

Aroma families can also be distinguished by their primary “notes.” An Essential Oil’s aroma “note” is the feature that distinguishes how long its scent will last. Notes are categorized as **Top, Middle, or Base notes**. Some oils can have multiple notes, which can give them a deep, full-bodied, and seemingly luxurious quality; however, oils are largely characterized by a sole defining note that overrides the others.

The reason that an oil blend changes over time, sometimes even over a short period of time, such as from the morning to the afternoon, is because the Essential Oils that it comprises each have varying degrees of volatility, meaning they all have diverse rates of evaporation, and it is the evaporation of each oil in its own time that causes a fluctuation in the strength of the scent...

In an Essential Oil blend, the oils with the smallest molecules – the essential oils that are the most volatile – are the first to evaporate. These are the **Top** notes. They are the first scent to be detected and the first to dissipate.

The oils with the largest and thus the heaviest molecules are the slowest or last to evaporate, thus they impart the longer-lasting scents. These are **Base** notes.

Other Essential Oils – the majority – reveal their scents gradually and help to integrate the Top and Base notes for a harmonious fragrance, which is what makes them **Middle** notes.

NOTES & CHARACTERISTICS

Top

This is the initial perceptible scent in an aroma blend and is usually the one fragrance that stands out to give the scent its distinctive essence. Despite the powerful and intense quality that makes it the first detected smell, it is also the first to quickly fade.

Bright, Refreshing, Cheery, Clarifying, Inspiring, Heartening, Energizing

Middle (aka “Body,” “Heart,” or “Bouquet”)

These notes become noticeable just as Top notes fade. Smooth and soft, Middle notes unify the Top and Base notes, helping to reduce the intensity of any disagreeable or piercing scents and to promote a roundedness to aromas, making them softer. These notes are generally more enduring than Top notes, lasting up to an hour after the blend has been applied.

Balancing, Warming, Grounding

Base (aka “Fixative”)

Not to be mistaken for a Base *Oil*, which is meant to dilute an Essential Oil, a Base note emerges after the Heart note and is the longest lasting scent in a blend. Base notes often have strong, provocative aromas with earthy nuances and ascend gradually, remaining for a longer time than the other notes, all the while helping to reduce the rate of the other oils’ evaporation and subsequently enabling the fragrance of the blend to persist.

Calming, Grounding, Soothing, Relaxing, Lends a richer aroma to blends

OILS IN THIS CATEGORY

Bay	Cardamom
Citrus oils	Cypress
Eucalyptus	Hyssop
Mint oils	Petitgrain
Pine	Ravensara
Rosemary	Sage
Tagetes	Vanilla
Oleoresin	
(10 Fold)	
Yarrow	Black Pepper
Cajeput	Cedarwood
Chamomile	Cinnamon
Clove Bud	Geranium
Ho Wood	Jasmine
Juniper Berry	Marjoram
Myrtle	Myrrh
Niaouli	Nutmeg
Palmarosa	Rose Absolute
Copaiba Balsam	Frankincense
Patchouli (<i>Light & Organic</i>)	
Sandalwood	Spikenard
Valerian	Vetiver