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# How to Get Started

**B**efore starting your first piano lesson online, you will need to read this page. Piano lessons are fun, and learning a new skill is rewarding. However, to attain a new skill such as playing the piano, you will need to make a consistent commitment.

**I**n other words, once you start, you have to keep it up on a regular basis. It will not work if you take 1 or 2 lessons and then take a break for a couple weeks. Learning to play the piano requires regular (daily or every other day) practice and review. You might feel like these first few lessons are so easy that you don't need to practice, but you do. Learning to move your fingers smoothly will only happen with practice. So, take advantage of the easy lessons and get good at moving them fingers!

**A**fter you have read this page, then you are almost ready to get started! One more thing I recommend you to do is read [What to Expect](#) and then you will be on your way to learning how to play the piano!

**[START LESSON ONE](#)**

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# Piano Lessons and Your Instrument



**Whether you have a full size piano or a electronic keyboard, or even an organ, these lessons will teach you how to play your keyboard instrument.**

**The study of "piano" includes learning the names of the keys, where to place your hands, how to manipulate your fingers, how to play with both hands and of course, how to read music!**

**What kind of keyboard instrument are you using for these lessons?**

**If you are using an electric keyboard, how many keys (including the black ones) does it have? I recommend a keyboard instrument with at least 61 keys on it.)**

**Can you read the computer screen while sitting at your keyboard instrument? If you can't, resize your browser screen to the size of a sheet of paper and print the lessons, or move your keyboard closer to the screen.**

**Before going to the next page, make sure you are able to play your keyboard instrument while looking at your computer screen.**

**For simplicity, I will now start to refer to "your keyboard instrument" as "your piano."**

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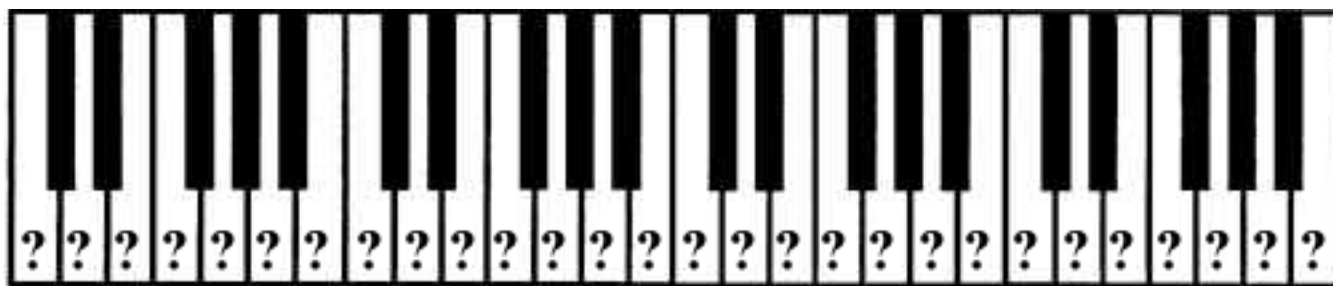
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# White Keys, Black Keys...Where do I begin?



**J**ust looking at your piano can be overwhelming! You wonder, "How am I ever going to learn all these notes?" ...Well, you have come to the right place..I am going to teach you how to "shrink" your piano and become familiar with all the keys during this first lesson. "Piano shrinking" is no big secret, but it's exclusive to the Kids 'N' Keyboards "beginner" curriculum.

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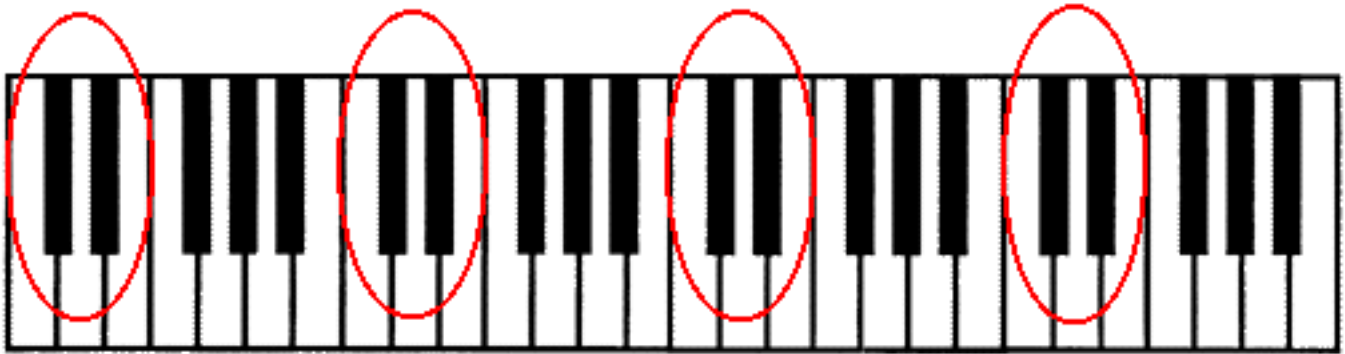
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## Groups of Two Black Keys



**L**ook at your piano and find the black keys that are grouped in two. There will be groups of two and groups of three. Find each group of two, and play them. Use the hand that is closest to the group that you find. For example, when you find the groups of two that are easy to reach with your left hand, then play them with your left hand. When you find the groups of two that are closest to your right hand, then play them with your right hand. Use any fingers you want to.

If you did it right, then your left hand will have played the groups of two black keys that are found on the left side of your piano and your right hand will play the groups of two black keys that are on the right side of the piano.

You will not have crossed your arms in front of you to reach the keys you played.

If you are using a full size piano, you will have found 7 groups of 2 black

**keys. If you are using a 61 key keyboard, you will have found 5 groups of 2 black keys. You might have a keyboard that only have 4 or 6 groups of two black keys...just keep following directions and don't worry what size keyboard you are working with.**

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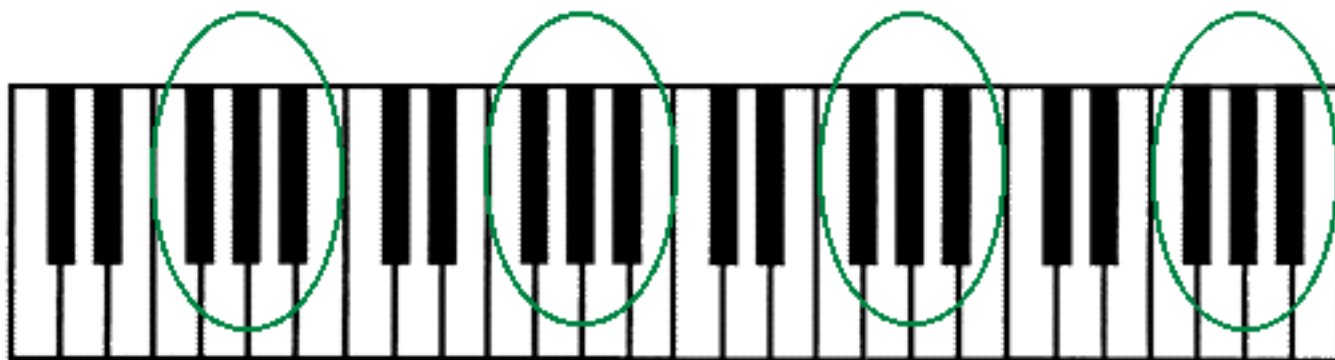
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## Groups of Three Black Keys



**If you understood the last page about the groups of 2 black keys, then this page will be easy! This time look at your piano and find and play all the groups of three black keys....**

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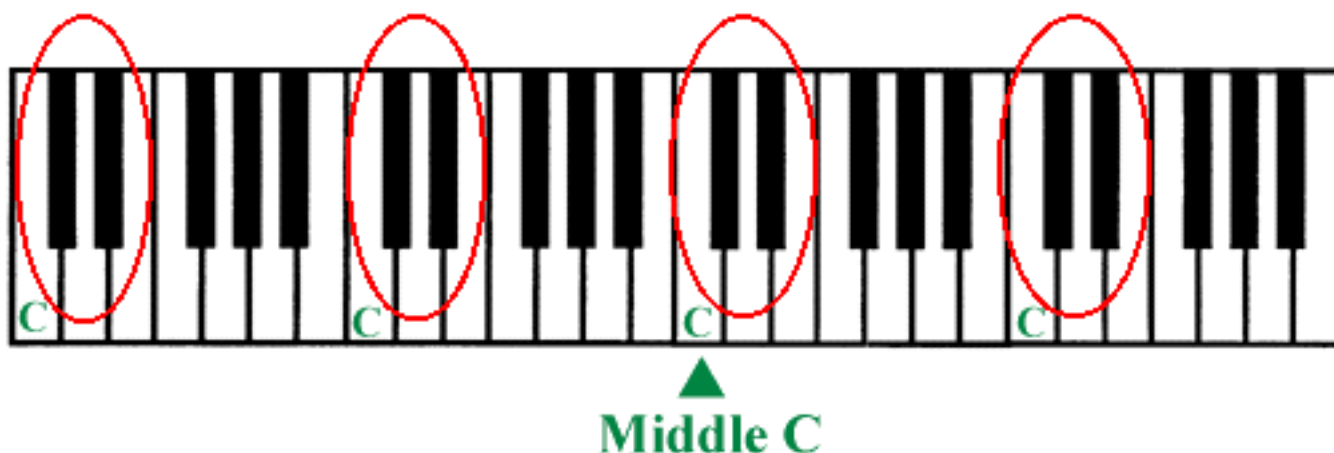
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## Middle C



**N**ow that you are comfortable with finding the groups of two black keys and the groups of three black keys, it's time to talk about the white keys.

As you look at the piano on this page, you will notice that there is a letter "C" on the white key that is found on the left side of each group of two black keys.

Now look at your piano and find and play all the C's. After you have done that, find the C that is closest to the middle of your piano and that one is called MIDDLE C.

Continue to practice finding all the C's on your piano and finding Middle C until it is very easy for you.

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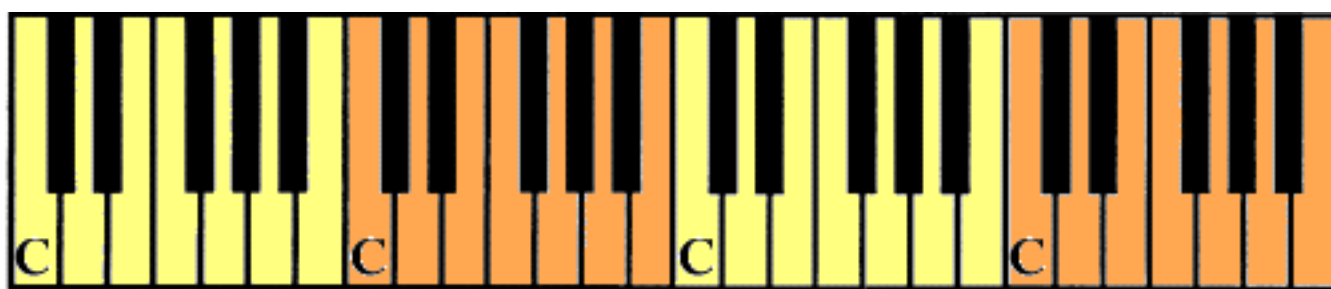
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## Piano Sections



**H**ere you will see that I colored all the white keys in different colored sections. Look closely, can you figure out how I divided the piano into sections?

I colored a "C" and then I colored all the keys after "C" the same color until I arrived at another "C." Then I changed colors. So, each colored section starts with a C and includes the next 6 white keys, making 7 colored keys in a row.

Notice that each section of 7 keys includes a group of 2 black keys and a group of 3 black keys.

The piano is made up of the same 7 keys, over and over and over again.

