Chapter 20: Tuplet Tool

Tuplet Tool

What it does

This tool lets you create, edit, and adjust the positions of tuplets. (The word tuplet describes a class of irregular note divisions such as triplets, quintuplets, or septuplets.) You can use it to describe the visual appearance of the tuplet (whether or not it has a bracket, for example) as well as its rhythmic definition (how many quarter notes in the space of a half note, for example). See TUPLETS for full instructions.

Note, incidentally, that you can predefine the default appearance of tuplets when you first create them (with the Simple Entry, Speedy Entry or HyperScribe Tools) including whether or not a slur or bracket appears, at what height it appears, and so on. To do so, ctrl-click the Tuplet Tool; Finale displays the Default Tuplet Visual Definition dialog box, where you can specify how you want new tuplets to look.

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Special mouse clicks

- **Click the first note of a tuplet** to display its positioning handles.

  There are six positioning handles. Two control the horizontal and vertical length of the bracket. One controls number position. Another controls the position of the entire bracket and number. Two others control the angle of the bracket and the position of the bracket without moving the number.

- **Drag a positioning handle** to adjust the height and position of the tuplet's visual elements (bracket, slur, number, and so on). See TUPLETS for details on how these handles control the bracket and number.

- **Ctrl-drag a positioning handle** to adjust the position of a tuplet's visual element without using dynamic drawing (where the element is visible at all times while you're dragging it). The object will disappear until you release the mouse button.

- **Double-click a positioning handle, or right mouse click the handle and select Edit Tuplet Definition from the contextual menu** to display the Tuplet Definition dialog box, where you can change the temporal or visual definition of the tuplet.

- **Click the first of a series of notes you want to turn into a tuplet grouping** to display the Tuplet Definition dialog box, where you can specify a temporal and visual definition to create a tuplet. (If this first note is in Voice 2, shift-click below the staff.) You can even click a note that's part of an existing tuplet grouping if you want to create an inner (nested) tuplet.

- **Ctrl-click the Tuplet Tool, or right mouse click the handle and select Edit Default Tuplet Visual Definition from the contextual menu** to display the Default Tuplet Visual Definition dialog box, in which you can specify the default appearance of new tuplets you create with the HyperScribe and Speedy Entry Tools.

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- **Select a tuplet handle and press delete, or right mouse click the handle and select Delete from the contextual menu** to delete the tuplet.

Metatools

You can create Tuplet Metatools—one-key equivalents for tuplet definitions—that can save you time if you need to create many tuplets from non-tuplet notes in your score (because you avoid having to access a dialog box).

To program a Tuplet Metatool

Click the Tuplet Tool. Press shift and a number key or a letter key. Finale displays the Tuplet Definition dialog box; create the tuplet you want to correspond to the number or letter key you pressed. Click OK.

To use a Tuplet Metatool

Click the Tuplet Tool. While pressing the number or letter corresponding to the Metatool you programmed, click a note (or, if the note is in Voice 2, click below the staff). Finale automatically transforms the note you clicked and subsequent notes into the tuplet grouping you predefined, complete with a bracket or slur (if you specified one) with the positioning you specified.

Contextual menus

Contextual menus are reached by right mouse-clicking on the handle of an object or right mouse-clicking on the Main Tool Palette tool. A contextual menu will be displayed where you can select various items.

Tuplet Tool

Menu item	What it does
Edit Default Tuplet Visual Definition	Displays Default Tuplet Visual Definition dialog box

Tuplet handles

Menu item	What it does
Edit Tuplet Definition	Display the Tuplet Definition dialog box
Delete	Delete selected tuplet

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Default Tuplet Visual Definition dialog box

How to get there

Ctrl-click the Tuplet Tool to display the Default Tuplet Visual Definition dialog box.

What it does

When you create a new tuplet, Finale usually places a number over it (such as the 3 above a triplet). In this dialog box, you can change the default tuplet notation; for example, you could tell Finale to display a slur or bracket in addition to the number. Thereafter, each new tuplet you create will appear with all of these visual aspects already in place.

