

instruments with recordings | James Saunders

programme note

instruments with recordings (2012) comprises a series of environmental recordings paired with sustained pitches played by instruments which reinforce a pitch component found in each recording. The recordings are mostly of electro-mechanical sources made in isolation or contextualised by their immediate environment.

general instructions

instruments with recordings comprises a set of score pages and a set of numbered audio files.

Each page specifies the audio file required and states the pitch(es) to be played with that file.

Where more than one pitch is indicated, any combination (from one to all pitches) may be played by a single player.

The audio files vary in length, but all contain one minute of audible sound. Where there is silence before or after the audible sound, this is reflected in the file length, so if a page specifies 20" silence followed by the 1'00 recorded sound, the respective sound file will last 1'20".

There are no dynamics specified in the score. The instrumental sounds should reinforce the recordings, fluctuating around their playback volume such that they move naturally between being audible and being masked by the recording. This movement should not be forced, but emerge naturally.

Instrumental sounds should otherwise be relatively stable; wind and brass players should breathe as required, whilst attempting to maintain a continuous sound.

setup

Players should be separated in the performance space from each other at a sufficient distance to allow the source of the sounds to be clear.

Each player requires individual playback equipment. This should be localised (such as an mp3 player and powered speakers), not centralised (such as a PA).

Volume levels for the playback equipment should be set at a level where all sounds can be heard if played in isolation (test this by playing the quietest recordings used on each setup). In performance, loud sounds may occasionally mask quieter sounds.

performance

Agree a duration for the performance.

Each player should select a set of pages and prepare the recordings for playback.

Selected pages are played once by one player, and not repeated either by the same or a different player.

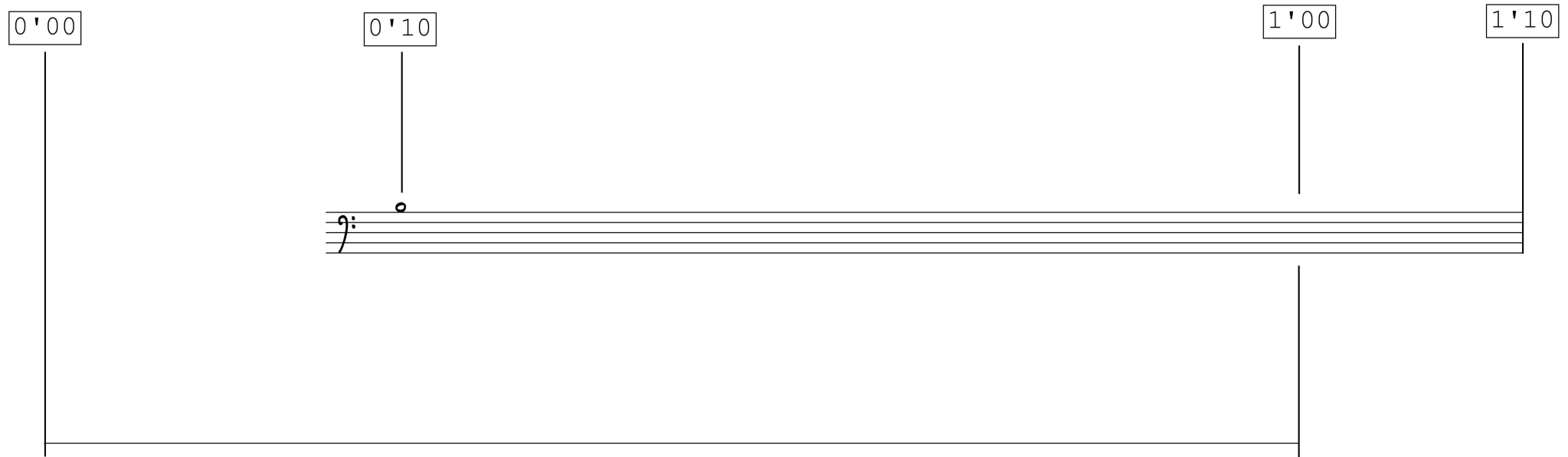
In performance, play pages in any sequence. Pages may be played at any point, providing there is always recorded and/or instrumental sound present (no silences, continuous sound).

To adhere to the indicated timings for each page, use either a stopwatch or the track time on the display of playback equipment.

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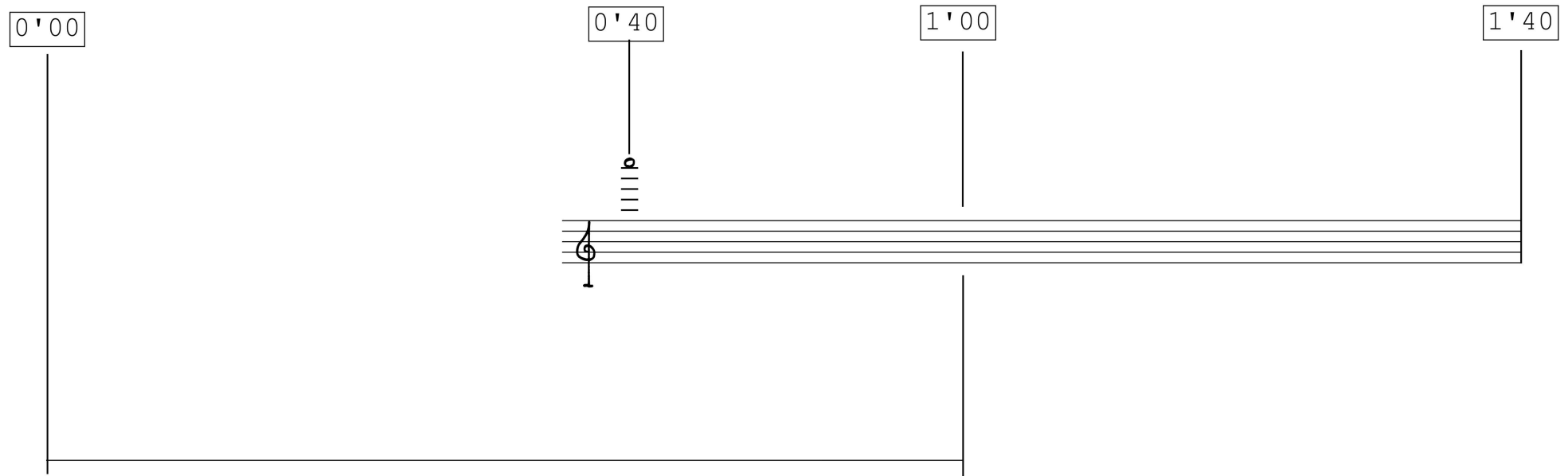
#1

