

# Ekmelily - Notation of Microtonal Music

Ekmelily is an extension for [LilyPond](#) that supports variable accidentals and key signatures for the notation of microtonal music in several equal-temperament tunings — 12, 19, 24, 31, 36, 48, 53, 72, 96-EDO — and in 5-limit JI. For this purpose, it introduces [predefined](#) and [user-defined](#) notation styles. Each style describes a set of symbols for the alterations, usually up to the five-quarters-tone. Furthermore, Ekmelily defines own [note names](#) based on the names for semi- and quarter-tones given in LilyPond.

See [Esmuflily](#) for other [SMuFL](#) music symbols.

Ekmelily requires LilyPond version 2.24 or higher.

This documentation uses the [Ekmelos](#) font for all SMuFL glyph.

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## Author and License

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## Download, Installation, Usage

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[Ekmelily on GitHub](#)

The folder `ly` contains the include files.

Copy the file(s) for the desired [tuning\(s\)](#) as well as the main include file `ekmel-main.ly` into an appropriate folder.

### Lookup Tables

... with all accidentals and note names supported by Ekmelily,  
or create the desired lookup tables with `docs/table.ly`.

### Usage

Add the following lines near the top of your LilyPond input file. Each of which is optional, except for `\include` of the desired [tuning](#).

```
ekmFont = FONT
\include "ekmel..."
\ekmStyle STYLE
\ekmUserStyle USERSTYLE #'((ALTERATION ELEMENT ...) ... )
\language "LANGUAGE"
```

### Ekmelily + Esmuflily

See [Esmuflily](#).

## Fonts

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Ekmelily requires a font for accidentals defined by code point, character literal, or string. This applies to all accidentals in the [predefined notation styles](#). Each of them is a SMuFL recommended character or [Ekmelos](#) specific optional glyph (starting at code point U+F600).

Ekmelily uses [Ekmelos](#) by default. Another font can be selected, either with the variable

```
ekmFont = FONT
```

preceding the include file,

or with the command line option

```
-dekmfont=FONT
```

Note that this option produces a warning 'no such internal option', which can be ignored. Warnings can be suppressed with the command line option `--loglevel=ERROR` or `--loglevel=NONE`.

The glyphs from LilyPond's Emmentaler font can be used with markup in a [user-defined notation style](#). See the [Example lilysingle](#).

### Drawing paths

Ekmelily supports drawing paths instead of font glyphs, which allows e.g. to produce stand-alone SVG output. This requires the Scheme procedure `ekm-path-stencil` as it is provided for [Ekmelos](#) by the include file `ly/ekmelos-paths.ly`.

A trailing (or solitary) # in FONT draws paths, which effects all accidentals defined by a code point or a character literal, in particular, all accidentals in the [predefined notation styles](#).

Note that spaces and other glyphs without a contour, as well as side-bearing and font features like stylistic alternates or ligatures are not available with paths.

To draw Ekmelos glyphs as paths, add the following lines near the top of your LilyPond input file. A single "#" is equivalent to "Ekmelos#".

```
ekmFont = "#"
\include "ekmelos-paths.ly"
...
```

## Tunings

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Ekmelily supports different tunings available as separate include files. Each provides its own set of languages and predefined notation styles. The first language and notation style specified in the following table is the default in the respective tuning. Some languages have alias names (in parentheses).

Tuning	Include file	Languages	Notation styles
12	ekmel-12.ily	nederlandse català (catalan) (espanol) italiano português (portuguese) suomi svenska	std sag msag
19	ekmel-19.ily	nederlandse català (catalan) (espanol) italiano português (portuguese) suomi svenska	std sag msag
24	ekmel-24.ily	nederlandse català (catalan) (espanol) italiano português (portuguese) suomi svenska	stc stz go stvt arrow sag msag arabic persian four haba bl
arabic	ekmel-arabic.ily	italiano arabic	arabic helmakam
31	ekmel-31.ily	nederlandse deutsch español (espanol) français italiano português (portuguese)	std sag msag stz sth
36	ekmel-36.ily	nederlandse english deutsch norsk suomi svenska	go arrow sag msag wys bos haba
48	ekmel-48.ily	nederlandse english deutsch	sag msag gostz
53	ekmel-53.ily	makam thm ktm english number	aeu aeuek thm sag dia
72	ekmel.ily	nederlandse english deutsch norsk suomi svenska	arrow rhm rhmk sims hesse sag msag wys gostz gostc bos fern haba
96	ekmel-96.ily	nederlandse english deutsch	sag msag persian om
5ji	ekmel-5ji.ily	nederlandse	sag msag he