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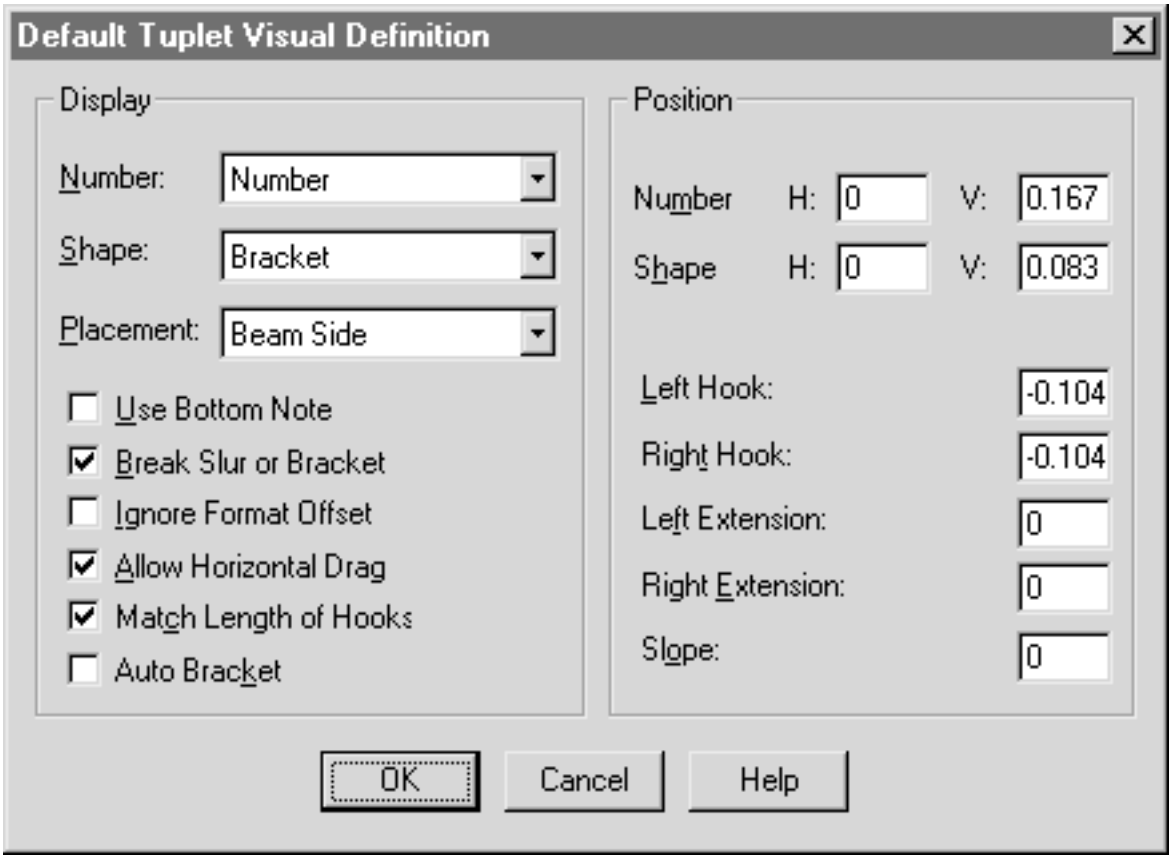