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#2

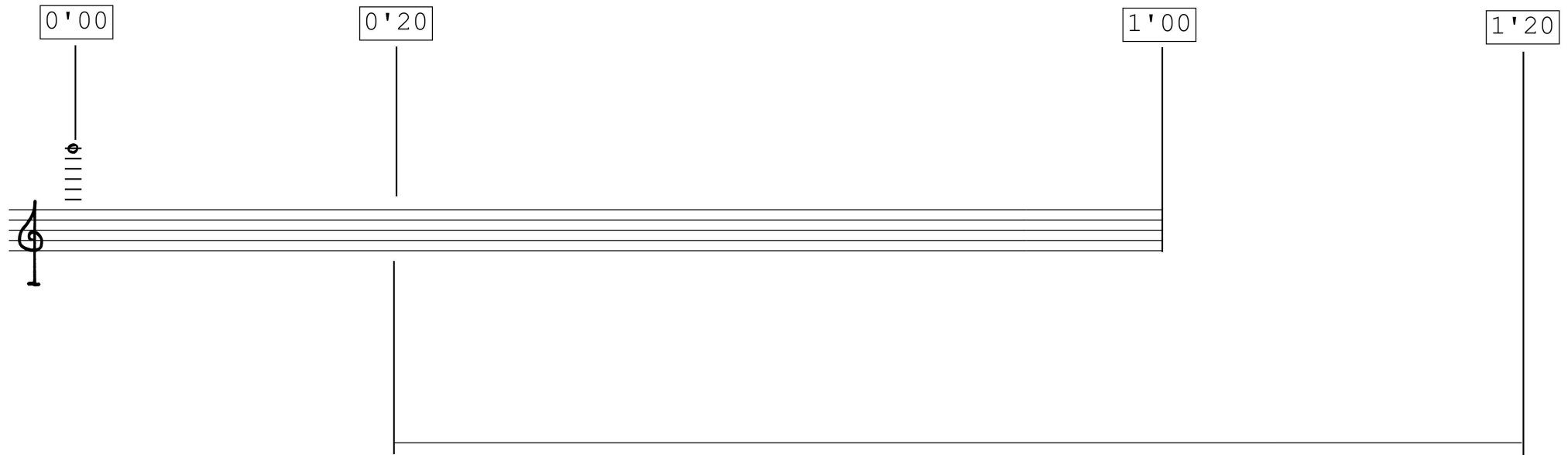
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#3

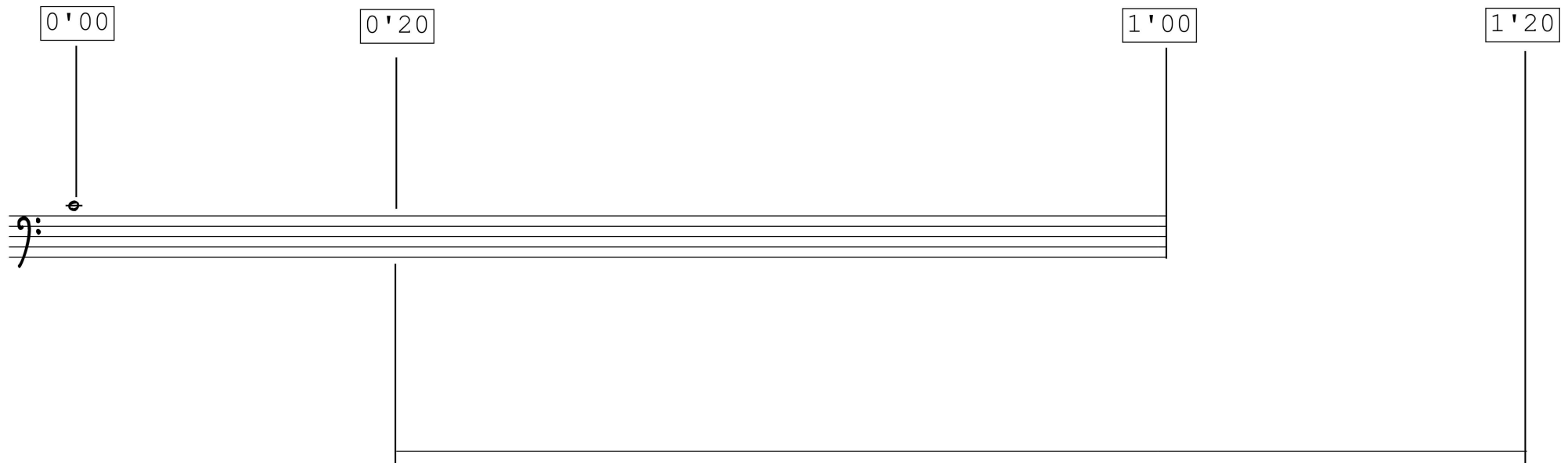
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#4

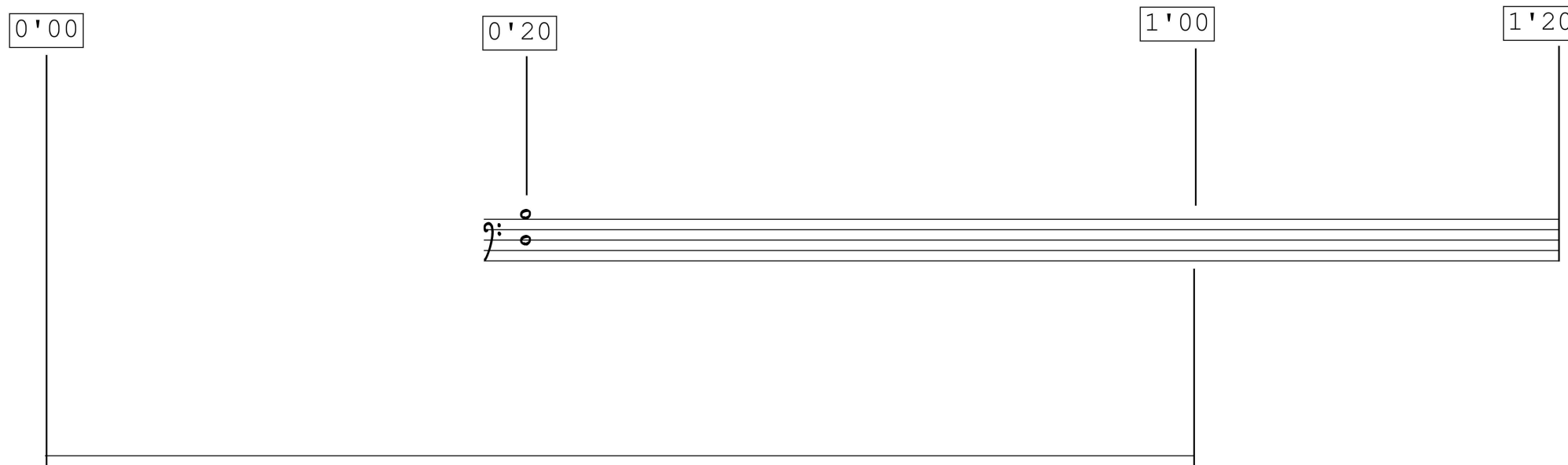
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#5