Note: ekmel-arabic.ily is a variant of ekmel-24.ily for Arabic scores, like LilyPond's arabic.ly and hel-arabic.ly but with the correct accidentals U+ED30 - U+ED38. It also supports Arabic maqamat (keys).

## Languages and Note names

---

Each [tuning](#) provides one or more languages for note names, which can be selected with the command

```
\language "LANGUAGE"
```

If LANGUAGE is not supported by the respective tuning, the default language is selected.

See the [Lookup Tables](#) with all note names supported by Ekmelily, or create the desired lookup tables with `docs/table.ly`. The note names are based on the names for semi- and quarter-tones given in LilyPond.

### Alteration names

An alteration name is the accidental suffix of a note name in the selected language. It can be specified as a symbol in [user-defined notation styles](#) and in [commands](#) like `\ekmelic-char` alternative to a rational number. This is useful, in particular, to distinguish enharmonically equivalent accidentals.

Note: All languages define note names with accidental suffixes, except for `ktm` in tuning 53.

### Enharmonically equivalent note names

Some notation styles support two distinct, enharmonically equivalent accidentals, e.g., `arrow`, `rhm`, and `sims` for the one-quarter-tone and the three-quarters-tone. Therefore, Ekmelily defines two note names each, e.g. `cih` and `ciseh` (nederlands), or `cqs` and `csaqf` (english). However, LilyPond does not support different accidentals for the same alteration. As a workaround, the combined note names like `ciseh` and `csaqf` have slightly differing alterations (+1/1024) and therefore cause inaccurate MIDI output.

### NoteNames context

Ekmelily supports the `NoteNames` context and its properties. Note names can be drawn in any supported language by setting the `printNotesLanguage` property. Else, the language selected for music entry is used. Accidentals are drawn with the [command](#) `\ekmelic-char-text`.

The format can be specified with the `printAccidentalNames` property. The first three values in the following list are equivalent to LilyPond's normal behaviour.

<code>#t</code>	Scale name and accidental (default)
<code>#f</code>	Scale name
<code>'lily</code>	Note name
<code>'all</code>	All alias note names stacked vertically
<code>'alteration</code>	Alteration name
<code>'fraction</code>	Scale name and fraction of alteration
<code>'accidental</code>	Accidental

## Predefined Notation Styles

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Each [tuning](#) provides one or more predefined notation styles, which can be selected either with the command

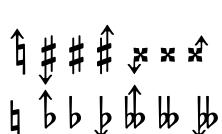
```
\ekmstyle STYLE
```

or with the command line option

```
-dekmstyle=STYLE
```

If STYLE is not supported by the respective tuning, the default notation style is selected.

The following table shows all predefined notation styles. N indicates the default style in tuning N. See the [Lookup Tables](#) with all accidentals in these styles, or create the desired lookup tables with `docs/table.ly`. All styles require a [SMuFL compliant font](#). All optional glyphs (starting at code point U+F600) are private supplements of Ekmelos.

Style		Tunings	Accidentals
std	Standard	<u>12</u> <u>19</u>	# x b bb
	Standard	<u>31</u>	↑ # x ↓ b bb
stc	Stein / Couper	<u>24</u>	# # # x d b d bb
stz	Stein / Zimmermann	<u>24</u> <u>31</u>	# # # x d b d bb
stvt	Stein / Van Blankenburg / Tartini	<u>24</u>	# # # x l b l bb
sth	Stein / Half flat Uses the optional glyphs U+F612 - U+F613 for the semi-flats.	<u>31</u>	# # # x l b l w bb
bl	Blackwood Uses the optional glyphs U+F610 - U+F611.	<u>24</u>	∅ # x ∅ b bb
four	Digit 4	<u>24</u>	⁴# # x ⁴b b bb
go	Gould	<u>24</u> <u>36</u>	
arabic	Arabic See <code>ekmel-arabic.ly</code> for Arabic maqamat.	<u>24</u> <u>arabic</u>	# # # x t b l bb
helmakam	Hel Makam Uses the optional glyph U+F61B for the slashed double-flat.	arabic	# # # x # # t b l bb # #