- **Number: Nothing • Number • Ratio.** Use this drop-down list to specify whether Finale should place a number, a ratio, or no mark on a tuplet.
- **Shape: Nothing • Slur • Bracket.** Use the Shape drop-down list to display the tuplet with no shape appearing over it, or with a slur or bracket. Tuplets with slurs actually use slurs (with tapered ends), unless the slur is "broken" (Break Slur or Bracket is selected) in which case Finale uses curves (with non-tapered ends).
- **Placement: Manual • Beam Side.** When Manual is selected in this drop-down list, Finale uses the settings from the Default Tuplet Visual Definition dialog box to position the tuplet on the notes in the score. Drag to reposition the tuplet in the score. When Beam Side is selected and you create a tuplet on beamed notes, Finale automatically places the tuplet on the beam side and matches the beam angle. If Beam Side is selected and you create a tuplet on unbeamed notes, Finale places the tuplet using the Default Tuplet Visual Definition dialog box settings. You can then drag to adjust the tuplet in your score.
- **Use Bottom Note.** If the first note in the tuplet group is a chord, the numbers in the Position text boxes are generally measured from the top note; if you transpose that note up or down, the entire tuplet moves with it. Select this option, however, if you want these numbers measured from the bottom note instead.
- **Break Slur or Bracket.** If you've chosen a slur as the shape for the tuplet, then select Break Slur or Bracket, to have Finale break a slur or bracket to allow for a number to be placed there.

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- **Ignore Format Offset**. If you have specified a global sideways shift for the numbers in your tuplets (see MUSIC OPTIONS DIALOG BOX), select this option if you don't want it to apply to this tuplet.
- **Allow Horizontal Drag.** Select this option so you can drag every tuplet handle horizontally on-screen. You can move a slur, bracket, and number to the left or right.
- **Match Length of Hooks.** This option is selected by default so that the tuplet shape is symmetrical. If you shorten or lengthen one hook in a tuplet, when this option is selected, Finale automatically draws the other hook the same length.
- **Auto Bracket.** Choose this option to have Finale automatically place only numbers on beamed groups of notes, and a number with bracket or slur on unbeamed groups. If this option is not selected, Finale always places numbers and shapes according to the Number and Shape settings.
- **Number: H: • V:.** Enter values (in measurement units) to adjust the horizontal and vertical position of the tuplet number displayed in the score.
- **Shape: H: • V:.** These values show the horizontal and vertical adjustments for placing the shape (slur or bracket) in relation to the tuplet number. Enter a smaller or larger value for H: to change the position of the entire shape in relation to the notes. To move the shape closer to or further away vertically from the note, enter a smaller or larger value for V:.
- **Left Hook • Right Hook.** These options replace the Left Offset and Right Offset text boxes that controlled the length of the left and right hooks on horizontal brackets in previous versions of Finale. Enter a negative value (in measurement units) in Left Hook or Right Hook to set the length of the left-most or right-most hook. The value is negative because Finale measures down from the bracket. If Match Length of Hooks is selected, Finale updates the Right Hook text box with the new Left Hook value. If Match Length of Hooks is not selected, you can enter different values in each text box.
- **Left Extension • Right Extension.** By default, Finale initially creates a tuplet that surrounds the position of notes in the measures. However, in some cases it's easier for a musician to interpret the music if the tuplet can encompass the visual space of the beat instead of just surrounding the notes. You can accomplish this by using these settings to specify how far the bracket or slur should extend beyond the notes. Enter a larger value to lengthen the bracket or slur.
- **Slope.** Enter a positive value to angle the bracket or slur so the right side is higher than the left. Enter a negative value to angle the right side of the tuplet lower than the left.
- **OK • Cancel.** Click OK (or press enter) to confirm, or Cancel to discard, the default tuplet appearance you've created. You return to the score.

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Tuplet Definition dialog box

How to get there

To display the Tuplet Definition dialog box, click the Tuplet Tool , then click the first note to include in the tuplet group, or click the first note of a tuplet, then double-click one of its handles. Or, click the Speedy Entry Tool , click a measure to display the editing frame, then press ctrl-1 to define the tuplet you want to enter.

What it does

In this dialog box you can define both the rhythmic and visual aspects of a tuplet grouping—the number of eighth notes that are to be played in the time of a quarter note, for example—and whether or not a bracket or slur should appear, and so on.

Note that you can predefine the default visual aspects of the tuplets in your score, so that every tuplet you create automatically appears with a neatly positioned bracket (for example). To do so, ctrl-click the Tuplet Tool; Finale displays the Default Tuplet Visual Definition dialog box, where you can specify these parameters. (See DEFAULT TUPLET VISUAL DEFINITION DIALOG BOX for a more complete discussion—although its contents are identical to almost all of this dialog box.)