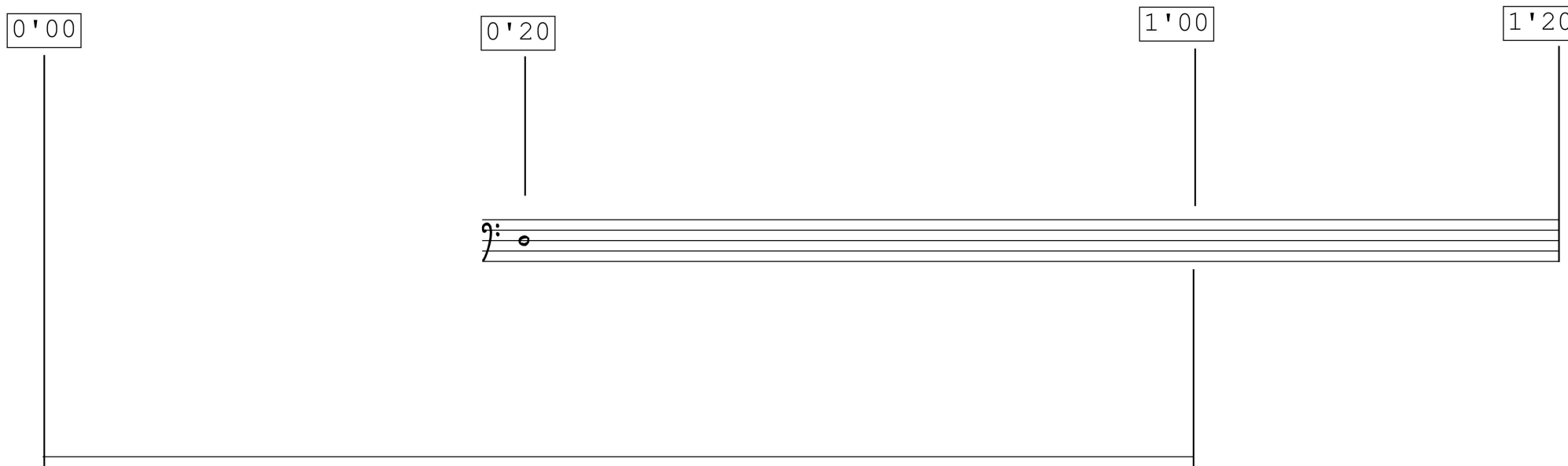
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#6

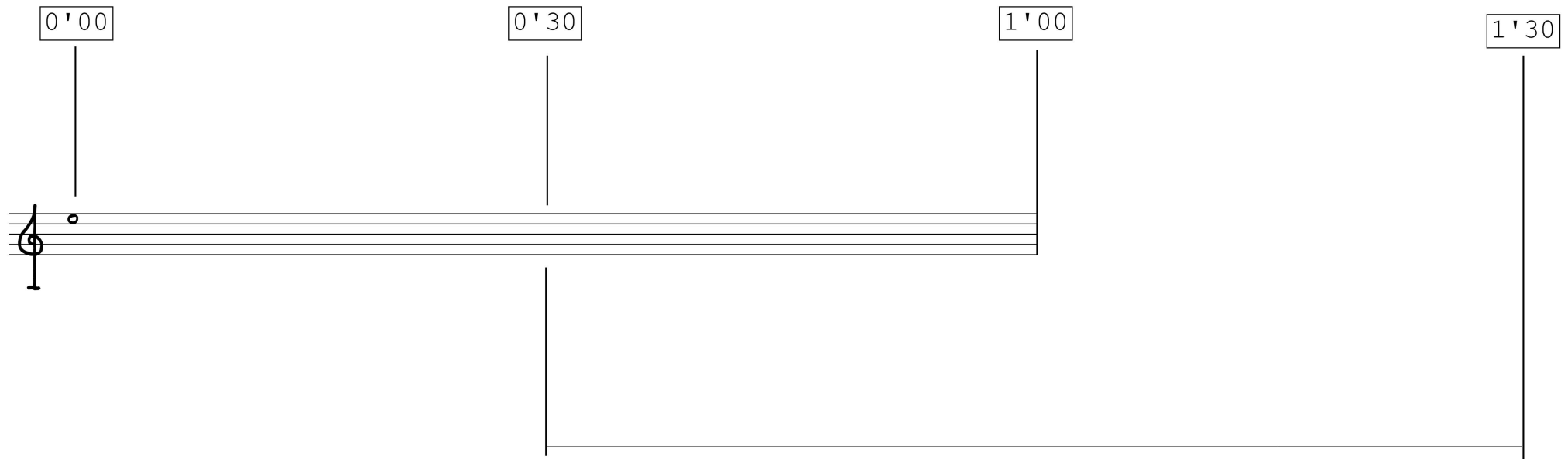
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#7

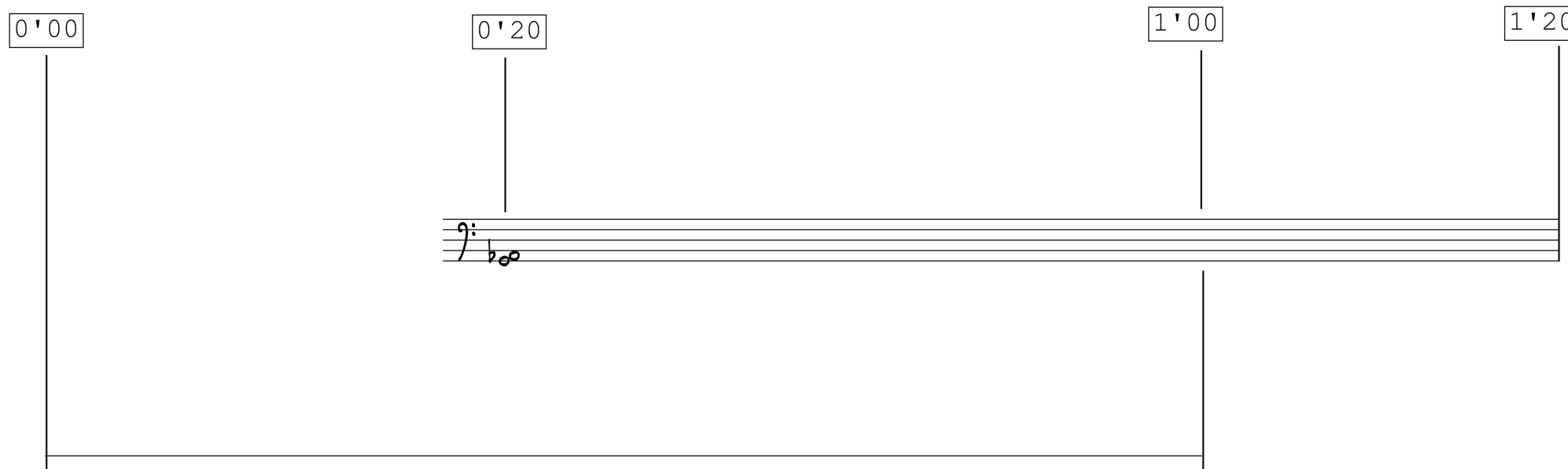
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#8