## Universal Notation Styles

---

These notation styles are available for all [tunings](#). They do not define any accidentals, except for the [special symbols](#) (default, leftparen, rightparen), so that the default accidental is drawn for each alteration. The special symbols of `void` are automatically added to every [predefined notation style](#).

Style	default	leftparen	rightparen
<code>void</code>	Nothing (empty markup)	#xE26A	#xE26B
<code>alteration</code>	The alteration value, e.g. $\frac{1}{4}$	" ("	") "
<code>alteration-slash</code>	The alteration value, e.g. $\frac{1}{4}$	" ("	") "
<code>step</code>	The step of the alteration (integer)	" ("	") "

Note: `alteration`, `alteration-slash`, and `step` use the text font selected in LilyPond, not the [selected font](#) of Ekmelily. See the [Example numeric](#) which is similar to `alteration`.

## User-defined Notation Styles

---

A new notation style derived from the currently selected style can be created with the command

```
\ekmUserStyle USERSTYLE #'(
  (ALTERATION ELEMENT ... )
  ...
)
```

USERSTYLE is a freely chosen style name. If it is an empty string "", the name of the currently selected style extended with the suffix `-user` is taken.

ALTERATION is a rational number, an [alteration name](#), or the name of a [special symbol](#).

For each specified alteration, a new accidental symbol is defined which is the composition of the ELEMENTs. For all other alterations where the previous accidental symbol of ALTERATION appears likewise (usually combined with other symbols), it is also replaced with the new one. Therefore, the order of alterations in the definition list can be significant, in particular, when a replaced accidental symbol is again defined but for another alteration. See the [Example diaQuarter](#).

ELEMENT is one of the following:

- a code point (integer), e.g. #xE47B for Wilson plus
- a character literal, e.g. #\b for flat
- a string, e.g. "bb" for double-flat
- markup, e.g. , (markup #:semisharp)

Two or more elements are juxtaposed with a padding of 0.12 staff units, but no extra space is inserted between the characters of a string. Note that in a [SMuFL compliant font](#), all accidental glyphs have a zero side-bearing. This also applies to the Basic Latin (ASCII) characters in the [Ekmelos](#) font, so that e.g. "bb" is drawn without padding and #\b #\b with padding. See the [Example hewm](#).

## Special Symbols

---

Every notation style includes the following special symbols which are assigned to names instead of alterations.

### Symbol name

default	Default accidental for alterations without a defined accidental. This applies to the <a href="#">universal notation styles</a> and to some styles for 53 and 96-EDO, or it can occur with \transpose.
leftparen	Left parenthesis for cautionary accidentals.
rightparen	Right parenthesis for cautionary accidentals.

The special symbols of every [predefined notation style](#) are equal to the [universal notation style](#) void.

They can be [user-defined](#) like accidentals:

```
\ekmUserStyle USERSTYLE #'(
  (default ELEMENT ...)
  (leftparen ELEMENT ...)
  (rightparen ELEMENT ...)
  ...
)
```

Note: If both, the accidental and the parentheses are defined by a single code point, character literal, or string, the entire cautionary accidental is drawn as a single string. This enables the use of a ligature if one is provided by the [selected font](#).

## Additional Commands

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\ekmelicOutputSuffix

Set the name of the selected notation style as the output filename suffix for the current \book section.

\ekmelic-style-name

Draw the name of the selected notation style as markup.

\ekmelic-font-name

Draw the name of the selected font as markup.

\ekmelic-char ALTERATION

Draw the accidental of ALTERATION (a rational number or an [alteration name](#)) according to the selected notation style as markup.