Note also that you can store tuplet “definitions”—the settings you make in this dialog box—in a tuplet Metatool, so that you can instantly transform non-tuplet notes into tuplet notes (having the tuplet definition you prefer) with the press of a key. In fact, you can assign a different set of Tuplet Definition settings to each of the number and letter keys on your keyboard. To program a tuplet Metatool, see TUPLET TOOL.

When you create a new tuplet, Finale usually places a number over it (such as the 3 above a triplet). In this dialog box, you can change the tuplet notation for each individual notation; for example, you could tell Finale to display a slur or bracket in addition to the number.

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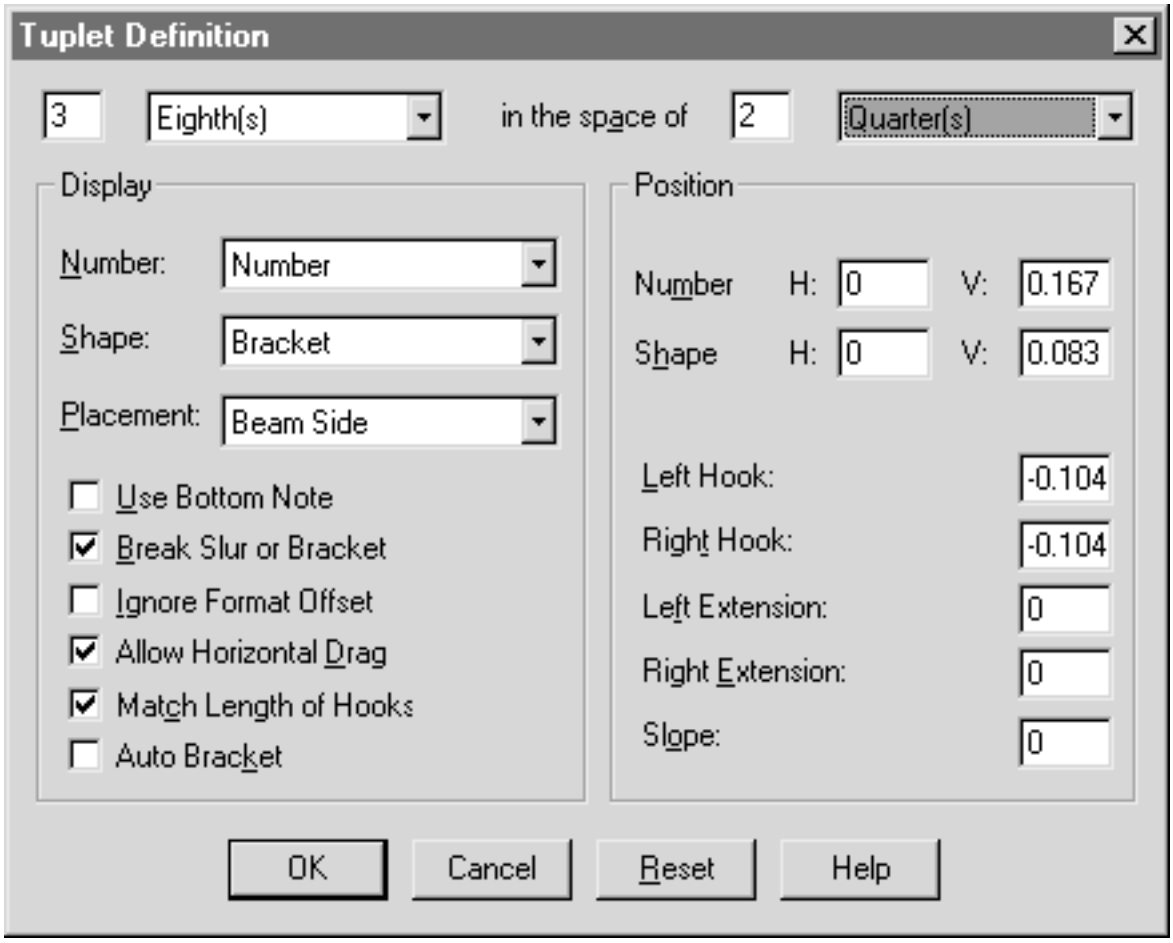