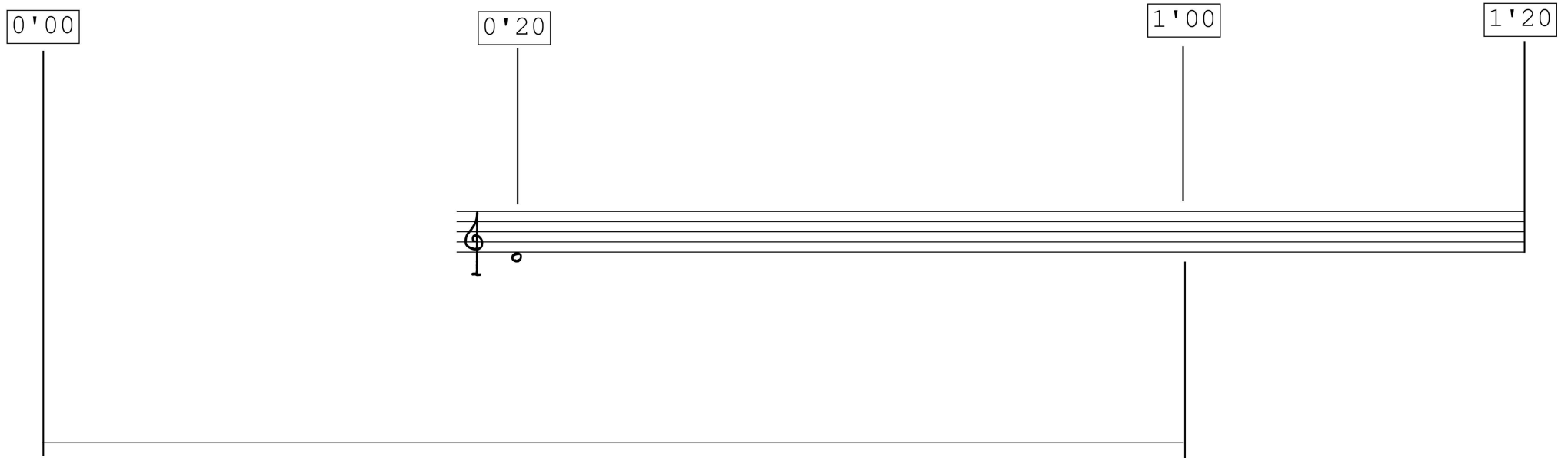
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#9

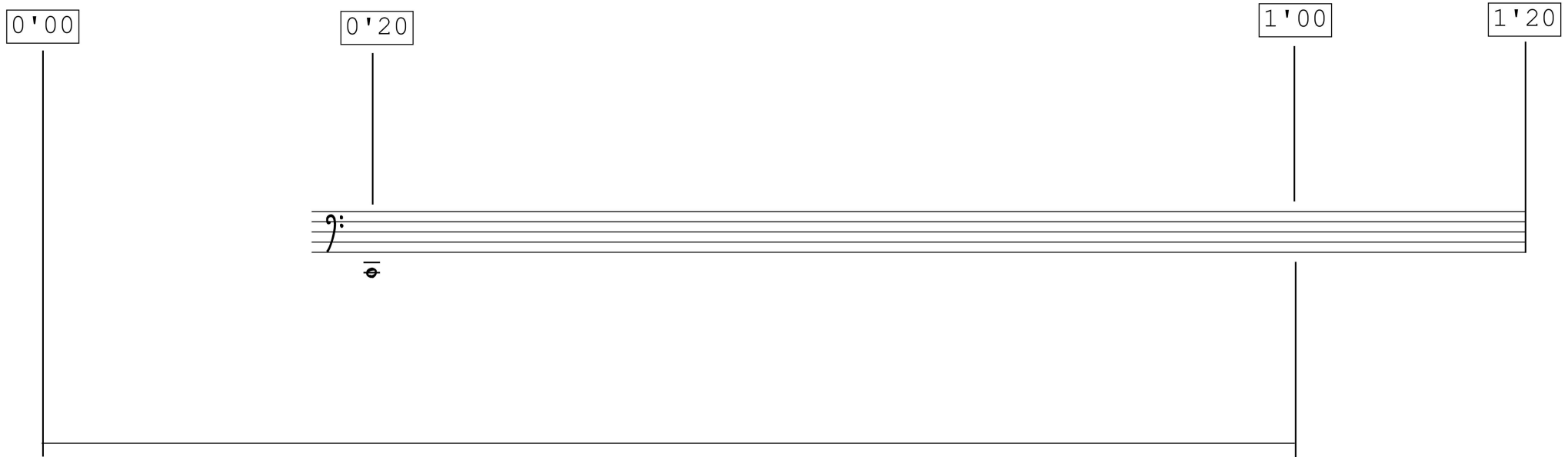
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#15