Now look at your piano and instead of feeling like there are ALOT of keys, look at it in sections, kinda like a puzzle. An easy way to see the piano in sections is to look at the groups of 2 black keys. Each group of two black keys represents a section of the piano.

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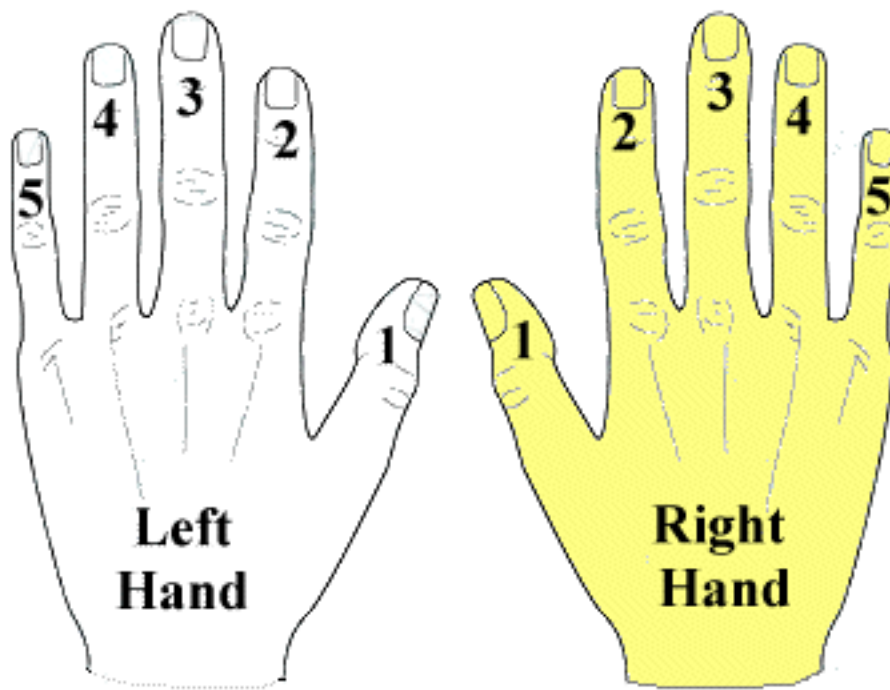
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## Let's Play!



**A**re you ready to start having some fun? Let's play the piano!

First we are going to give each of your fingers a number....Your thumb is number 1, your next finger is number 2, then next is number 3, then number 4 and finally your little finger is number 5.

Place your **RIGHT** hand thumb on **MIDDLE C**.

Then place each of your fingers, one at a time, on the next 4 white keys. If you did it right, your thumb (remember to use your right hand only) will be on **MIDDLE C** and each one of your other 4 fingers will be resting on one key each. You should be covering 5 keys in a row with 5 fingers.

## The next page will show you if you did it right.....

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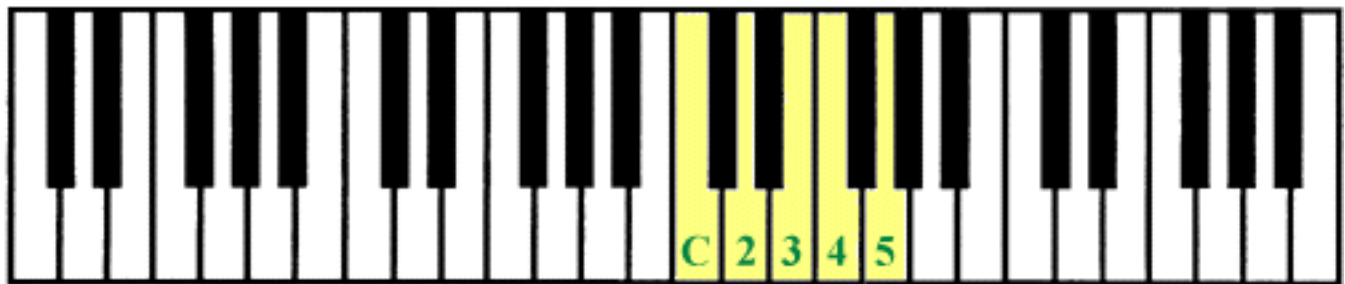
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## Middle C Position



**Did you do it right? Look at the piano on this page and see if you have your fingers resting on the correct keys. If you do, congratulation! The position you are in is called Middle C position.**

**Now, one at a time, play each key once. Do not move your hand and do not move your fingers. You should play Middle C with your thumb, then the next key with your #2 finger, then the next key with #3 finger, the next key with #4 finger, then the last key with #5 finger.**

**It should sound like...DO, RE, ME, FA, SO!**

If you did it right, with the correct fingers, then go ahead and play it over and over and over again. (Only use your right hand!) Get really comfortable with it. Play it fast, play it slow, play it backwards, and play it out of order, BUT always play each key with the finger that is assigned to it! Again, DO NOT move your hand, DO NOT move your fingers out of place. The only way you should be moving your fingers is when you are pushing down on the keys.

### Practice Suggestion:

With your right hand in Middle C position, play the following patterns.. Play C (thumb) when you see the letter C, play key 2 with #2 finger when you see the number 2...etc...

---

**C 2 3 4 5 5 5 5**  
**5 4 3 2 C C C C**

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**C 2 3 2 5 3 2 C**  
**5 4 2 3 C C C C**

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You can write your own patterns and play them. When you are really comfortable with playing patterns smoothly with your right hand and you are always using the correct fingers, then you may go on to the next page.

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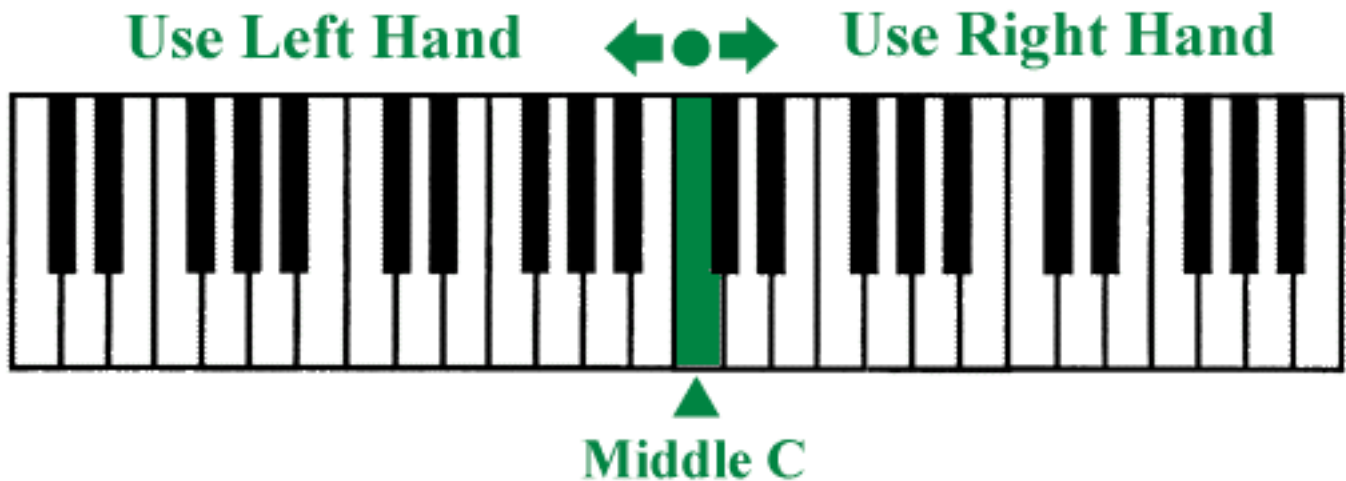
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## Which hand do I use and when?



**N**otice on the piano above that there is a green dot and then there are arrows pointing in opposite directions. This is showing you that whenever you play keys that are below Middle C, you will play with your left hand and whenever you play keys that are above Middle C, you will play with your right hand. (You were playing above Middle C on the previous page, that is why you were instructed to use your right hand.)

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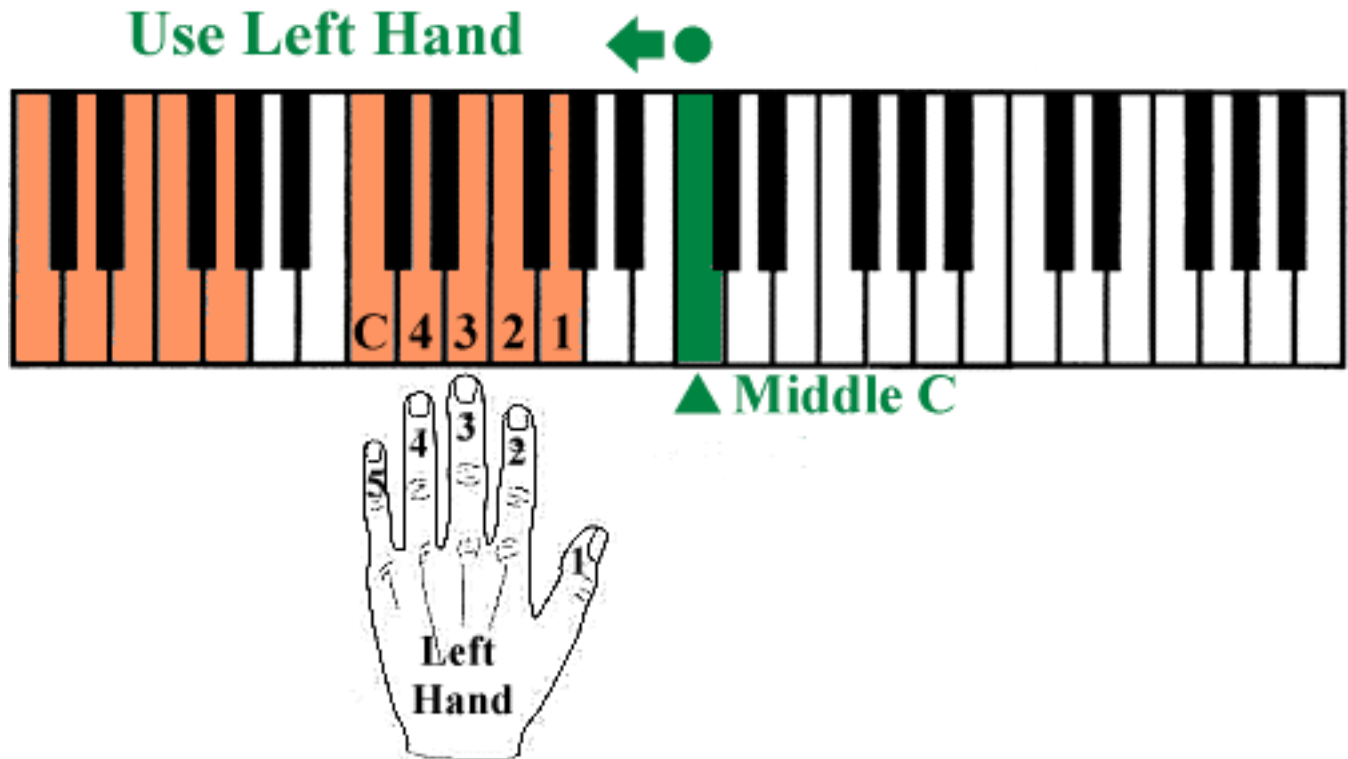
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## Left Hand C Position



**T**ime to use your left hand!

On the piano above, you will see that I colored 2 C position sections below Middle C. Look closely at the numbers.....C...4...3..2..1..is written on the keys instead of C...2...3...4...5...