- **__ ____in the space of __ _____ • Half (s) • Dotted Quarter(s) • Quarter(s) (etc.).** Define the rhythmic qualities (temporal definition) of the tuplet by entering numbers in these two text boxes (to specify how many) and selecting the rhythmic-value from the drop-down list (to specify "of what value").

  For example, suppose you want to create an eighth-note triplet. In the score, click the Tuplet Tool, and click the first of the three normal eighth notes you want to transform into triplets. When this dialog box appears, enter 3 and 2 in the text boxes ("3 in the space of 2"); choose eighths from the drop-down list: 3 eighths in the space of 2 eighths. (Alternatively, you could create an eighth-note triplet by specifying 3 eighths in the space of 1 quarter.) These text boxes apply only to the tuplet you're currently placing in the score.

- **Number: Nothing • Number • Ratio.** Use this drop-down list to specify whether Finale should place a number, a ratio, or no mark on a tuplet.

- **Shape: Nothing • Slur • Bracket.** Use the Shape drop-down list to display the tuplet with no shape appearing over it, or with a slur or bracket. Tuplets with slurs actually use slurs (with tapered ends), unless the slur is "broken" (Break Slur or Bracket is selected) in which case Finale uses curves (with non-tapered ends).

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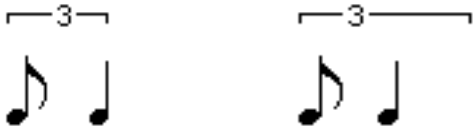
- **Placement: Manual • Beam Side.** When Manual is selected in this drop-down list, Finale uses the settings from the Default Tuplet Visual Definition dialog box to position the tuplet on the notes in the score. Drag to reposition the tuplet in the score. When Beam Side is selected and you create a tuplet on beamed notes, Finale automatically places the tuplet on the beam side and matches the beam angle. If Beam Side is selected and you create a tuplet on unbeamed notes, Finale places the tuplet using the Default Tuplet Visual Definition dialog box settings. You can then drag to adjust the tuplet in your score.
- **Use Bottom Note.** If the first note in the tuplet group is a chord, the numbers in the Position text boxes are generally measured from the top note; if you transpose that note up or down, the entire tuplet moves with it. Select this option, however, if you want these numbers measured from the bottom note instead.
- **Break Slur or Bracket.** If you've chosen a slur as the shape for the tuplet, then select Break Slur or Bracket, to have Finale break a slur or bracket to allow for a number to be placed there.
- **Ignore Format Offset**. If you have specified a global sideways shift for the numbers in your tuplets (see MUSIC OPTIONS DIALOG BOX), select this option if you don't want it to apply to this tuplet.
- **Allow Horizontal Drag.** Select this option so you can drag every tuplet handle horizontally on-screen. You can move a slur, bracket, and number to the left or right.
- **Match Length of Hooks.** This option is selected by default so that the tuplet shape is symmetrical. If you shorten or lengthen one hook in a tuplet, when this option is selected, Finale automatically draws the other hook the same length.
- **Auto Bracket.** Choose this option to have Finale automatically place only numbers on beamed groups of notes, and a number with bracket or slur on unbeamed groups. If this option is not selected, Finale always places numbers and shapes according to the Number and Shape settings.
- **Number: H: • V:.** Enter values (in measurement units) to adjust the horizontal and vertical position of the tuplet number displayed in the score.
- **Shape: H: • V:.** These values show the horizontal and vertical adjustments for placing the shape (slur or bracket) in relation to the tuplet number. Enter a smaller or larger value for H: to change the position of the entire shape in relation to the notes. To move the shape closer to or further away vertically from the note, enter a smaller or larger value for V:.
- **Left Hook • Right Hook.** These options replace the Left Offset and Right Offset text boxes that controlled the length of the left and right hooks on horizontal brackets in previous versions of Finale. Enter a negative value (in measurement units) in Left Hook or Right Hook to set the length of the left-most or right-most hook. The value is negative because Finale measures down from the bracket. If Match Length of Hooks is selected, Finale updates the Right Hook text box with the new Left Hook value. If Match Length of Hooks is not selected, you can enter different values in each text box.
- **Left Extension • Right Extension.** By default, Finale initially creates a tuplet that surrounds the position of notes in the measures. However, in some cases it's easier for a musician to interpret the music if the tuplet can encompass the visual space of the beat instead of just surrounding the notes. You can accomplish this by using these settings to specify how far the

