

CROTCHET (from the Fr. *croche*, a hook; whence also the Anglicized "crochet," pronounced as in French, for the knitting-work done with a hook instead of on pins), properly a small hook, and so used of the hook-like *setae* or bristles found in certain worms which burrow in sand. In music, a "crotchet" is a note of half the value of a minim and double that of a quaver; it is marked by a round black head and a line without a tail or hook; the French *croche* is used of a "quaver" which has a tail, but in ancient music the *semiminima*, the modern crotchet, is marked by an open note with a hook. Derived either from an old French proverbial phrase, *il a des crochues en teste*, or from a meaning of twist or turn, as in the similar expression "crank," comes the sense of a whim, fancy or perverse idea, seen also in the adjective "crotchety" of a fussy unreasonable person.