Used property:

- `font-size (1)`

\ekmelic-char-text ALTERATION

Draw the accidental of ALTERATION (a rational number or an [alteration name](#)) according to the selected notation style as markup, vertically aligned for use outside of staves, e.g. `NoteNames`, `ChordNames`, trill spanner, figured bass, or function theory text.

If `style` is 'chord the standard accidentals (U+E260 - U+E266) are replaced with the corresponding chord symbols (U+ED60 - U+ED66) and all accidentals are bottom aligned. This is used in `ChordNames`.

Used properties:

- `font-size (0)`
- `style ('())`

\ekmelic-elem ELEMENT

Draw ELEMENT with the selected font as markup. ELEMENT is a code point (integer), a character literal, a string, or markup. This command is intended to combine glyphs from the selected font with other markup in a [user-defined notation style](#).

\ekm-fraction ARG1 ARG2

Draw a fraction of ARG1 and ARG2 as markup, with a fraction bar according to `style`: The default draws a horizontal bar. This is a variant of LilyPond's `\fraction` but with consistent vertical alignment. '`slash` draws a diagonal bar. '`line` draws a solidus (U+002F) with horizontally stacked numbers. This command is used by the next two commands.

Used properties:

- `font-size (0)`
- `style ('())`

## \ekmelic-fraction ALTERATION

Draw ALTERATION (a rational number) as markup. If the denominator is 1, only the numerator is drawn, else a fraction according to style, and with fraction-size relative to the font size unless style is 'line'.

Used properties:

- fraction-size (0)
- style ('())

## \ekmelic-fraction-small ALTERATION

Draw ALTERATION (a rational number) as markup like \ekmelic-fraction but with a 4 steps smaller fraction size.

## \ekmelic-table NATURAL COMPOSITE ORDER

Draw a table of all accidentals in the selected notation style as markup, including the natural symbol if NATURAL is true, and all composite accidentals if COMPOSITE is true. [Enharmonically equivalent](#) accidentals and [special symbols](#) are always ignored. The accidentals are arranged in a row with the respective alteration placed beneath, and sorted by ascending or descending alteration if ORDER is 1 or -1, respectively, or by absolute alteration if ORDER is 2 or -2.

Used properties:

- font-size (0)
- width (4) : Horizontal extent for each accidental.
- baseline-skip : Distance between accidental and alteration.

## Examples

---

See also the file `styles/user-styles.ly` for further examples of user-defined styles.

```
ekmFont = "Bravura"
\include "ekmel.ily"
\language "english"
\ekmStyle sims
```

Sets the predefined Sims notation style for 72-EDO, selects the English note names, and draws the accidentals with the Bravura font.

```
\include "ekmel-24.ily"
\ekmStyle stz
\ekmUserStyle myNotation #'(
  (-3/4 #xE327)
  (1 #xE262 #xE262))
```

Sets the predefined Stein/Zimmermann notation style (`stz`) for quarter-tones (24-EDO) and modifies it into a user-defined notation style with the Sagittal flat 11 medium diesis down symbol  $\Downarrow$  (U+E327) for three-quarter-tones flat, and two sharp symbols  $\sharp$  (U+E262) for double-sharp.

```
\include "ekmel-24.ily"
\ekmStyle stz
\ekmUserStyle myNotation #'(
  (, THREE-Q-FLAT #xE327)
  (, DOUBLE-SHARP #xE262 #xE262))
```

This is the same example as above but it makes use of the corresponding Scheme symbols.

```
\include "ekmel.ily"
\language "english"
\ekmUserStyle hewm #'(
  (1 #\x)
  (-1 #\b #\b)
  (1/2 #\#)
  (-1/2 #\b)
  (1/4 #\^)
  (-1/4 #\v)
  (1/6 #\>)
  (-1/6 #\<)
  (1/12 #\+)
  (-1/12 #\-) )
```

Sets the **HEWM** (Helmholtz/Ellis/Wolf/Monzo) notation for 72-EDO and selects the English note names. Note that double-flat is defined with `#\b #\b` which is drawn with a padding contrary to "bb".

```
\include "ekmel-24.ily"
\ekmStyle stz
\ekmUserStyle stockhausen #'(
  (1/4 #xED58)
  (-1/4 #xED59)
  (3/4 #xED5A)
  (-3/4 #xED59 #xE260))
```

