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Sibelius First and Sibelius 7 comparison

In addition to the features of Sibelius First, [Sibelius 7](#) also offers:

- Simple, task-orientated user interface that's fast and easy to learn (new in Sibelius 7)
- Exclusive, professional-quality 35GB sound library (new in Sibelius 7)
- Full MusicXML import and export (new in Sibelius 7)
- Advanced text and typography features (new in Sibelius 7)
- Extended graphics import (in more formats) and export, including publication-quality PDF files (new in Sibelius 7)
- Fully-flexible Magnetic Layout collision avoidance
- Live Tempo for "conducting" tempo playback
- Version tracking and comparison
- Ideas hub
- Panorama view
- Compose to video
- Unlimited staves
- Extract instrumental parts as separate files, plus many other features for orchestral/band music
- Features for creating worksheets & exercises
- 'Arrange' feature to help with arranging & orchestration
- Over 130 plug-ins - extra features which do useful things
- Many more notations, e.g. very long & short notes, special symbols, unusual instruments
- Publishing features to make your scores look completely professional.

Here is a comprehensive table of the differences between the two programs.
(Features which are the same in both are not listed.)

General features	Sibelius First	Sibelius 7
Types of music	Simple/moderate music of up to 16 staves	Scores & parts of any size or complexity; worksheets & exercises
Available as	Single copy only	Single copy (educational discount available), 5-pack, site license, network license
No. of computers you can install a single copy on	1	2 (for use by same person, e.g. desktop + laptop)
On-screen manual	Short (about 200 pages)	Full (about 730 pages)
Technical help	Limited	By phone, email, fax & web site

Notation	Sibelius First	Sibelius 7
Accidentals	Normal & double only	Normal, double, quarter-tones, bracketed
Articulations	Common ones only	Full set
Bar numbers	At start of system only; can't restart bar numbering	Range of formats
Barline types	Single, double, repeat only	Single, double, repeat, dotted, early music
Bars, irregular	No, except pick-up bars	✓
Beams, cross-staff (in keyboard music)	-	✓
Beam/rest groupings	Fixed	Customizable
Brackets & braces	Fixed	Customizable
Change transposition of transposing instruments	-	✓
Chord symbols (appearance and MIDI/text input)	Fixed	Customizable
Cue (small) notes	-	✓
Dotted notes	Single dot only	Single / double / triple dotted
Guitar chord diagrams	Limited	✓

Improvements in this version

If you are currently using the previous version of Sibelius First, [why not upgrade?](#)

Take advantage of the following improvements:

- Create scores for up to 16 staves (was 12)
- Score Starter templates help inspire you to write in a wide range of styles
- Magnetic Layout – automatic collision avoidance
- Use VST and Audio Units virtual instruments and effects
- Automatic page and staff size adjustments to fit music
- ReWire sync to DAWs and sequencers
- Automatic chord symbol recognition
- Repeat bars that play back
- Automatic cautionary accidentals
- Three new plug-ins
- Many types of MIDI devices supported