

Accidentals tied over a barline

An accidental holds good over a barline only for the duration of a tied note.
A repeated pitch in the following bar must have an accidental:



The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). In the first bar, a quarter note with a sharp sign is tied to a quarter note in the second bar. Above the first barline, the text "last note ambiguous" is written. Below the first barline, the text "or" is written. Below the second barline, the text "but not" is written. The notation shows two possible ways to write the second bar: one with a sharp sign and one without.

OVER A SYSTEM BREAK

It is helpful to repeat an accidental on a tied note at the beginning of a new system so that the reader does not have to look back to a previous system to confirm the pitch. The tied accidental may be enclosed in brackets, although brackets may decrease the legibility of the accidental. For music with many tied chords, it is often better not to repeat accidentals, as they congest the beginning of the system.

If the accidental for the tied note is without brackets, a repeat of the pitch later in the bar does not require confirmation. This notation is preferable to repeating an accidental twice in a bar in close succession:



The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). In the first bar, a quarter note with a sharp sign is tied to a quarter note in the second bar. Above the first barline, the text "mid-system" is written. Above the second barline, the text "beginning of new system" is written. Below the first barline, the text "and" is written. Below the second barline, the text "rather than" is written. The notation shows two possible ways to write the second bar: one with a sharp sign and one without.

REPEATING TIED ACCIDENTALS AFTER EVERY BARLINE

This practice has been used to facilitate vertical reading in a score. However, it burdens the score with many extra accidentals and is not recommended.

Such practice should never be transferred to a part to be played or sung from, since the eye is triggered for action by the presentation of a new acci-