Place your **LEFT** hand on one of the C positions that are colored, do it on your piano. Notice that when you use your left hand, your thumb is not the finger that you would use on the C. You have to use your little #5 finger. So, when you play the C position pattern with your left hand, you will start with



**your #5 finger on C,  
then #4 on the next key,  
then #3,  
then #2  
and finally your thumb.**

**Practice playing this several times.**

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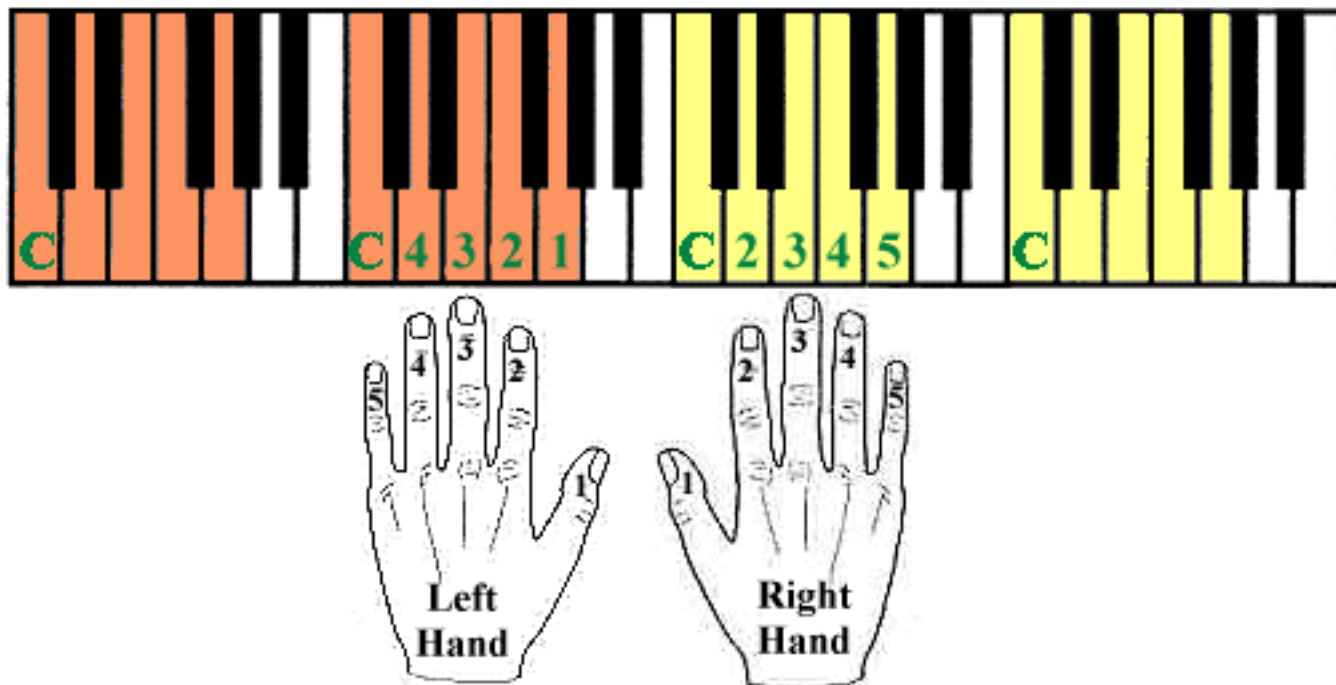
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## C Positions



**H**ere is the final step to "shrinking your piano" and getting familiar with playing all the keys.

**Your assignment is:**

**1. Place your right hand in Middle C position with your thumb on Middle C. Play any patterns you like and at different speeds. When finished, move your right hand up to a different C section of the piano (the notes will sound higher) and with your thumb on C, again play all the patterns that you like. Continue to move your right hand to different sections and with your thumb on C, play whatever you like. (Make sure that the sections you choose are above Middle C)**

**2. Do the same as above, except do it with your left hand. Remember, your left hand will be placed in a C position with your #5 finger on the C. Again, move your hand around and play in different C sections of the lower part of the piano, (below Middle C).**

**3. If you are very brave and want to try something new....try placing both hands on the piano, each in a different C section and play both hands at the same time. Make sure you match the same note with the same note, not the same finger with the same finger. For Example:**

**If you play a C with your right hand thumb, then at the same time, you will play a C with your left hand #5 finger and so forth.**

**Do not play your right hand thumb, with your left hand thumb....that is something that will come later.**

**Have FUN! Move your hands around the piano, use every C position on the piano, try different combinations of C positions with both hands, play different patterns, make up your own songs and maybe even a few words to sing along! Be creative!**

**If you liked this lesson, and would like to continue, please feel free to do so absolutely FREE! If you have any suggestions for me to make any of these pages more understandable, I am definitely open to listen!**

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Each lesson contains several pages of information and material to practice....  
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# Eye-Hand Coordination

**B**efore you start Lesson 2, make sure you understand **EVERYTHING** about Lesson 1. Your chances of success are very high if you take your time and move to the next lesson only when you are very comfortable with what you have learned so far. Remember, if you were taking lessons from a live teacher, your lessons are given only once a week. So, give yourself the time you need to succeed!

The goal of Lesson Two is to teach you "Eye-Hand Coordination" and by presenting you with some short songs to play without the confusion of note reading just yet. Don't worry...note reading will be introduced in Lesson Three.

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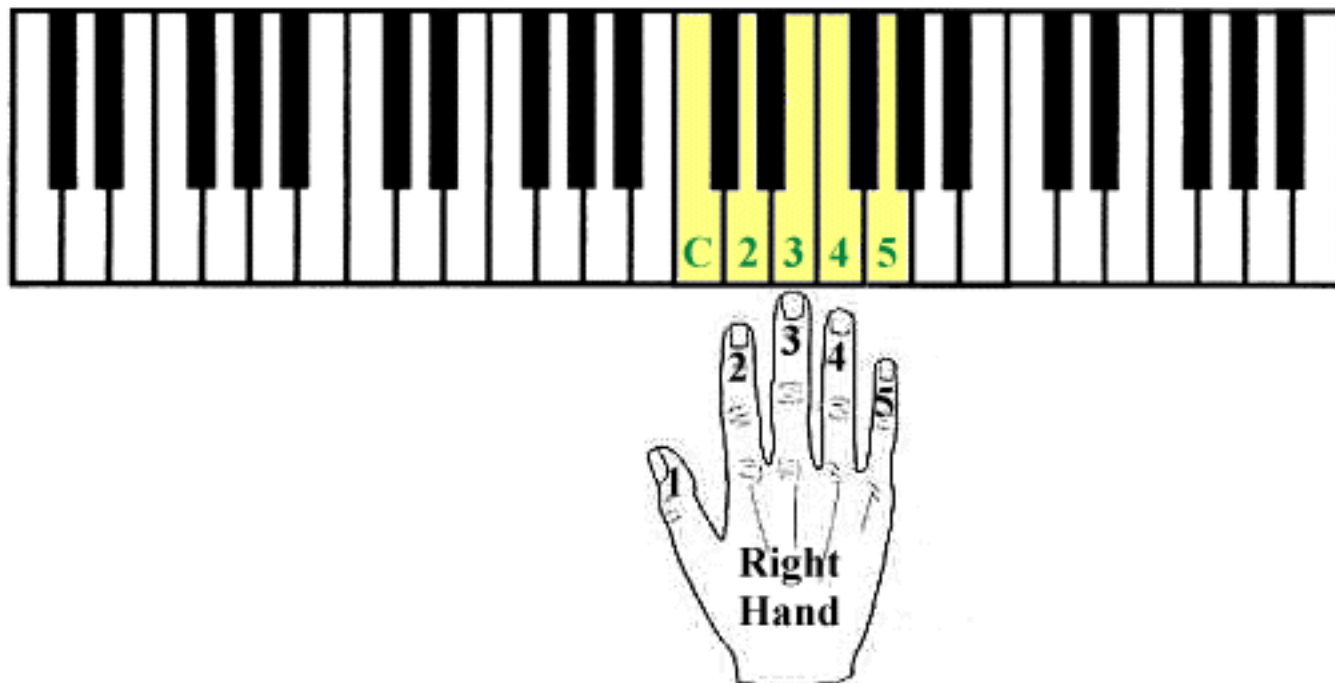
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## Getting Ready to Play



**N**ow the "eye-hand" training will begin. We will start by using the right hand only.

You will need to be able to play your piano and look at the screen at the same time.

Place your right hand in Middle C position, remember your thumb should be on the Middle C and each of your other fingers should be placed on one key each.

What you are about to do is play the keys while you are looking at the song on the screen. The song will consist of finger numbers, except for the C, which you already know to play with the #1 finger, your thumb..

**Find and play each key WITHOUT looking at the piano and WITHOUT looking at your fingers. Your EYES will remain on the screen. Your HAND and FINGERS will stay in position.**

**Play the piano key that matches the finger number that you see on the screen....if you practiced Lesson One well, and you know how to keep your hand and fingers in C position, then you should be able to accomplish this with very little effort.**

**Proceed to Page 3 to play the song....**

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## My First Song

**C 2 3 2**

**C 2 3 2**

**C 2 3 4**

**5 5 C C**

**D**id you keep your **EYES** on the screen?

Did your hands and fingers stay in place?

Practice the song until you can do it without looking at your hands.

This is called "eye-hand" coordination. This "eye-hand" coordination that you are trying to develop is going to be **VERY** important and will determine how successful you will be on the piano.

You will need to be able to look at your music and not at your hands as much as possible. You probably already found out that if you look at your hands,

**then you lose your place on the music when you look back up.**

**Practice this song until you sound smooth, (no pauses) and you feel very confident.**

**Move to the [next page](#) (page 4) to continue to develop your "eye-hand" coordination.**

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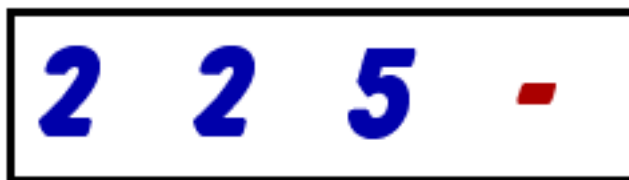
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## Every Mark Has A Meaning.....



**E**verything you see on your music means something. Do not **EVER** pass over an unfamiliar mark without understanding what it is telling you to do.

On this song, you will see that there is a new mark...it is colored **RED**. This particular symbol is not a official music symbol, but it is important to know what it is telling you.

The **RED** dash (-) symbol on the music tells you to hold the note you are currently playing for an extra beat. For example...when you start to play this song, and you reach the **RED** dash, your #5 finger will have just played...the

**dash tells you to hold that 5 in place of the dash...in other words, 1 extra beat.**

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## Treble Clef and G

The image shows four lines of musical notation on a treble clef staff. Each line is enclosed in a black rectangular box. The notation consists of numbers and letters G, with some in red and some in blue.

- Line 1: Treble clef, blue '3', red 'G', blue '2', red 'G'
- Line 2: Treble clef, blue 'C', red 'G', blue '2', blue '-'
- Line 3: Treble clef, red 'G', blue '3', blue '4', blue '2'
- Line 4: Treble clef, blue '3', red 'G', blue 'C', blue '-'

**Y**ou didn't think you were going to stay on reading numbers forever did you? This song has eliminated the number 5 and replaced it with a G. Everytime you see the letter G, then you will play your #5 finger because G is the REAL name of the key your #5 finger rests on.

Also, there is a new mark on this page other than G, (which is marked in RED), the other new mark is also marked in RED and it is found at the beginning of each new line of music. It is called the Treble Clef. The Treble Clef tells you to use your right hand, just like you are already doing.