Sets the notation after Karlheinz Stockhausen for 24-EDO with the fractional sharp symbols

$\sharp$  (U+ED58, U+ED5A) , and the quarter-tone flat symbol  $\flat$  (U+ED59) .

```
\include "ekmel.ily"
\ekmUserStyle smuflHesse #'(
  (1/4 #xE27A)
  (-1/4 #xE27B)
  (1/6 #xE2A4)
  (-1/6 #xE2A1)
  (1/12 #xE479)
  (-1/12 #xE47A))
```

Sets a variant of the Hesse notation style for 72-EDO using SMuFL characters: Gould arrows

$\uparrow \downarrow$  (U+E27A, U+E27B) , Sims half arrows  $\uparrow \downarrow$  (U+E2A4, U+E2A1) , and Bosanquet commatic symbols  
 $\swarrow \searrow$  (U+E479, U+E47A) . It is very similar to the Arrow notation style.

```
\include "ekmel-24.ily"
\ekmUserStyle diaQuarter #'(
  (1 #xF61C)
  (-1 #xF61D)
  (3/4 #xE265)
  (-3/4 #xE266)
  (1/2 #xE263)
  (-1/2 #xE264)
  (1/4 #xE262)
  (-1/4 #xE260)
  (5/4 #xF61C #xE262)
  (-5/4 #xF61D #xE260))
```

Sets the Standard sharp/flat symbols, single thru quintuple, like the predefined Diatonic notation style (`dia`) but for quarter-tones (24-EDO). The quadruple symbols  $\sharp\sharp\sharp\sharp$   $\flat\flat\flat\flat$  (U+F61C, U+F61D) are private supplements of the **Ekmelos** font. Note that here, the order of alterations is significant since the standard accidentals in the default notation style (`stc`) are rearranged.

```
\include "ekmel-48.ily"
\ekmUserStyle lilysingle #'(
  (0 , (markup #:natural))
  (1/8 , (markup #:musicglyph "accidentals.natural.arrowup"))
  (-1/8 , (markup #:musicglyph "accidentals.natural.arrowdown"))
  (1/4 , (markup #:semisharp))
  (-1/4 , (markup #:semiflat))
  (3/8 , (markup #:musicglyph "accidentals.sharp.arrowdown"))
  (-3/8 , (markup #:musicglyph "accidentals.flat.arrowup"))
  (1/2 , (markup #:sharp))
  (-1/2 , (markup #:flat))
  (5/8 , (markup #:musicglyph "accidentals.sharp.arrowup"))
  (-5/8 , (markup #:musicglyph "accidentals.flat.arrowdown"))
  (3/4 , (markup #:sesquisharp))
  (-3/4 , (markup #:sesquiflat))
  (7/8 , (markup #:musicglyph "accidentals.sharp.slashslashslash.stemstem"))
  (-7/8 , (markup #:musicglyph "accidentals.flatflat.slash"))
  (1 , (markup #:doublesharp))
  (-1 , (markup #:doubleflat))
  (leftparen , (markup #:musicglyph "accidentals.leftparen"))
  (rightparen , (markup #:musicglyph "accidentals.rightparen")))
)
```

Sets single glyphs from LilyPond's Emmentaler font for 48-EDO, as well as parentheses for cautionary accidentals.  $\pm 9/8$  and  $\pm 5/4$  are omitted here since they are set automatically to combinations of  $\pm 1$  with  $\pm 1/8$  and  $\pm 1/4$ .

```
#(define-markup-command (numeric-accidental layout props)
  ()
  (let ((alt (ly:chain-assoc-get 'alteration props 0)))
    (interpret-markup layout
      (cons '((font-size . -3)) props)
      (markup #:vcenter #:ekmelic-fraction alt))))
```

```
\ekmStyle void
\ekmUserStyle numeric #'(
  (default , (markup #:numeric-accidental)))
```

Sets alteration values instead of accidental symbols with the `default` accidental in the `void` notation style. The values are drawn with the command `\ekmelic-fraction` and with a 3 steps smaller font size. It is similar to the `alteration` notation style.