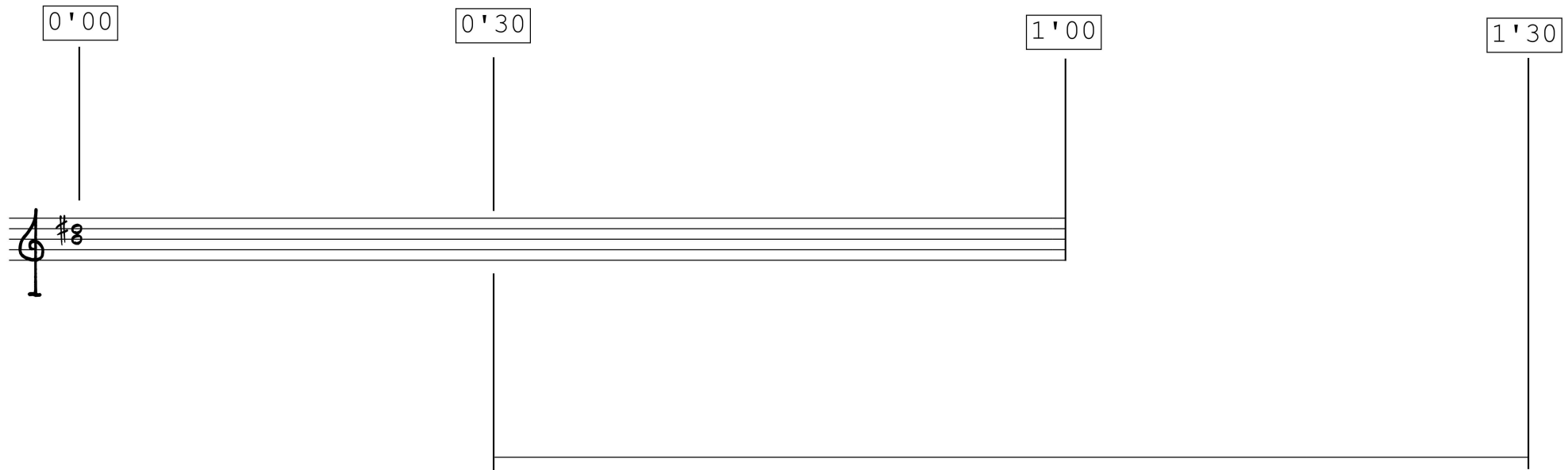
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#16

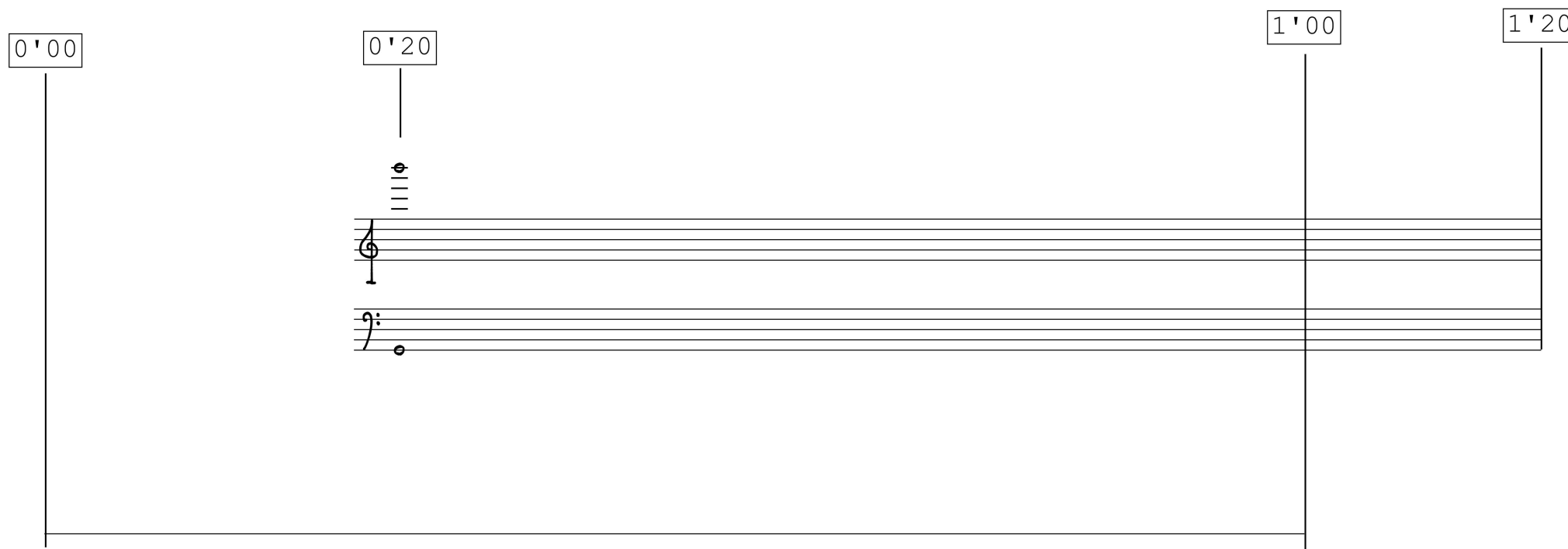
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#17

