

## Bagpipes Embellishments Glossary

This glossary lists all the embellishments (grace notes) that you will need as a bagpiper for playing the traditional repertoire of tunes.

Grace note name	Description
Birl	Sequence of 3 (sometimes 4, 5) grace notes that roll the little right hand finger on and off the low G. It creates a drill type noise as the multiple notes sound.
Doublin	Sometimes called a shake, eg a C shake and B shake. Notes played very quickly just before the melody note. The doubling includes the same as the melody note essentially doubling the melody note. This emphasises the melody note (the grace note that is the same as the melody note is sometimes referred to as the sounding tone).
Embellishments	A term for clusters of gracenotes. Embellishments create a rhythmic effect within bagpipe music and are necessary to break up the notes. The bagpiper cannot cause a break in the music because of the constant airflow. Embellishments are used to 'break' the music
GDE gracenotes	Sequence of grace notes. Appears a lot in bagpiping music. The GDE sequence can be played on any lower note of the scale, eg low G, low A, B, C. It is often the first sequence that beginner pipers learn.
Grip	Sequence of usually 3 grace notes, formed from a low G grace note, another note and then another low G before landing on the melody note. A grip is known as a leamluath in Gaelic. It is sometimes called a throw if it is used to go to a higher note, eg from an A to an E or a B to a C.
Low G grace note	Similar to a strike and sometimes called a low G strike. The low G is sounded just before the melody note. The movement on the chanter is a tapping on and off the fingers that are needed to create a low G, hence why it is sometimes called a low G strike.
Single grace note (or Cut)	A single note played very quickly just before the melody note. It is played by lifting a finger off. Compare this to a strike which is played by placing finger(s) down. All grace notes (whether single or multiple) are denoted as a semiquaver in written music. The single grace note is often the first grace note that beginner pipers learn A cut is an old term for a single grace note. The notes that can form a single grace note are high G,D,E
Strike	Formed by tapping one or more fingers onto the chanter. It is often the second form of grace note that beginner pipers learn The notes on which a strike can be played are B, C, D, Light D, E, F, High G, High A
Tachum	A sequence of 2 melody notes, the first with a high G grace note and the second with a D grace note. The G forms the 'Ta' and the D forms the 'kum' of the Tachum (pronounced Ta-Kum). Only 2 types exist B to low G and C to low A.
Taorluath	A 4 note grace note, similar to a grip but with an added fourth note from the higher notes. It is a more complex version of the GDE gracenote sequence.
Throw on D	Sequence of 3 grace notes, low G, D, C landing on a D melody note. Sometimes the 3 note version is known as a light D throw. Very common grace note in beginner to advanced bagpipe music. Often played from a note other than a D, hence why it is called a 'throw' - see also 'grip'

If you would like to see videos of these grace notes demonstrated, then I show all of them on my bagpipe courses available from <https://www.bagpiper-buckinghamshire.com/courses>

- Stage 1: Beginner Bagpipe Course
- Stage 2: Play the Tunes that most Bagpipers Know
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Every course includes the following benefits:

- 30 day money back guarantee
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  - No need to read music

# Grace Notes Glossary

Examples of each type

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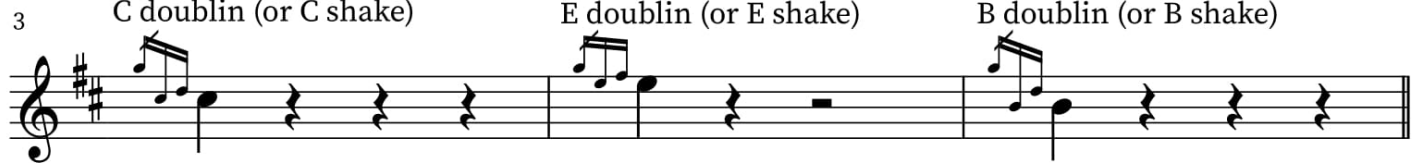
[bagpiper-buckinghamshire.com/courses](http://bagpiper-buckinghamshire.com/courses)

3, 4 and 5 note birds



A single staff of music in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. It contains three measures of music. The first measure has a quarter note G4, followed by a beamed eighth-note pair (A4, B4), and a quarter note C5. The second measure has a quarter note D5, followed by a beamed eighth-note pair (E5, F5), and a quarter note G5. The third measure has a quarter note A5, followed by a beamed eighth-note pair (B5, C6), and a quarter note D6. The staff ends with a double bar line.

3 C doublin (or C shake) E doublin (or E shake) B doublin (or B shake)



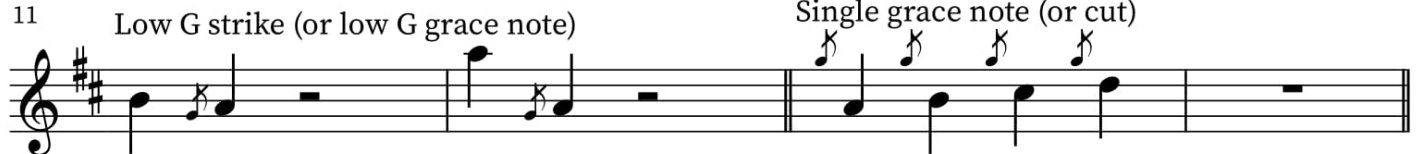
A single staff of music in treble clef, key of D major, and 4/4 time. It contains three measures. The first measure shows a quarter note C5 with a grace note (a small eighth note) on the same pitch. The second measure shows a quarter note E5 with a grace note on the same pitch. The third measure shows a quarter note B5 with a grace note on the same pitch. The staff ends with a double bar line.

6 G,D,E sequence Grips



A single staff of music in treble clef, key of D major, and 4/4 time. It contains two measures. The first measure shows a sequence of eighth notes: G4, D5, E5, followed by a quarter rest. The second measure shows a sequence of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, followed by a quarter rest. The staff ends with a double bar line.

11 Low G strike (or low G grace note) Single grace note (or cut)



A single staff of music in treble clef, key of D major, and 4/4 time. It contains two measures. The first measure shows a quarter note G3 with a grace note on the same pitch. The second measure shows a quarter note G4 with a grace note on the same pitch. The staff ends with a double bar line.

15 Strikes: Strike on B Strikes on D Strikes on C



A single staff of music in treble clef, key of D major, and 4/4 time. It contains three measures. The first measure shows a quarter note B4 with a grace note on the same pitch. The second measure shows a quarter note D5 with a grace note on the same pitch. The third measure shows a quarter note C5 with a grace note on the same pitch. The staff ends with a double bar line.

18 Tachum: B to G Ta.....kum



A single staff of music in treble clef, key of D major, and 4/4 time. It contains two measures. The first measure shows a quarter note B4 with a grace note on the same pitch. The second measure shows a quarter note G4 with a grace note on the same pitch. The staff ends with a double bar line.

21 Taorluath Throw on D



A single staff of music in treble clef, key of D major, and 4/4 time. It contains two measures. The first measure shows a sequence of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, followed by a quarter rest. The second measure shows a sequence of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, followed by a quarter rest. The staff ends with a double bar line.

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