**Practice this page until you are comfortable with finding G...if you need more music to help you with this, [click here](#).**

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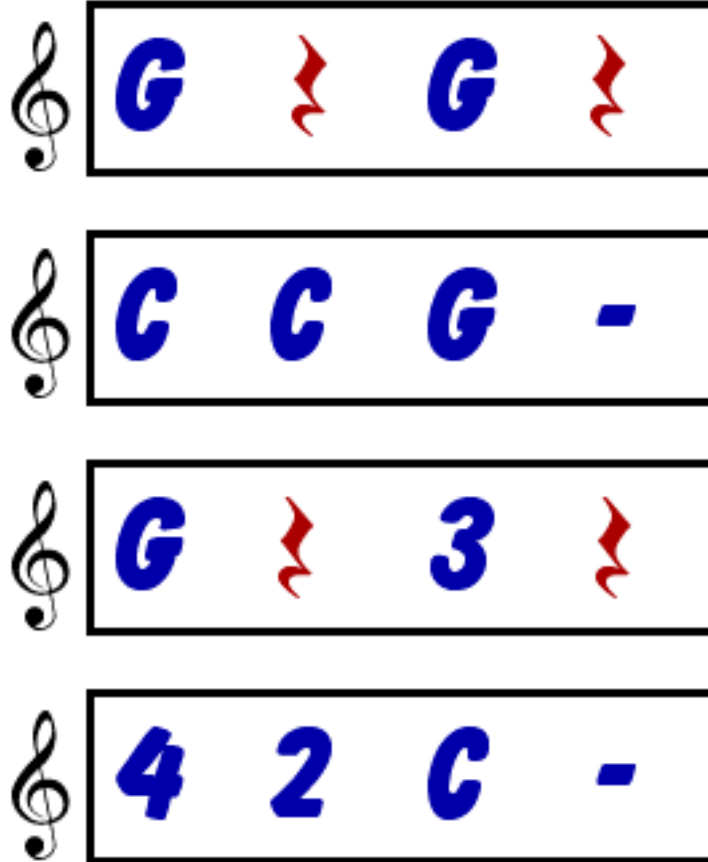
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## Quarter Rests



**T**he new mark on this song, which is marked in RED, is called a **QUARTER REST**.

What a quarter rest tells you to do is **REST** for 1 beat. It is different than the dash (-) that tells you to hold for 1 beat.

In this song, after you play the first note, which is G, you will see a quarter rest. Immediately let go of the G and give the quarter rest 1 silent beat and then proceed with the song.

**Make sure you understand the difference between the dash and the quarter rest. EAcH receives 1 beat, but the dash is a held previous note, and the quarter rest is total silence.**

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## New Key E



**N**umber 3 will now be taken away and replaced with the **REAL** name of the key, which is **E**. Everytime you see **E**, then you will play your #3 finger.

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## Measures and "D"

The image shows four musical staves, each with a treble clef. Each staff is divided into two measures by a vertical line. The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: Measure 1 (red dotted background) contains E (blue), D (red), C (blue), and D (red). Measure 2 contains E (blue), E (blue), and E (blue).
- Staff 2: Measure 1 contains D (red), D (red), and D (red). Measure 2 contains E (blue), G (blue), and G (blue).
- Staff 3: Measure 1 contains E (blue), D (red), C (blue), and D (red). Measure 2 (red dotted background) contains E (blue), E (blue), E (blue), and E (blue).
- Staff 4: Measure 1 contains D (red), D (red), E (blue), and D (red). Measure 2 (red dotted background) contains C (blue) followed by three dashes (- - -).

**T**wo "new things" are being introduced on this page.

First, I want to introduce you to MEASURES. A measure is a small segment of music. It is enclosed in what is called a MEASURE. If you look at the music on the screen, you will see that I shaded 3 measures for you. I shaded MEASURE #1, MEASURE #6 and MEASURE #8.

Measures are used to organize your music. For example if I say, play MEASURE #5 for me, you will know exactly where to start playing.

**The other "new thing" on this page is "D". For now on, instead of seeing a number 2, you will see a "D", which you will play with your #2 finger.**

**Also notice that the song is longer than your previous songs. This song is 8 measures long, your previous songs were only 4 measures long.**

**If you play this song correctly and smoothly, you will recognize the tune! (The name of this song is a keyword to getting your next lessons password.)**

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## Barlines and "F"

The image displays four staves of music notation, each with a treble clef. The notes are arranged in two measures per staff, separated by a vertical barline. Red arrows point down to the notes, indicating finger placement. The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: E, E, F, G | G, F, E, D
- Staff 2: C, C, D, E | E, D, D, -
- Staff 3: E, E, F, G | G, F, E, D
- Staff 4: C, C, D, E | D, C, C, -

**"F"** is the new key here. You should know the routine by now...."F" will replace the number 4 on your music and when you see the F, you will use your #4 finger.

**Congratulations!** Did you notice that now you are completely weaned off of all the numbers and you are reading music by letter?

**Make sure you are NOT looking at your hands to play...keep your EYES on the music.** This song is an old melody that you will recognize if you play it right...

**The little red arrows you see on this page are pointing to what are called **BARLINES**.**

**Barlines separate the measures into tidy little boxes. Later you will learn about different types of barlines. The barlines in the songs you are playing now does not tell you to do anything...they are just for organization.**

**However, later you will learn that there are barlines that tell you to repeat, to end, indicates change, and so forth. But don't worry about that right now.**

**Play this song...I know you will enjoy this familiar melody.**

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# Minuet

The musical notation for the Minuet is presented in four staves, each divided into two measures. The notes are written in a stylized, bold font.

- Staff 1: **G F E F** | **D E F E**
- Staff 2: **D E C D** | **E G F E**
- Staff 3: **D C D E** | **D E C -**
- Staff 4: **D E G E** | **C - - -**

Go for it! Use all your new playing skills...keep your eyes on the music..not on your fingers! When you are comfortable with this, proceed to Lesson 3.

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# Chords

**C**hords (pronounced: kordz) are defined as "a combination of two or more tones which sound harmonious when heard at the same time".

In other words...A chord, when playing the piano, is playing two or more notes at the same time, with the same hand.

By the end of lesson three, you will be able to play chords with your left hand while you are playing with your right hand! That's right! You will be playing songs with both hands *at the same time* by the time you reach the end of this lesson!

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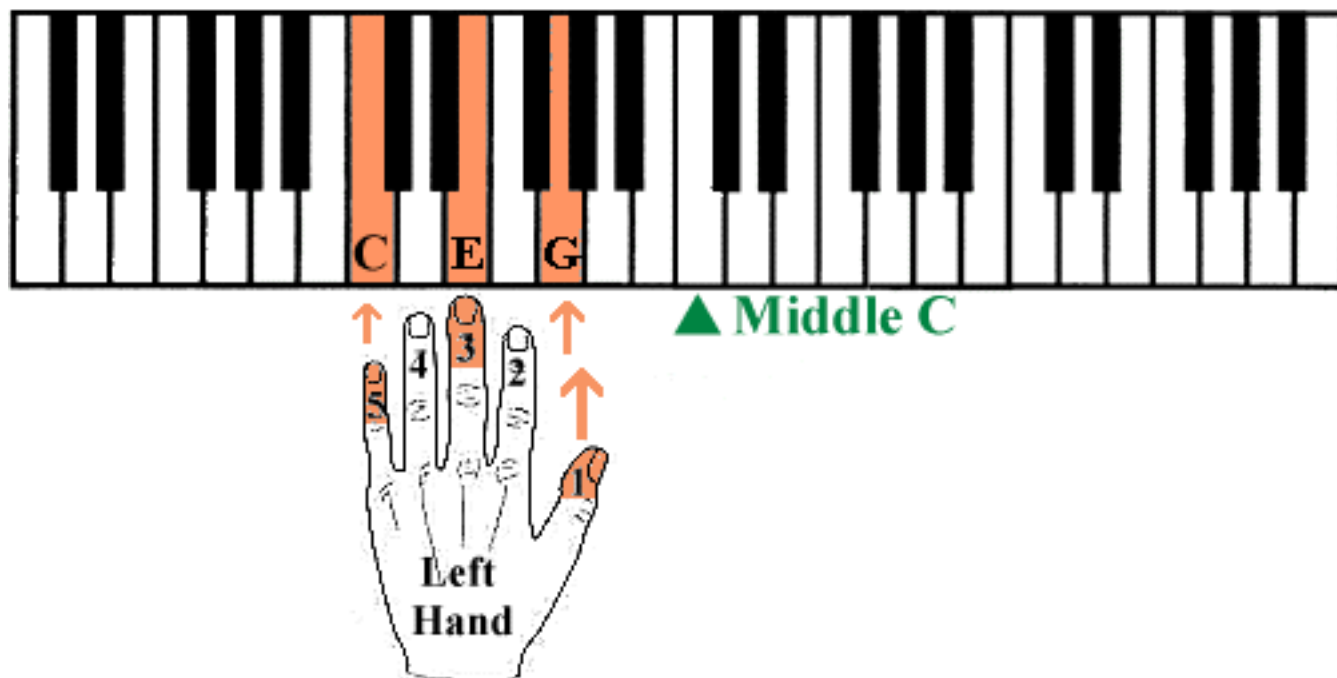
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# The "C" Chord


Use Left Hand



**P**lace your left hand in C position as learned in Lesson One. The diagram above will help you remember.

As you can see, the diagram above only shows 3 keys colored. The C, which you pinky (#5 finger) should be resting on, the E, which your middle (#3 finger) should be resting one and the G, which your thumb (#1 finger) should be resting on.

Now, play all three of those keys at the same time with the fingers that are resting on them. Do NOT change the fingers.

If you played it correctly, it will sound [like this...](#) 

At first, this may feel awkward to your fingers. You're not used to using your fingers in this manner, however, with a little practice, you will play this chord without any trouble at all.

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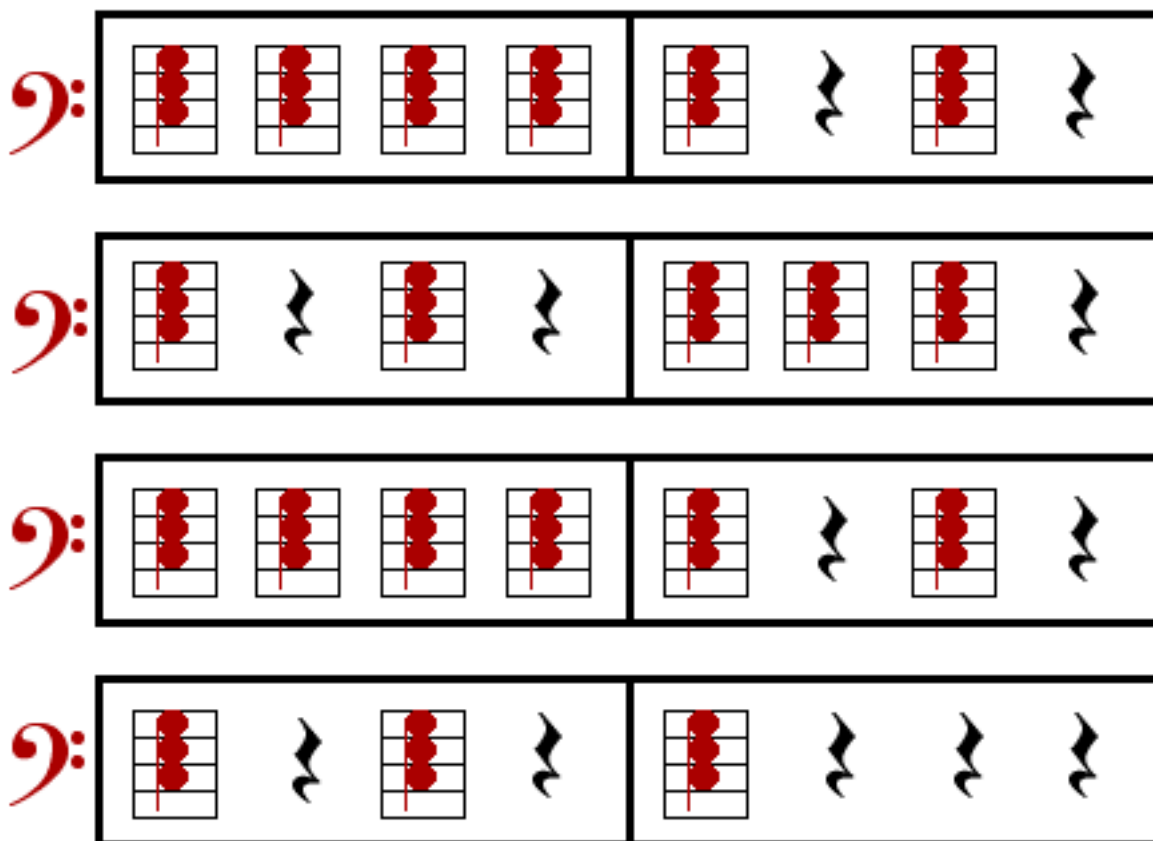
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## "C" Chord Exercise



The above exercise shows what the C chord looks like when written in note form:  
 (3 notes stacked like a snowman.)