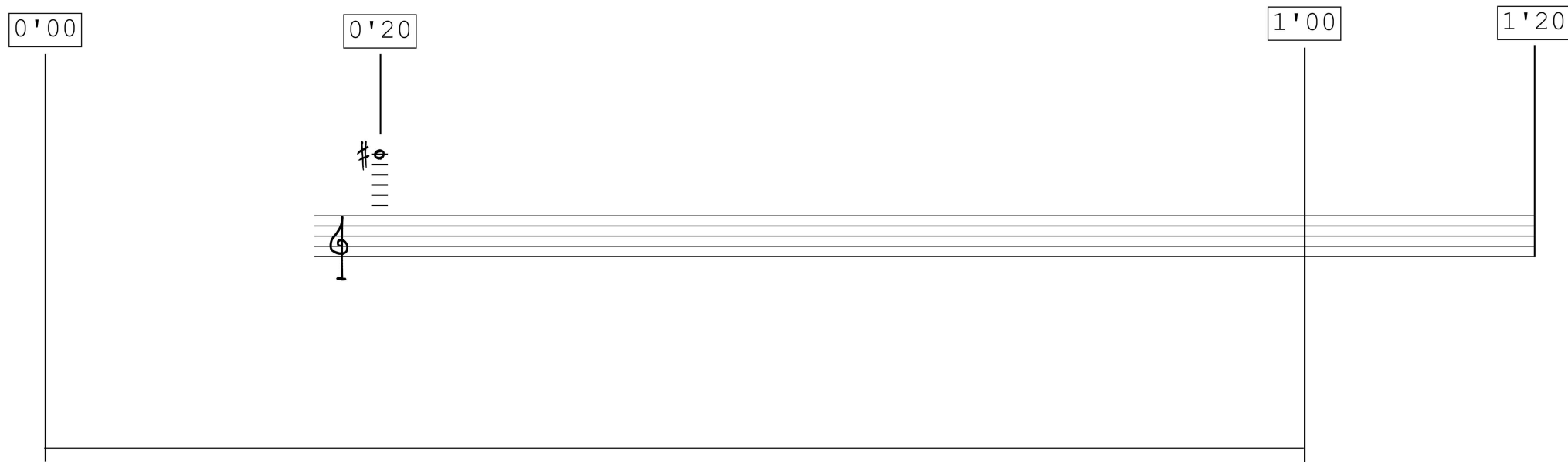
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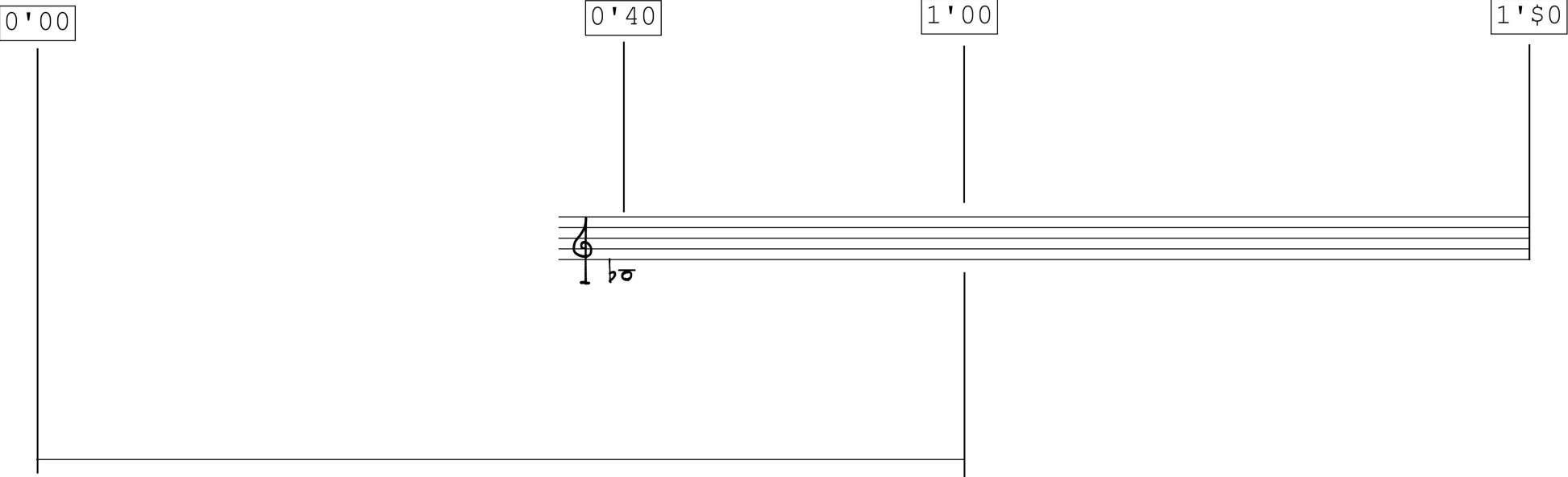


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#18

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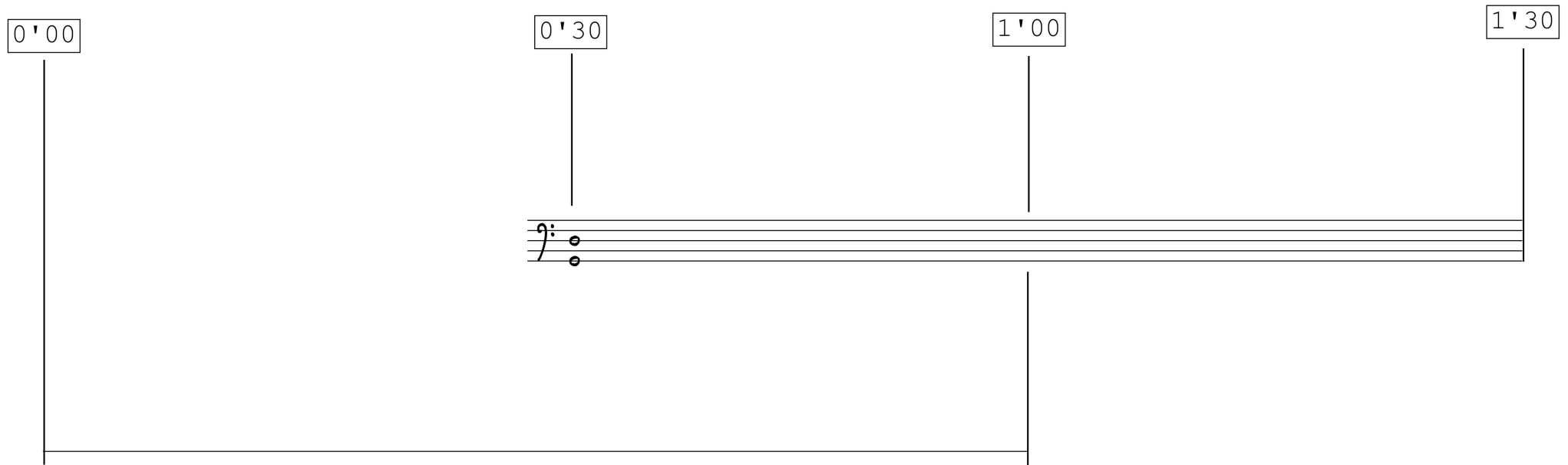