bracket or slur should extend beyond the notes. Enter a larger value to lengthen the bracket or slur.



- **Slope.** Enter a positive value to angle the bracket or slur so the right side is higher than the left. Enter a negative value to angle the right side of the tuplet lower than the left.
- **Reset.** Click this button to change the Tuplet Definition settings to match those in the Default Tuplet Visual Definition dialog box.
- **OK • Cancel.** Click OK (or press enter) to confirm, or Cancel to discard, the tuplet appearance you've created. You return to the score.

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Tuplets

You can also change Tuplets over a region. Instead of selecting the Tuplet Tool, select the Mass Mover Tool and choose Change Tuplets from the Change submenu of the Mass Mover Menu. The settings in the Change Tuplets dialog box are the same as in the Tuplet Definition dialog box.

To turn "normal" notes into a tuplet group

- **Click the Tuplet Tool** **.**
- **Click the first note to be included in the tuplet group.** The Tuplet Definition dialog box appears.
- **Specify the rhythmic composition of the tuplet.** On the top part of the screen Finale is asking, "How many notes of what rhythmic value are to fit in the space normally allotted to how many of what value?" Enter the number of each rhythmic value in the text boxes. Specify the rhythmic value itself by selecting the rhythmic-value from the drop-down list.

  For example, to define a standard quarter note triplet, you could fill out the values either as "3 (quarters) in the space of 2 (quarters)," or "3 (quarters) in the space of 1 (half)."
- **Specify the visual appearance of the tuplet.** Finale lets you specify various aspects governing the visual appearance of your tuplets. See TUPLET DEFINITION DIALOG BOX. You can always change the angle or position of the bracket or slur once it's in the score. If you want the "3" (or whatever number appears over the tuplet) to appear in the middle of the slur or bracket (if you're using one) instead of being above or below it, be sure to choose Break Slur/Bracket. If you're creating a complex tuplet, you can also choose Use Ratio for Number; instead of placing a simple digit above the tuplet (like 3, for example), Finale will express the tuplet as a ratio (such as 3:2, using the numbers you entered in the __ in the space of __ text boxes).
- **Click OK (or press enter).**

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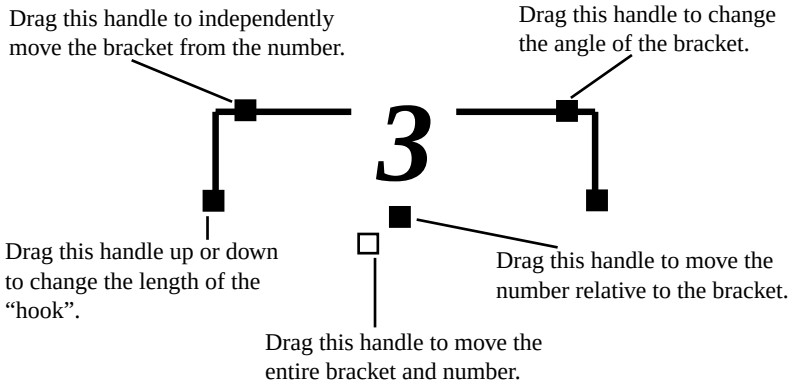
To adjust, move, or delete a tuplet