It is important to notice where the C chord is placed on the [staff](#).

Also notice the [bass clef](#) which reminds you to play with your left hand.

Now it's time to play the exercise.....

1. Place your left hand in the C chord position.

2. Place the correct fingers on the C chord notes:  
(#5 little finger, #3 middle finger and #1 thumb.)
3. Look at the exercise and play the chords as you see them.
4. Don't forget to rest for 1 beat when you see the rest sign.

Practice this exercise several times before listening to what it should sound like.  
DO NOT listen to the exercise before you start playing.

Listening to the exercise BEFORE you practice will SLOW your progress  
because it is

easy to mimmick what it sounds like, instead of reading the notes and symbols.  
If you want to succeed, then please follow this advise.

After you have practiced this exercise, you may listen to what it should sound like  
and then use it to correct yourself if needed.

[Listen to this exercise....](#)

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## Test your new skill....

Play the the following exercise.

Remember to REST for one beat at each REST sign.

After you have practiced several times, listen to it's sound and see how well you did.

The image displays four rows of musical notation exercises in bass clef. Each row is contained within a rectangular box and is divided into two measures by a vertical line. The first measure of each row starts with a bass clef symbol. The notes and rests are as follows:

- Row 1: Measure 1 has three notes (G2, A2, B2). Measure 2 has a REST sign followed by four notes (G2, A2, B2, C3).
- Row 2: Measure 1 has one note (G2). Measure 2 has a REST sign followed by three notes (A2, B2, C3).
- Row 3: Measure 1 has three notes (G2, A2, B2). Measure 2 has a REST sign followed by four notes (G2, A2, B2, C3).
- Row 4: Measure 1 has one note (G2). Measure 2 has a REST sign followed by three notes (A2, B2, C3).

[Click to Listen](#)

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## Look Ma! Two Hands...

Place both hands in position. This song will involve using both hands. Start this song with your right hand playing the letters. When you see the C chords, play them with your left hand. Practiced it several times before listening to it.

 	<b>G F E F</b>	<b>G</b>	  

 	<b>G F E F</b>	<b>G</b>	  

 	<b>G F E F</b>	<b>G F E F</b>	

 	<b>G F E D</b>	<b>C</b>	  



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## Together At Last...

Place both hands in position. This song will involve using both hands AT THE SAME TIME!!

Start this song with your right hand playing the letters.

When you get to the letter "G", you will see a C chord directly beneath it.

Play the C chord with your left hand at the same time that you play the letter G right hand.

In this particular song, you might want to listen to it before playing it so that you will understand it better.

*Play together*

The image shows two staves of musical notation. The top staff is in treble clef and contains the letters C, D, E, F, G, G. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains the letters G, F, E, D, C, C. The first G in the top staff is circled in red. Below the Gs in both staves are guitar chord diagrams: a C chord diagram under the first G in the top staff, and C chord diagrams under the Gs in the bottom staff. Wavy lines indicate the end of the sequence for the second G in the top staff and the second C in the bottom staff.

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## Note Values

Notes come in many varieties. Some are solid black, some have stems, some have flags, some are white and so forth.

So far, the notes you have been playing are solid black with a stem, as seen in the C chord.

Solid black notes with a stem are called quarter notes and they receive one beat... exactly the way you have already been doing it.

Now I would like to introduce to you the **WHOLE NOTE**. Whole notes are white and does not have a stem.

Whole notes are held for four beats.

So, when you play a whole note, count to four before you let go.

In the following exercise you will see that the whole notes are outlined in red.

Play the exercise and then listen to see if you played it correctly.

When you count, make sure all your counting is exactly the same tempo (speed).



The image displays four rows of musical notation exercises for the bass clef. Each row is divided into two sections. The first section shows a red-outlined box with three circles on the first three lines, representing a triad. The second section shows a black-outlined box with a vertical line (stem) and a black dot (finger) on the first three lines, followed by a wavy line representing a slur. This sequence is repeated for each line of the staff.



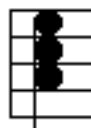





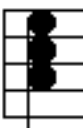

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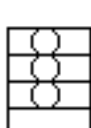





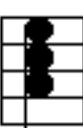

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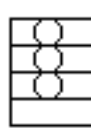







# Finger March

Test your skill...play the following song and then listen to see how well you did. Pay attention to how you play the quarter notes and the whole notes.

	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>G</b>
								

	<b>G</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	
								

	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>G</b>
								

	<b>G</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>	
								



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## A New Chord...G7

The following diagram will show you where to place your left hand fingers to play the G7 Chord.

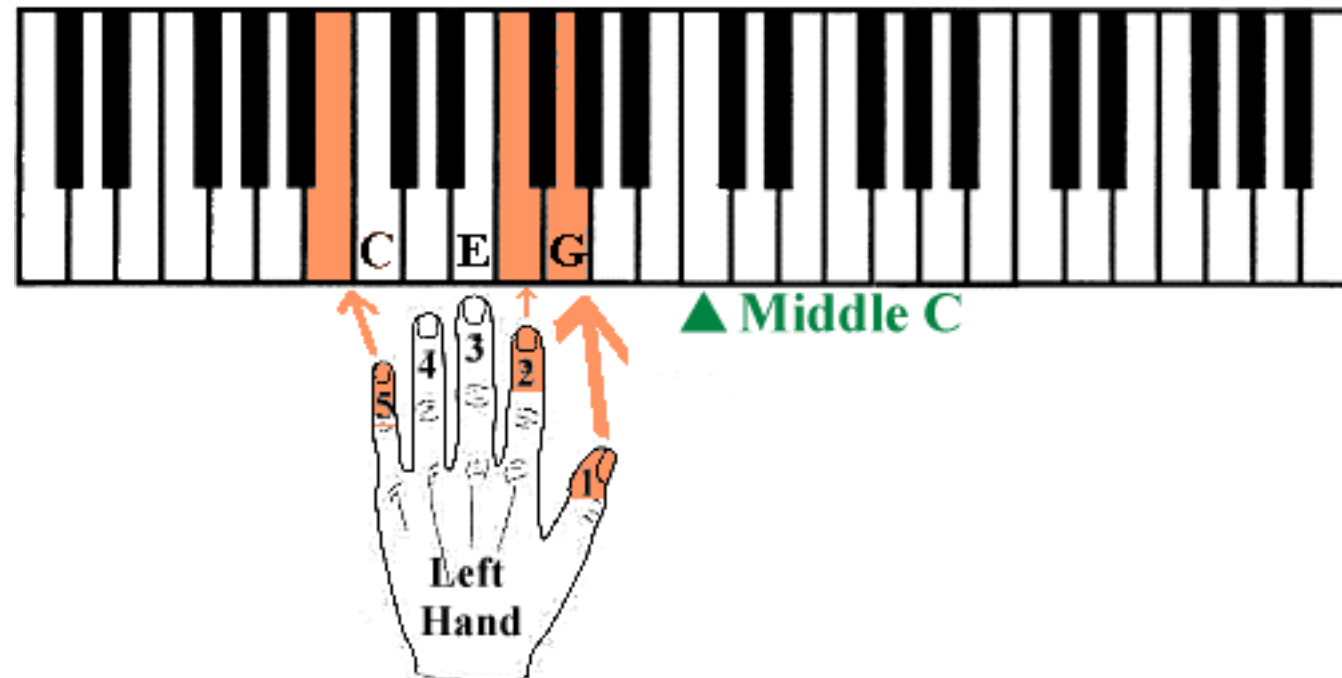
Notice that your #5 finger (pinky) of your left hand has to reach one key to the left.

Your thumb plays the same note as it does on the C Chord.

Your second finger (index finger) plays the key next to your thumb.

Play this chord a few times and then [listen to it's sound](#).

**Use Left Hand** ← ●



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## Smooth Transitions

The G7 Chord is shown on this exercise in red.

Your goal for this exercise is to practice until you can make a smooth change between the C Chord and the G7 Chord.

Make sure you can play this exercise the way it sounds before moving on.

Also, make 100% sure that you are NOT looking at your fingers to do so.

The exercise consists of four rows of bass clef guitar fretboard diagrams, each showing a sequence of chords. Red dots indicate the G7 chord, while black dots indicate the C chord. Open circles represent open strings.

- Row 1: Four C chords (black dots) followed by four G7 chords (red dots).
- Row 2: One G7 chord (red dots) followed by a wavy line, then another G7 chord (red dots) followed by a wavy line, then three C chords (black dots) followed by a wavy line.
- Row 3: One C chord (open circles) followed by one G7 chord (open red circles).
- Row 4: One C chord (black dots) followed by one G7 chord (red dots), then another C chord (black dots) followed by another G7 chord (red dots), and finally one C chord (open circles).

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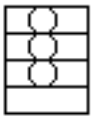

## **A Familiar Melody**




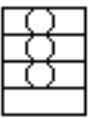

If you play this song correctly, you will recognize it immediately.



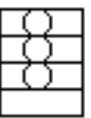

Watch out for the whole notes and quarter notes.




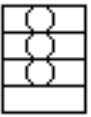

Play this song a few times and then listen to it to see if you played it right.

Make sure you **DO NOT** look at your fingers. Always keep your eyes on the music.

	<b>E</b> <b>E</b> <b>F</b> <b>G</b>	<b>G</b> <b>F</b> <b>E</b> <b>D</b>
		

	<b>C</b> <b>C</b> <b>D</b> <b>E</b>	<b>E</b> <b>D</b> <b>D</b> 
		

	<b>E</b> <b>E</b> <b>F</b> <b>G</b>	<b>G</b> <b>F</b> <b>E</b> <b>D</b>
		

	<b>C</b> <b>C</b> <b>D</b> <b>E</b>	<b>D</b> <b>C</b> <b>C</b> 
		

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# Important Message from your Instructor:

**If you have made it this far, then you are doing wonderful. Here is a check list to see if you are on the right track....**

- 1. Your eyes are on the music, not your fingers.**
- 2. Your tempo (speed of playing) is steady. In other words, when you count the beats, every beat is the same speed. Do not count your whole note beats faster than you count your quarter note beats.**
- 3. Your transition between chord changes is smooth, without pausing to look for the keys.**
- 4. You understand following terms: staff, bass clef, treble clef, measure, whole note, quarter note, rest, and tempo.**

**If you are very comfortable with this check list, and you can play each exercise easily, then proceed to lesson 4.**

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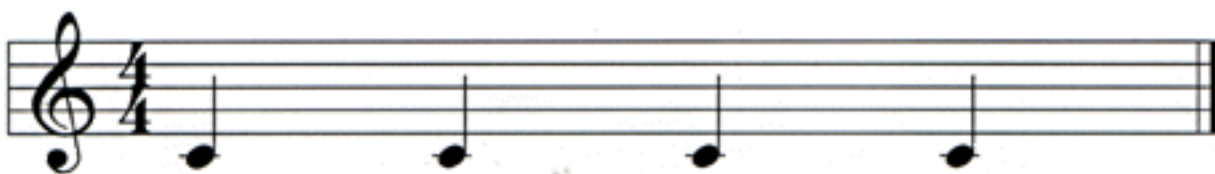
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## No More Letters

Now it's time to wean yourself off of reading letters with the right hand.