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#20

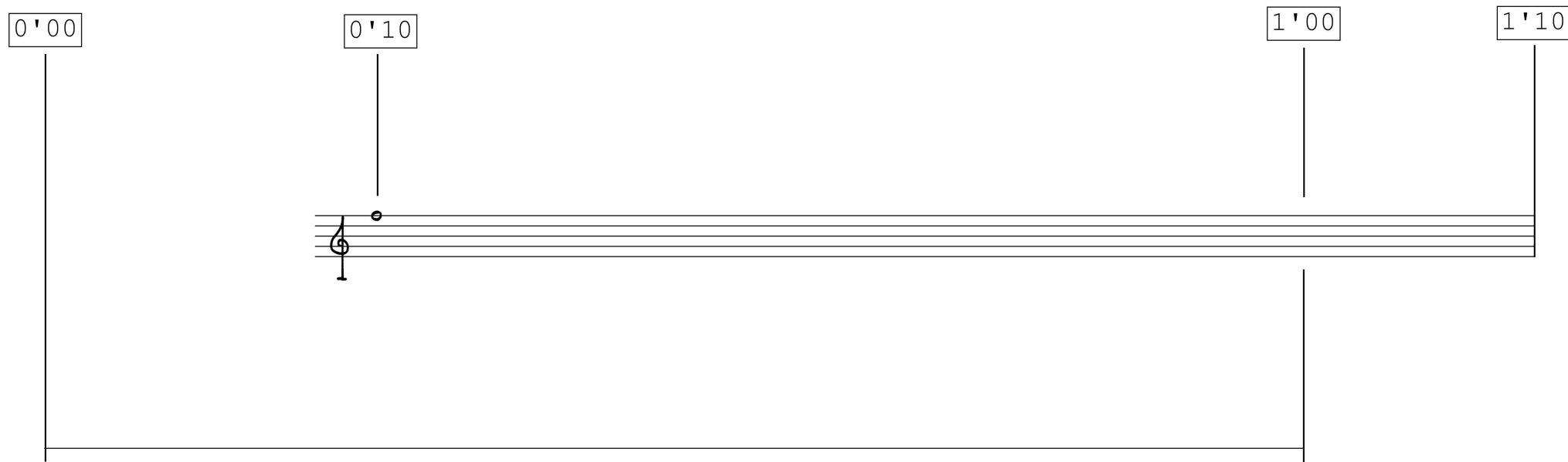
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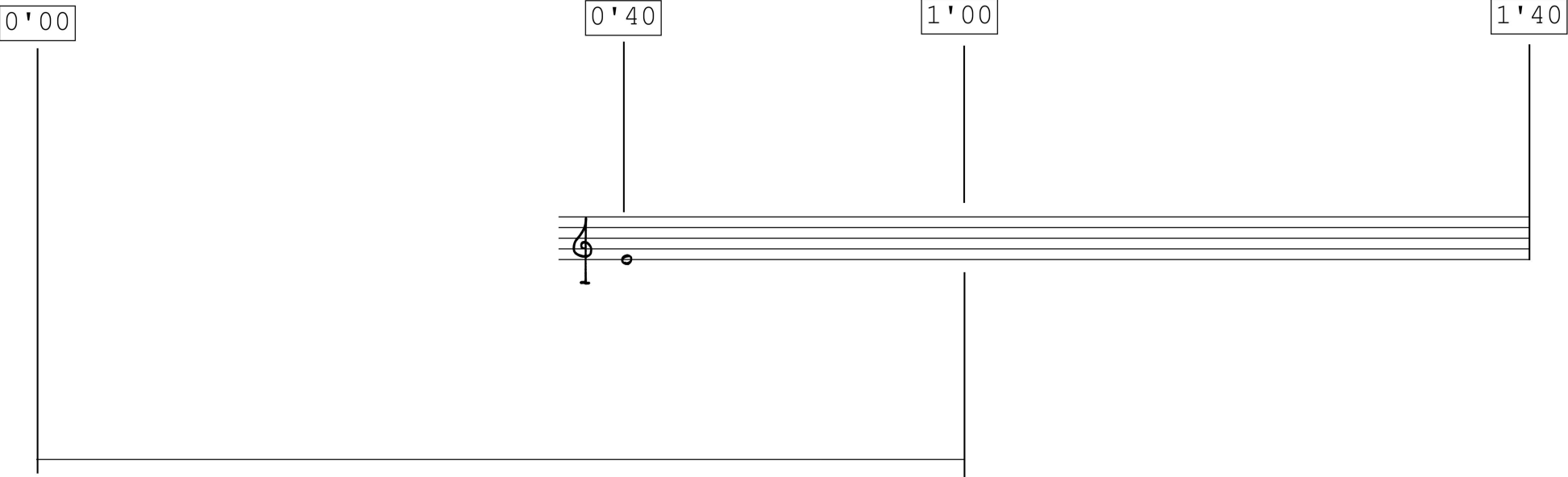


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#21

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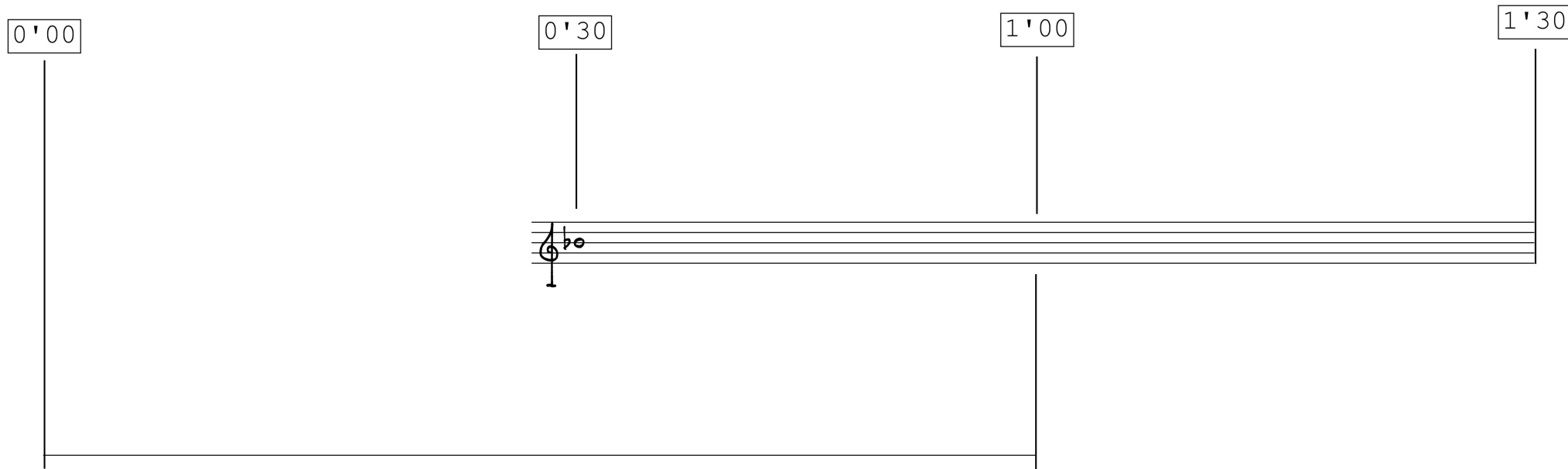


