NEUMS

A combination of two or more notes is called a neum.

There should be no drill on the following neums, or any attempt at memorizing them, except as they occur in the chants. Frequent reference to these pages and a little written work will soon familiarize you with the various neums, so that reading the chant from Gregorian notation will afford no more difficulty than reading from modern notation.

Neums of Two Notes

\[ Clivis \ (\text{kłē'-vīs}) \]

\[ \text{Podatus} \ (\text{pō-dah'-tōos}) \]
Neums of Three or more Notes

Torculus (tor'-kō-lōōs)

Porrectus (por-rek'-tōōs)

Scandidus (skan'-dē-coōs)

Salicus (sā'-lē-coōs)

Climacus (clē'-mā-coōs)

The Extension of Neums. A scandicus and a climacus may be extended without change of name, provided the notes continue in the same direction.

Scandidus

Climacus

Note. In a scandicus the three notes are close together and the ictus falls on the first note. In the salicus the punctum is slightly separated from the podatus and the ictus falls on the second note.
A neum may also be extended by the addition of a punctum close to the first or last note, thus:

Neums of Four Notes. When a descending note is added to an ascending group, the term Flexus is applied.

Scandicus Flexus (flēx'-sōōs)

Salicus Flexus

Porrectus Flexus

When an ascending note is added to a descending group, the term Resupinus is applied.

Climacus Resupinus (rā-sōō-pē'-nōōs)

Torculus Resupinus
A pes, or podatus as it is now called, and a scandicus may further be enlarged as follows:

*Pes Subpunctis* (soob-poönk'-tis)

![Musical notation for Pes Subpunctis](image)

*Pes Subpunctis Resupinus*

![Musical notation for Pes Subpunctis Resupinus](image)

*Scandicus Subpunctis*

![Musical notation for Scandicus Subpunctis](image)

A torculus may further be enlarged by bending downward again after the ascent.

*Torculus*  *Torculus Resupinus*  *Torculus Resupinus Flexus*

![Musical notation for Torculus](image)  ![Musical notation for Torculus Resupinus](image)  ![Musical notation for Torculus Resupinus Flexus](image)
A *porrectus* may further be enlarged by turning back after having descended.

\[
\text{Porrectus} \quad \text{Porrectus Flexus} \quad \text{Porrectus Flexus Resupinus}
\]

\[
\text{Liquescent Neums}
\]

\[
\text{Liquescent Clivis} \quad \text{Liquescent Podatus} \quad \text{Liquescent Torculus}
\]

A *liquescent* may appear as the last note of a group, or even as the last two notes. The shape of the note does not affect the time value.

**Episema.** This is a horizontal line over a single note, over one of a group of notes, or over an entire group. It means a slight prolongation of these notes, but not the doubling of them. (This line is often under the note instead of above it.)
Quilisma (kwē-līs'-mah). This is an indented note appearing only in ascending groups. The note before the quilisma is slightly prolonged, and the quilisma is sung very softly. Time values remain the same.

Pressus (prēs'-sōos). A pressus is formed by the meeting of two neums on the same degree of the staff, or by a single punctum meeting a neum of the same degree of the staff.

The ictus always falls on the first note of the pressus.

Bistropha (bīs'-trō-fah). Two notes on the same degree of the staff.

Tristropha (trīs'-trō-fah). Three notes on the same degree of the staff.