The following treble staff shows what Middle C looks like written as a note. Play it four times as shown, with your right hand thumb.



On this page you should be able to recognize the following:

1. The **TREBLE CLEF** which indicates using your right hand.
2. The **STAFF**, which is made up of 5 lines and 4 spaces.  
Middle C is written below the treble staff.
3. There is only one measure shown.
4. The four Middle C's are written as quarter notes.
5. You should keep in mind that each quarter note receives one beat.
6. The measure that is shown contains 4 beats.

There is something new on this page that I have not yet taught you...  
Do you see the 2 number four's on the staff next to the treble clef?



That is called the **TIME SIGNATURE**.

The time signature tells you how many beats each measure will receive.

The top number, which is 4, tells you that each measure will receive 4 beats.

The bottom number tells you which type of note will receive one beat.

IN this case, the number is 4 which represents a quarter note.

So, the time signature tells you two things.....What are the two things?

Do not spend too much time trying to figure this out if you don't understand it right away.

The main thing to remember is that the TOP number tells you how many beats per measure.

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## Middle C Song

Starting at this point, your music will look like real music.

You will see that the right hand staff (known as the treble staff) and the left hand staff (known as the bass staff) are joined together, which I indicated with a red line. The treble staff (top) is for right hand, the bass staff (bottom) is for left hand.

Place both hands in C position as you always have.

I placed a red line with an arrow at each end indicating to play those notes at the same time (both hands)...just like in your previous songs.

In the second measure you will see a blue line pointing to a Middle C written as a whole note (round, white, no stem)...remember to hold it down and count to 4. As you are counting to 4, remember to play the chords with the left hand.

The green arrow is pointing to the top number (4) to remind you that there are 4 beats to each measure. If you end up with 3 or 5 beats in a measure, double check everything and try it again.

Good luck!

[Click to Listen](#)

Did you remember the following?:

1. In the first measure of the bass staff the C chord is written as whole notes....you should have held this chord down while you played the C's with the right hand.
2. In the second measure of the treble staff Middle C is written as a whole note. You should have held this note down for 4 beats while you continued to play the chords with the left hand.

If you played everything correctly, congratulations! You are well on your way to understanding how to read music. If you are confused in any way, please feel free to e-mail me. I want you to be successful!! Do not give up yet! You are already playing with both hands at the same time!

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## Middle C Song with Finger Numbers

Now that you are comfortable with playing with both hands, reading music on both lines and knowing how long or short to hold each note....I'm going to throw in one more thing that is extremely important that you learn.

The song on this page is the same song you just learned on the previous page (C Song), however, this time, look at the red number above each note, and that will be the finger you will use to play that note.

Here's how: In the first measure (highlighted in yellow) you will place your #1 (thumb) on Middle C. (The #1 written above that note indicates using your #1 finger.)

The 2nd note in that same measure (Middle C again with an arrow pointing to it) has a #2 above it, play it with your #2 finger.

The 3rd note (Middle C again) has a #3 on it, play it with your #3 finger.

Now continue playing the song and change fingers as you see the numbers change.

Good luck!

[Click to Listen](#)

1 2 3 2 1

1 2 3 2 1

Keep practicing this song with the correct finger changes until you can play it very smooth. At this point in your lessons, you are thinking about 3 things when you play a note:

1. Where to find the note on the piano.
2. How long to hold the note.
3. Which finger to use on the note.

Always remember these three things. These are what will make you successful.

## [Why do I have to change fingers?](#)

### [Support Song - More Practice with finger Numbers](#)

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## C and D Song

D is the note shown in red. On the keyboard, remember that is the key that is after C. (between the two black keys)

Notice the finger numbers? You will start this song by placing your #2 finger the Middle C as indicated. Then you will play the D with your #3 finger as indicated.

The only two fingers you will use with your right hand will be #2 and #3. Do not move your hand into a different position, stay right where the finger numbers tell you to be. The only time you move into a different position is when you see a finger number.

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[Support Song - More Practice with D](#)

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## You Guessed it!...E Song...

E is the note shown in red. On the keyboard, it is the key that is after D.

This song starts you on your #3 finger and leaves you in that position the whole time.

Something new in this song.....Do you see the first note? It is an E, but it is not a solid quarter note, or a whole note without a stem.

It is what is called a half note. It is transparent like a whole note, but it has a stem on it. It receives 2 beats.

Make sure you listen to this song to see if you played the beats (rhythm) correctly.

[Click to Listen](#)

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains two measures. The first measure has two red quarter notes on the G line (G4) and the B line (B4). A red number '3' is written above the first note. The second measure has a red quarter note on G4, a black quarter note on B4, and a black half note on D5. The bass clef staff contains two measures. The first measure has a chord of G2, B2, and D3. The second measure has a chord of G2, B2, and D3, followed by a quarter note G2, a quarter note B2, and a half note D3.

The second system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains two measures. The first measure has four quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, and C5. The second measure has a half note G4 and a half rest. The bass clef staff contains two measures. The first measure has a chord of G2, B2, and D3. The second measure has a chord of G2, B2, and D3, followed by a quarter note G2, a quarter note B2, a half note D3, and a quarter rest.

[Support Song - Hot Cross Buns](#)

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## Test your skills....

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Musical notation for the first system, featuring a treble and bass clef in 4/4 time. The treble clef has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The bass clef has a bass clef and a 4/4 time signature. The music consists of two measures. The first measure has a quarter rest in the treble and a quarter note G4 in the bass. The second measure has a quarter note G4 in the treble and a quarter note G4 in the bass. A triplet '3' is written above the first measure.

Musical notation for the second system, featuring a treble and bass clef in 4/4 time. The treble clef has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The bass clef has a bass clef and a 4/4 time signature. The music consists of two measures. The first measure has a quarter rest in the treble and a quarter note G4 in the bass. The second measure has a quarter note G4 in the treble and a quarter note G4 in the bass.

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## **F is for Fun...**

F is the note shown in red. On the keyboard, it is the key that is after E, but you already know that by now!

Notice the fingering in the third measure? You have three F's, but the finger numbers tell you to switch the finger you are using... I hope you are having some "F for Fun!" Enjoy this short piece....practice playing slowly, then add some speed...

[Click to Listen](#)



The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff begins with a '1' above the first measure. The melody consists of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, and C5. The bass clef staff provides accompaniment with chords: C4-E4-G4, C4-E4-G4, F4-A4-C5, and F4-A4-C5.

The second system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff features a melody of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, and C5. The first three notes (C4, D4, E4) are red and have red numbers '4', '3', and '4' above them, indicating fingerings. The bass clef staff provides accompaniment with chords: C4-E4-G4, C4-E4-G4, F4-A4-C5, and F4-A4-C5.

[Support Song - Funny Face](#)

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## **Help! I need another song title...**

G of course is the note shown in red. On the keyboard, it is the key that is after F, go for it!

Don't forget to keep an eye on the fingering....

There is a new symbol, it is located in the first measure of the bass staff...notice there are no notes to play, but there is a red rectangular shape called a **WHOLE REST**.

This **WHOLE REST** tells you that you are not playing anything in that measure with your left hand...you are resting for that **WHOLE** measure.

[Click to Listen](#)

Musical notation for the first system of a piano exercise in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff has a red '5' above the first note (G4), and red '5', '4', and '5' above the next three notes (A4, B4, C5). The bass clef staff has a red dash in the first measure and chords in the second and third measures.

Musical notation for the second system of a piano exercise in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff has a red note (G4) in the first measure, followed by black notes (A4, B4, C5) in the second and third measures, and a red note (G4) in the fourth measure. The bass clef staff has a red dash in the first measure and chords in the second and third measures.

[Support Song - Step by Step](#)

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## Double Check...

Remember the three things to watch out for when you are playing a song?

1. Play the correct note.
2. Hold each note the correct amount of time.
3. Use the correct finger.

This song is to give you more time to get used to all your new piano skills..there is nothing new here..just pay close attention to the threethings listed above....

**A reminder about fingering.....**

This song starts your #3 finger on the G. The next note does not have a finger number on it, because your #1 finger (thumb) is the finger that is already positioned over it. **Remember...only move your hand position when there is a new finger number to move to....this song will help you understand....**

**[Click to Listen](#)**

Musical notation for the first system of 'Support Song - Aura Lee'. The treble clef part shows a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. Above the first three notes are red '3' symbols. The bass clef part shows a whole note chord of G4, B4, D5 in the first measure and a whole rest in the second measure.

Musical notation for the second system of 'Support Song - Aura Lee'. The treble clef part shows a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. Above the first three notes are red '3', '4', and '5' symbols. The bass clef part shows a whole note chord of G4, B4, D5 in the first measure, and a whole note chord of G4, B4, D5 in the second measure.

[Support Song - Aura Lee](#)

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## More Practice..and the half rest

So far you have been introduced to the following RESTS:

1. Quarter rest, which receives 1 beat.
2. Whole rest, which rests the whole measure...and now watch for the
3. Half rest, which receives 2 beats

The HALF REST is indicated in red. You will see it in the bass staff.

Rests are easy. Just play the note before it, in this song, it is the C chord first...hold the C chord for the 2 beats it receives and then let go for the half rest for the remainder of the measure....

Pay attention to the fingering!

When you have mastered everything in Lesson 4, then move on to Lesson 5. Remember, you are not in a hurry, so do not proceed too fast, make sure you are 100% comfortable with everything so far.

[Click to Listen](#)

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains two measures. The first measure has a red '1' above it and contains a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4, and a half note on B4. The second measure also has a red '1' above it and contains a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4, and a half note on B4. The bass clef staff contains two measures. The first measure has a red '1' above it and contains a whole note chord of G2, B1, and D2. The second measure contains a whole note chord of G2, B1, and D2.

The second system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains two measures. The first measure has a red '1' above it and contains a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4, and a half note on B4. The second measure also has a red '1' above it and contains a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4, and a half note on B4. The bass clef staff contains two measures. The first measure has a red '1' above it and contains a whole note chord of G2, B1, and D2. The second measure contains a whole note chord of G2, B1, and D2.

[Support Song - Marching](#)

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## Rhythm and Fingering

Lesson 5 will be dedicated to teaching you the importance of using the correct fingers and holding your notes the correct amount of time. You will be introduced to a couple new notes, but the main focus for this lesson is to help you with correct fingering and rhythm.

Before proceeding, make sure you already understand the fingering you have already been introduced to. Play your Lesson 4 songs and make sure the fingers you use are correct.

Also, double check your rhythm skills (how long you hold a note) and make sure you know the time value of: The whole note, half note, quarter note AND the time value of the whole rest, half rest, and the quarter rest.

If you are unsure of these things, please, go back and learn them. Learning piano without a teacher watching you is going to take more concentration on your part because there isn't anyone to correct your mistakes, if you have any.