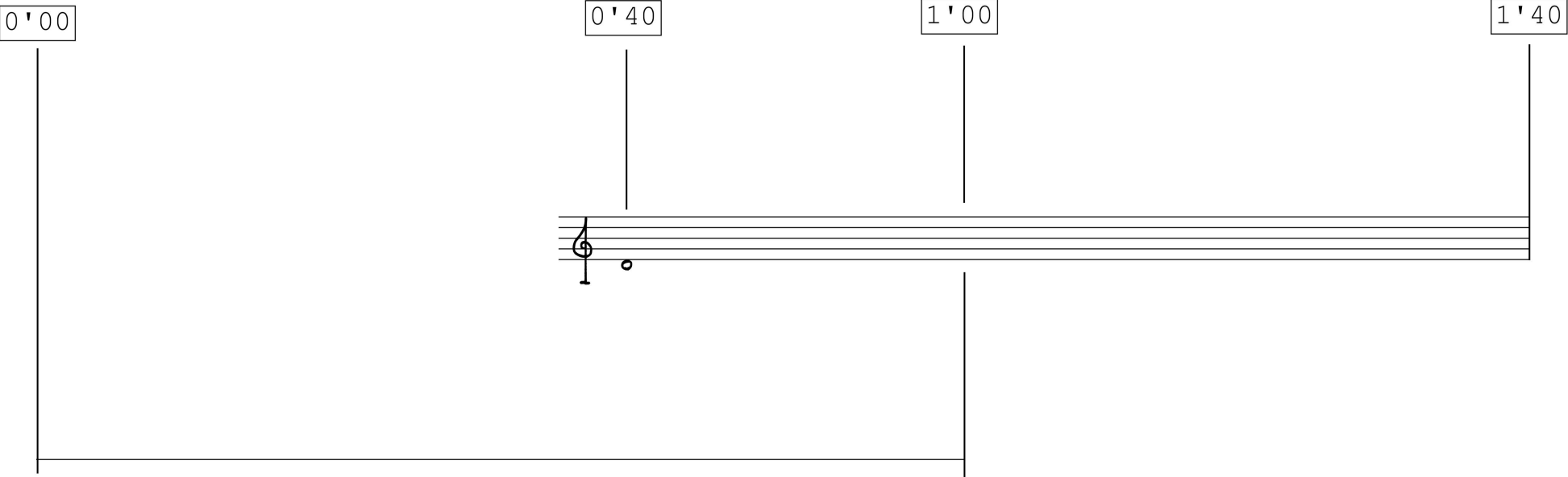


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#23

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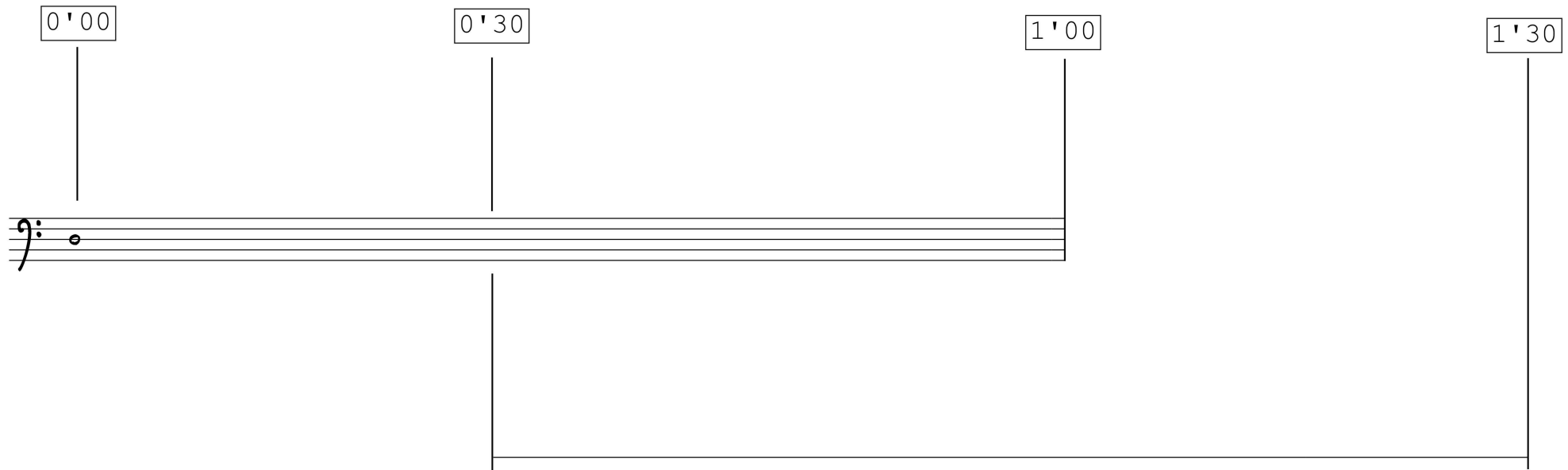




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#25

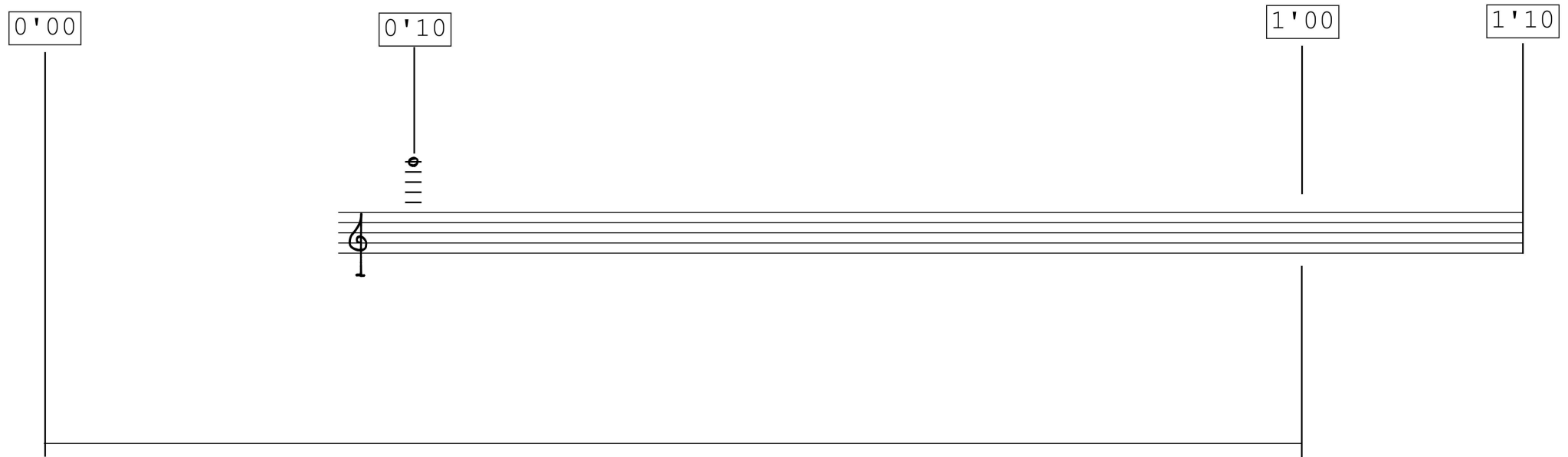
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#26

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#27

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#28

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