an interactive game where a hero is battling a monster. Our hero plays theme music whenever the monster is defeated. But that might occur at any time, hence it is not going to be in sync with the conductor. The offset could be tens of seconds. This would mean that all of the notes in the theme music might be consumed by trying to catch up with the conductor. The *No-clock* block essentially says, do your own thing and don't worry about the conductor.

In this example, because the computation and graphics are more complex, a *No-clock* block is used to decouple the graphics from the master clock. The "No-clock* block prioritizes the sequence of actions over the specified rhythm.

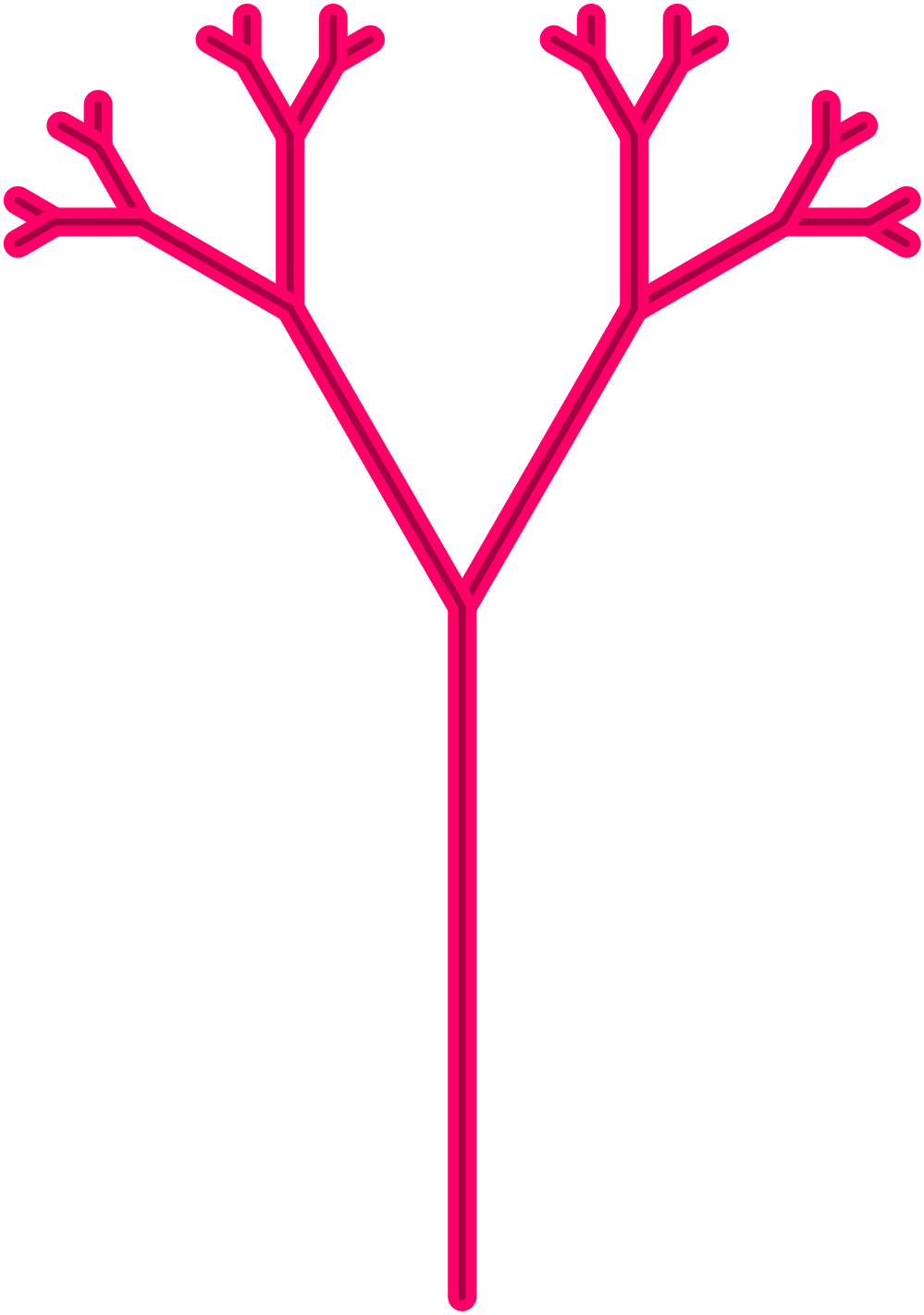


```
start
    store in (name) length (value) 256
    no clock
        note value ↓ (1 / 16)
            store in (name) sol (pitch) 4 (octave)
            clear
            back 256
        tree
```

```
action tree
    if (length > 8) then
        note value ↓ (1 / 16)
        step pitch 1
        set shade 50
        set pen size 8
        forward length
        store in (name) length (value) length / 2
        note value ↓ (1 / 64)
        right 30
```



Another example of embedding graphics into notes: in case, a recursive tree drawing, where the pitch goes up as the branches ascend.



RUN LIVE (https://musicblocks.sugarlabs.org/index.html?id=1523029986215035&run=True)