Listen to the songs and make sure you play them EXACTLY the way you hear them. Play along with it, do not go any faster or slower than the example. It should be EXACT.

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## Dotted Half Notes

In this song, I want you to place your right hand in the C position and use the fingers that are naturally resting on each note.

Do you see the TIME SIGNATURE? Notice that the top number is a 3. That means that each measure is going to have 3 beats in it.

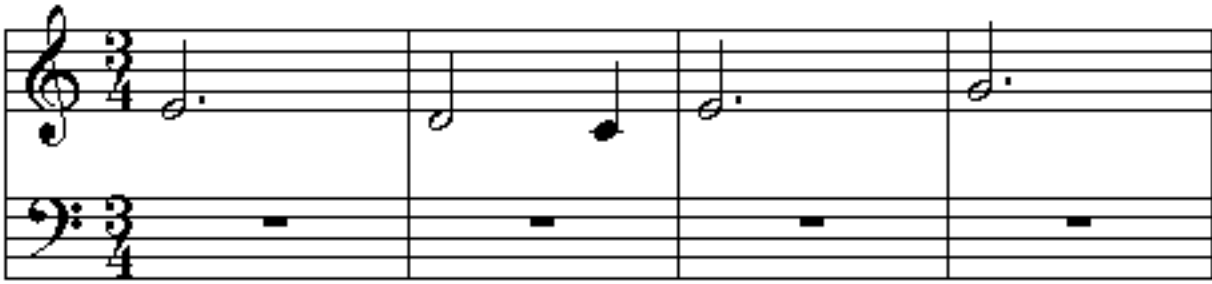
Also notice that you have a new type of note. See if you can find it..... It is a half note with a dot sitting next to it. It is called a dotted half note. A dotted half note receives 3 beats.

I want you to listen to this song first before playing it. While you are listening, count to three for each measure and watch the notes as you count....

It will be up to you to learn and understand the rhythm of this song and any song that you want to learn. Do not make the mistake of learning to play songs correctly by just listening to them. You need to understand how to count and figure out the rhythm yourself.

[Click to Listen](#)





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## Same Song, Two Hands

Here we go.....test yourself. Play this song a few times, count out the beats steadily and then listen to it *after*.

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# Careful Fingering

This time, pay attention to your fingering....

Remember, when you see a finger number, place the correct finger on that key...when you do that, your whole hand changes position...

DO NOT move out of that new position...continue to play the notes as you see them with the fingers that are already in position.

The only time you change your hand position is when a finger number tells you to move.

[Click to Listen](#)

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. It contains four measures of music, each starting with a finger number '1' above the first note. The notes are quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, and C5. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains four measures of chords. Each measure contains a triad of notes: G2, B1, and D2. The notes are beamed together and have a repeat sign above them.

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. It contains four measures of music, each starting with a finger number '4' above the first note. The notes are quarter notes: D5, C5, B4, and A4. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains four measures of chords. Each measure contains a triad of notes: G2, B1, and D2. The notes are beamed together and have a repeat sign above them.

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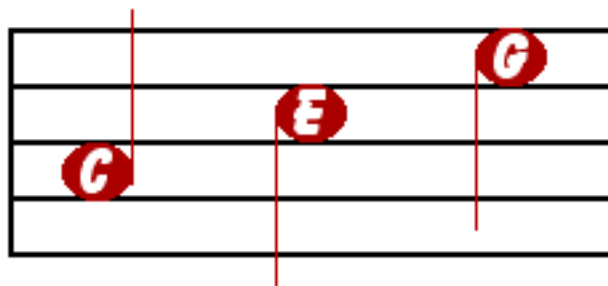
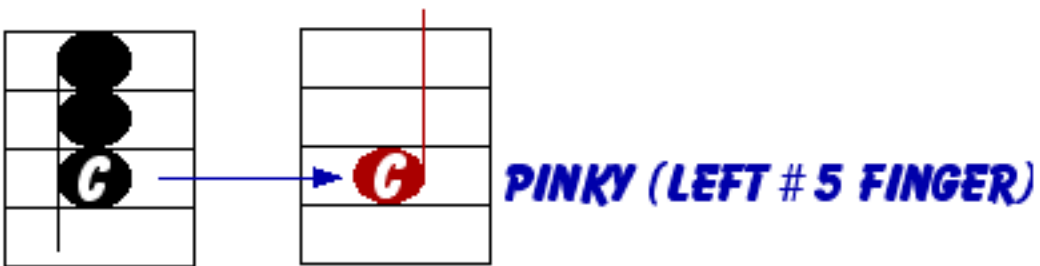
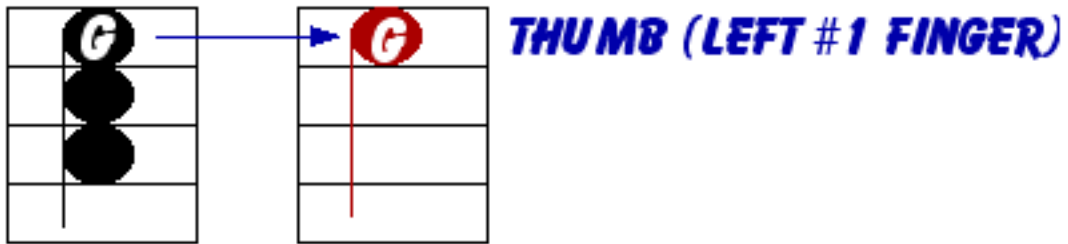
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## Single Bass Notes

Play the C chord.....pay attention to the key that your pinky is playing..it is a C. Look at the diagram below and it will show you the names of the keys you have been playing when you play the C chord with your left hand.

You will now begin to read the three notes that form the C chord as separate notes....





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## Single Bass Notes

Place your left hand in the same position as you do when you play a C chord. The first note on the bass staff is a C, with a #5 telling you to use your #5 finger. When play this song, start memorizing the position these notes are placed on the staff....

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The first system of musical notation is in 3/4 time. The treble clef staff has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a quarter note G4 in the second measure, a quarter note A4 in the third measure, and a quarter note B4 in the fourth measure. The bass clef staff has a quarter note C3 in the first measure, a quarter note D3 in the second measure, and a quarter note E3 in the third measure. A red '5' is written below the first note in the bass staff. A '1' is written above the first note in the treble staff. The fourth measure of the bass staff has a whole rest.

The second system of musical notation is in 3/4 time. The treble clef staff has a quarter note C4 in the first measure, a quarter note D4 in the second measure, a quarter note E4 in the third measure, a quarter note F4 in the fourth measure, a quarter note G4 in the fifth measure, a quarter note A4 in the sixth measure, and a quarter note B4 in the seventh measure. The bass clef staff has a whole note chord in the first measure, a whole note chord in the second measure, a whole note chord in the third measure, and a whole note chord in the fourth measure. The chords are C major, D major, E major, and F major.

[Support Song - Whispering Pines](#)

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## Putting it all together...

Pay close attention to the following things....

1. Fingering
2. Timing (steady and equal beats)
3. New notes

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The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains a sequence of notes: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), and C5 (quarter). The bass clef staff contains a sequence of notes: C3 (half), F2 (half), G2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), B2 (quarter), C3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), F3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), B3 (quarter), and C4 (quarter). Fingering numbers are placed above the notes: '1' above the first C4, '5 4 5' above the G4, A4, and B4 notes, and '1 2 1' above the final C5, B4, and A4 notes.

The second system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains a sequence of notes: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), and C5 (quarter). The bass clef staff contains a sequence of notes: C3 (half), F2 (half), G2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), B2 (quarter), C3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), F3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), B3 (quarter), and C4 (quarter). A fingering number '1' is placed above the first C4 note.

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## More repetition....

Pay close attention to the **TIMING** and **FINGERING**.

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# Perfect Practice

"Practice Makes Perfect" is the 'ol saying.  
But I say...

*Perfect*Practice Makes Perfect....

If you practice a song wrong, then you learn it wrong. If you are careful and practice correctly...then *perfect* is what you will achieve...

[Click to Listen](#)

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves in 3/4 time. The treble clef staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and contains the melody. The bass clef staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a dotted quarter note Bb4. The first finger (labeled '1') is used for the G4 and A4 notes. The accompaniment starts with a quarter note G2, followed by quarter notes A2 and Bb2, then a quarter note G2, and finally a quarter note F2. The first finger (labeled '1') is used for the G2 and A2 notes.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. The treble clef staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and contains the melody. The bass clef staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a dotted quarter note Bb4. The first finger (labeled '1') is used for the G4 and A4 notes. The accompaniment starts with a quarter note G2, followed by quarter notes A2 and Bb2, then a quarter note G2, and finally a quarter note F2. The first finger (labeled '1') is used for the G2 and A2 notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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# Test Time!

Answer (on a sheet of paper) the following questions to test your music terminology:

1. Define and draw a STAFF and divide it into 6 measures.
2. In the first measure, draw a C chord and a G7 Chord. Make the C Chord as whole notes and make the G7 as quarter notes.
3. In the second measure, draw a quarter rest, a half rest and a whole rest.
4. How many beats does a quarter note receive?
5. How many beats does a half note receive?
6. How many beats does a dotted half note receive?
7. How many beats does a whole note receive?
8. In the third measure, draw a treble clef.
9. In the fourth measure, draw a bass clef.
10. Of the two numbers in the TIME SIGNATURE, which tell you how many beats there are in a measure? The TOP number or the BOTTOM number?
11. What do finger numbers tell you to do?
12. What is your understanding of the importance of correct fingering and correct

timing?

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# Lesson 6 Objectives

Here is what you will learn in Lesson 6:

1. Perfect all that you have already learned.
2. Tempo...(how fast or slow you play a song)
3. Eighth notes.....twice as fast as quarter notes.
4. More on fingering...
5. More new notes...treble and bass
6. New Chord - F

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## Eighth Notes

**EIGHTH NOTES** receive a half a beat each. When there are two eighth notes, they will be connected with a beam. In the following song, you will see the eighth notes in red.

Since an eighth note receives only half of a beat, then playing two of them should equal 1 full beat..

Listen to the following example before trying to play it.

[Click to Listen](#)

A musical score in 4/4 time, marked with a '1' above the first measure. The treble clef staff contains a sequence of notes: quarter, quarter, eighth, eighth, quarter, quarter, eighth, eighth, quarter, quarter, eighth, eighth, quarter. The eighth notes are highlighted in red. The bass clef staff contains whole rests for each of the four measures.

A musical score in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains a sequence of notes: quarter, quarter, eighth, eighth, quarter, quarter, eighth, eighth, quarter, quarter, eighth, eighth, quarter. The eighth notes are highlighted in red. The bass clef staff contains whole rests for each of the four measures.

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## Counting Eighth Notes

**EIGHTH NOTES** are sometimes tricky to play correctly. The timing needs to be precise. Each eighth note needs to be EXACTLY one half beat.