- **Click the Tuplet Tool ; then click the first note of the tuplet.** Handles appear on the tuplet's bracket (or slur, or number).
- **To reposition the entire tuplet, drag the main handle (which is unshaded).**
- **To change the length of the hook, drag the left or right hook handle.** If you selected Match Length of Hooks in the Tuplet Definition dialog box, Finale automatically adjusts the other hook to the same length as you drag.
- **To move the shape closer to or away from the notes, drag the shape handle up or down.**
- **To change the angle of the shape, drag the slope handle.**
- **To move the number closer to or away from the notes, drag the number handle.**
- **To delete the tuplet definition (and restore the notes to "normal"), click any handle and press delete.**



To enter tuplets with the Simple Entry Tool

- **Click the Simple Entry Tool .** The Simple Entry Palettes appear.
- **Click the icon representing the desired note's duration. Click any accidental tools, if desired.**
- **Click the Simple Tuplet Tool on the Simple Entry Palette.**
- **Click the staff.** A note appears where you clicked with rests filling out the rest of the triplet. By default, the triplet will use the duration of the first note to define the triplet. If there isn't enough room to create the full tuplet or you click within an already existing tuplet, Finale will enter a note of the duration you selected.

To enter tuplets with the Speedy Entry Tool

- **Click the Speedy Entry Tool , and click the measure in question.** The editing frame appears.
- **If MIDI is not being used, place the cursor on the correct pitch.**

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- **Press ctrl-number.** You can press any number between 2 and 8 to specify the tuplet value that you're about to enter. When you do so, the number you pressed appears in the upper right corner of the editing frame, telling you that Finale is ready to group the next notes you enter as a tuplet defined by that number. If you need to enter a more complex tuplet (or want to specify a particular bracket or slur configuration), press ctrl–1, and the Tuplet Definition dialog box will appear (see TUPLET DEFINITION DIALOG BOX).
- **Enter the notes of the tuplet.** The value of the first note you enter tells Finale whether you're entering an eighth-note tuplet, quarter-note tuplet, and so on. Finale automatically groups them and brackets them according to the default visual tuplet settings (see "To predefine the appearance of tuplets," below). To enter many tuplets in a row, see TO ENTER MANY NOTES OF THE SAME VALUE.

To create a nested tuplet

To nest tuplets, simply create one, then the other, as described in "To turn 'normal' notes into a tuplet group," above. It makes no difference whether you create the outer or inner tuplet first.

To transcribe tuplets from a real-time performance

For full instructions on the use of Finale's real-time transcription tool, HyperScribe, see RECORDING WITH HYPERSCRIBE and TRANSCRIBING A SEQUENCE. However, you may find these supplementary instructions helpful.

- **Choose Quantization Settings from the Options Menu.** If you've just recorded a performance in the Transcription Mode, choose Quant Settings from the Transcription window. These settings are used when importing a MIDI file, and transcribing with the HyperScribe Tool.
- **Select your smallest note duration.** If you will be playing nothing smaller than eighth note triplets, choose the sixteenth note.

  Hint: If your real-time transcriptions consistently transcribe durations that are too large, lower the smallest note duration, or choose More Settings from the Quantization Settings dialog box. Place a check beside Sensitivity and choose the next smallest duration to your smallest note duration. For example, if your smallest note duration is a sixteenth note, set Sensitivity to a thirty-second note.
- **Click either Mixed Rhythms or Space Notes Evenly.** If your music will have a combination of dotted rhythms and tuplets, choose the former. If your music will have only tuplets and evenly spaced rhythms, choose the later.
- **Click OK (or press enter).** Continue with the transcription in the usual way.

To predefine the appearance of tuplets

If you create tuplets with any of the methods described above, you don't have to redefine the visual appearance of each tuplet each time you create one. Instead, you can set the visual appearance—including whether or not to include a slur, bracket, and so on—in advance. See DEFAULT TUPLET VISUAL DEFINITION DIALOG BOX.