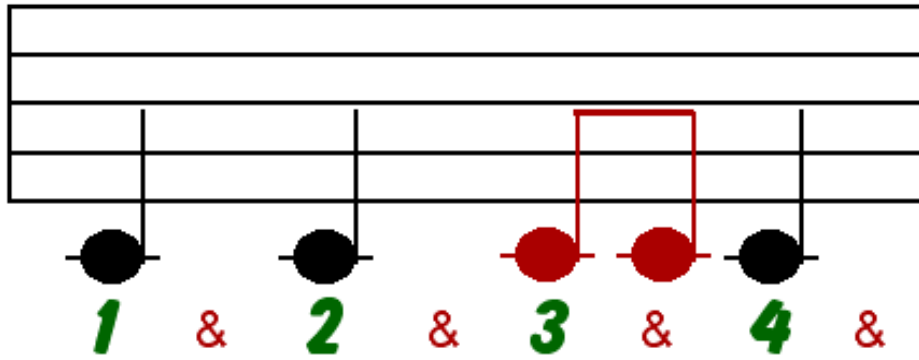
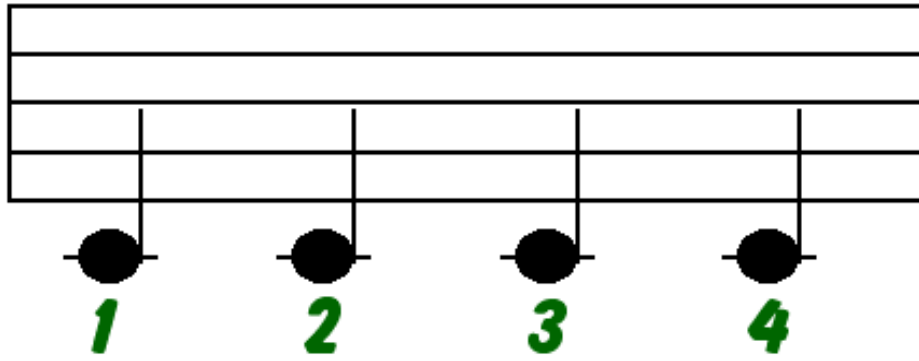
The first of the following diagrams illustrates how to count out a 4 beat measure. You may not be counting it this way, but by now, you should have your own way to space your beats out evenly. Here are some examples of counting your beats:

1. Count each beat in a numerical order as shown below.
2. Count each beat according to the note value...1 1 1 1 (for 4 quarter notes) or 1 2 1 2 (for 2 half notes) etc....
3. Tap your foot for each beat.
3. Nod your head for each beat.

The second diagram illustrates how to count a song that contains eighth notes...If you say "and(&)" in between your beats, your eighth notes (when played at the same time you say "&") will automatically be correct in timing. However, if you count unevenly, your timing will be uneven..so be careful!

This is a concept that is hard to teach verbally. You will have to listen carefully to the song examples and try extra hard to learn and understand how eighth notes should sound and be counted.

Count and play the following examples. You may use the following method of counting or choose your own.



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## **Eighth Notes and Tempo**

**TEMPO** is how fast or slow you play a song. Many students ask me...how fast are eighth notes? Eighth notes or any note for that matter, **DO NOT** have a set speed. The speed is relative and determined by the TEMPO that you choose to play the song.

The TEMPO you choose, whether it be slow or fast, **MUST** stay the same throughout the song you are playing.

**Listen to the following song before you play it. I have included a slow tempo and a faster tempo for you to listen to. In each, the timing is exactly the same, but each are played at a different tempo (speed).**

**As you listen, count out loud and look at each note so you can see where each count is being played.**

**When you practice this song, play it at a slow tempo.**

**Also, if you have a little trouble with hands together, practice the left hand by itself and then practice the right hand by itself, and then when you are comfortable with each hand individually, put them together.**

**Songs like this will take some time to learn....have patience with yourself. Take your time and enjoy!!!**

**P.S. There is a new note in the BASS staff. It is a D. (finger #4, left hand)**

[Listen to a slow tempo](#)

[Listen to a fast tempo](#)



3

1&2&3&4& 1&2&3&4&

5

**Support Songs:**  
[Rise N Shine](#)  
[Down By The Station](#)  
[Playful Pup](#)

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## More Eighth Notes

The following song gives you some practice with 4 eighth notes in a row.

Again, I have included two tempo's for you to listen to.

I strongly suggest that you DO NOT listen this time...play the right hand first and see if you get the timing correct. Then listen.

[Listen to a slow tempo](#)

[Listen to a moderate tempo](#)

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The right hand (treble clef) starts with a quarter rest followed by a quarter note G5, then a quarter note F5, and a quarter note E5. The left hand (bass clef) plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. Red text below the right hand staff reads "1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &".

The second system of musical notation continues the exercise. The right hand (treble clef) plays a quarter note D5, then a quarter note C5, and a quarter note B4. The left hand (bass clef) continues the eighth-note accompaniment: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5.

**Support Songs:**  
[Walk a Crooked Mile](#)

[Pg 1](#) | [Pg 2](#) | [Pg 3](#) | [Pg 4](#) | [You Are Here](#) | [Pg 6](#) | [Pg 7](#) | [Pg 8](#) | [Pg 9](#) | [Pg 10](#) | [Pg 11](#) | [Lesson 7](#)

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# Single Eighth Notes and the Dotted Quarter Note

Two eighth notes are easily recognized with a beam connecting them...a single eighth note is recognized by what we call a "flag" hanging off the stem. You will see one (it will be blue) in measure 4. In this same measure, there is also a dotted quarter note (it will be red).

These two notes go together. The dotted quarter note gets one and a half beats and the single eighth note gets a half beat. You cannot use an eighth note without either using another eighth note to make up the other half of the beat, or using a dotted quarter note that also makes up the other half of the beat.

Remember the dotted half note? The dot adds time to the note...How much time? Half of the value of the note that is dotted. What is half of the value of a half note? Since a half note gets two beats, then half of that would be one beat. Give that one beat to the dot and that's how you get three beats to the dotted half note. (2 beats for the half note and 1 beat for the dot) I know, this is a lot of words....read it carefully! If you understand, then you will know how to play any dotted note.

So, how many beats does a dotted quarter note get? Start by asking: "What is the value of the quarter note?" Yes! You are correct...one beat is the value of the quarter note. What is half of that? Correct again! It is half of a beat. So, if you give the dot a half a beat, how many beats does that make the DOTTED QUARTER NOTE? If you said "one and a half", you are absolutely correct!

How do you count that? It is tricky. I have the count written under the notes in the 4th measure...the counting and the notes will have matching colors so you can

clearly see how to count it. As you listen to the slow example of this song, point to the notes on the screen as you count out loud. Notice that the dotted eighth note is counted "1 & 2" and then the single eighth note is played on "&".

[Listen to a slow tempo](#)

[Listen to a moderate tempo](#)

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. It features a treble clef and a bass clef. The first three measures contain a triplet of eighth notes in the treble clef, with a '3' above the first note. The bass clef has a single eighth note in each of these three measures. The fourth measure contains a dotted eighth note in the treble clef and a single eighth note in the bass clef. Below the treble clef staff, the counting guide "1 & 2 3 & 4 &" is written, with "1 & 2" in red and "3 & 4 &" in blue.

The second system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. It features a treble clef and a bass clef. The first three measures contain a triplet of eighth notes in the treble clef. The bass clef has a single eighth note in each of these three measures. The fourth measure contains a dotted eighth note in the treble clef and a single eighth note in the bass clef.

The third system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. It features a treble clef and a bass clef. The first three measures contain a triplet of eighth notes in the treble clef. The bass clef has a single eighth note in each of these three measures. The fourth measure contains a dotted eighth note in the treble clef and a single eighth note in the bass clef.

The fourth system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. It features a treble clef and a bass clef. The first three measures contain a triplet of eighth notes in the treble clef. The bass clef has a single eighth note in each of these three measures. The fourth measure contains a dotted eighth note in the treble clef and a single eighth note in the bass clef.



**Support Songs:**  
[Mary Had a Little Lamb](#)  
[Angels We Have Heard on High](#)

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## New Note - "F" in the Bass Clef

Your new note F, is marked with red. Play it with your 2nd finger when your left hand is in C chord position. It will be up to you to watch out for other F's in the song...I did not mark them all this time.

The following song will include eighth notes as well as your new note....Good Luck!

[Listen to a slow tempo](#)

[Listen to a fast tempo](#)



The first system of musical notation for 'Jingle Bells' is shown in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains whole rests for all four measures. The bass clef staff contains the following notes: Measure 1: G4, A4, B4, C5 (the C5 note is highlighted with a red box); Measure 2: B4, A4, G4, F4; Measure 3: E4, D4, C4, B3; Measure 4: A3, G3, F3, E3.

The second system of musical notation for 'Jingle Bells' is shown in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains whole rests for all four measures. The bass clef staff contains the following notes: Measure 1: D4, C4, B3, A3; Measure 2: G3, F3, E3, D3; Measure 3: C3, B2, A2, G2; Measure 4: F2, E2, D2, C2.

The third system of musical notation for 'Jingle Bells' is shown in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains the melody: Measure 1: G4, A4, B4, C5; Measure 2: B4, A4, G4, F4; Measure 3: E4, D4, C4, B3; Measure 4: A3, G3, F3, E3. The bass clef staff contains chords: Measure 1: G4, B4; Measure 2: F4, A4; Measure 3: E4, G4; Measure 4: D4, F4.

The fourth system of musical notation for 'Jingle Bells' is shown in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains the melody: Measure 1: G4, A4, B4, C5; Measure 2: B4, A4, G4, F4; Measure 3: E4, D4, C4, B3; Measure 4: A3, G3, F3, E3. The bass clef staff contains chords: Measure 1: G4, B4; Measure 2: F4, A4; Measure 3: E4, G4; Measure 4: D4, F4.

**Support Songs:**  
[Jingle Bells](#)

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## Correct Fingering Review

We have been concentrating so much on getting the correct timing and tempo that we haven't done much on correct fingering lately...

Here you go...this song includes fingering, eighth notes, dotted quarter notes, new note F and just about everything else you've learned so far.

I do want you to notice the fingering in the first measure....you will see two E's right next to each other and above them you will see that the finger numbers are 1 and 2. Yes, that is correct, you will play the first E with your thumb and then you will use your 2nd finger for the next E. It's just a matter of switching fingers smoothly....Have fun!

[Listen to a slow tempo](#)[Listen to a fast tempo](#)

First system of musical notation, measures 1-4. The treble clef staff contains a sequence of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The first measure has a triplet of G4, A4, B4 with a '3' above it. The second measure has a '1' above G4 and a '2' above A4. The third measure has a triplet of B4, C5, B4 with a '3' above it. The bass clef staff contains a sequence of quarter notes: G3, F3, E3, D3.

Second system of musical notation, measures 1-4. The treble clef staff contains a sequence of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The first measure has a triplet of G4, A4, B4 with a '3' above it. The second measure has a '1' above G4 and a '2' above A4. The third measure has a triplet of B4, C5, B4 with a '3' above it. The fourth measure has a dotted quarter note G4 and an eighth note F4. The bass clef staff contains a sequence of quarter notes: G3, F3, E3, D3.

Third system of musical notation, measures 1-4. The treble clef staff contains whole rests for all four measures. The bass clef staff contains a sequence of eighth notes: G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2.

Fourth system of musical notation, measures 1-4. The treble clef staff contains a sequence of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The first measure has a triplet of G4, A4, B4 with a '3' above it. The second measure has a '1' above G4 and a '2' above A4. The third measure has a triplet of B4, C5, B4 with a '3' above it. The fourth measure has a dotted quarter note G4 and an eighth note F4. The bass clef staff contains a sequence of quarter notes: G3, F3, E3, D3.

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## New Note in Treble Clef (Right Hand)

You know the routine...You have a new note, A, with your right hand. It is the key after G. Of course, it is marked in RED for you.

Watch out for fingering as always. I marked in BLUE where there is a finger switch on the same note, just like the previous song.

Also, you will see that in the 4th measure there are 4 eighth notes in a row, I marked them in GREEN just so that you notice that there is 1 bar that connects them all together. In past songs, I only connected two at a time...the timing is not different.

I did not give you a slow example of this song because by now you should be understanding the timing better...enjoy this song...it is the Alphabet song with the right hand only.

[Click to Listen](#)

**Support Song:**  
[Frere Jacques](#)

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## A New Chord...F

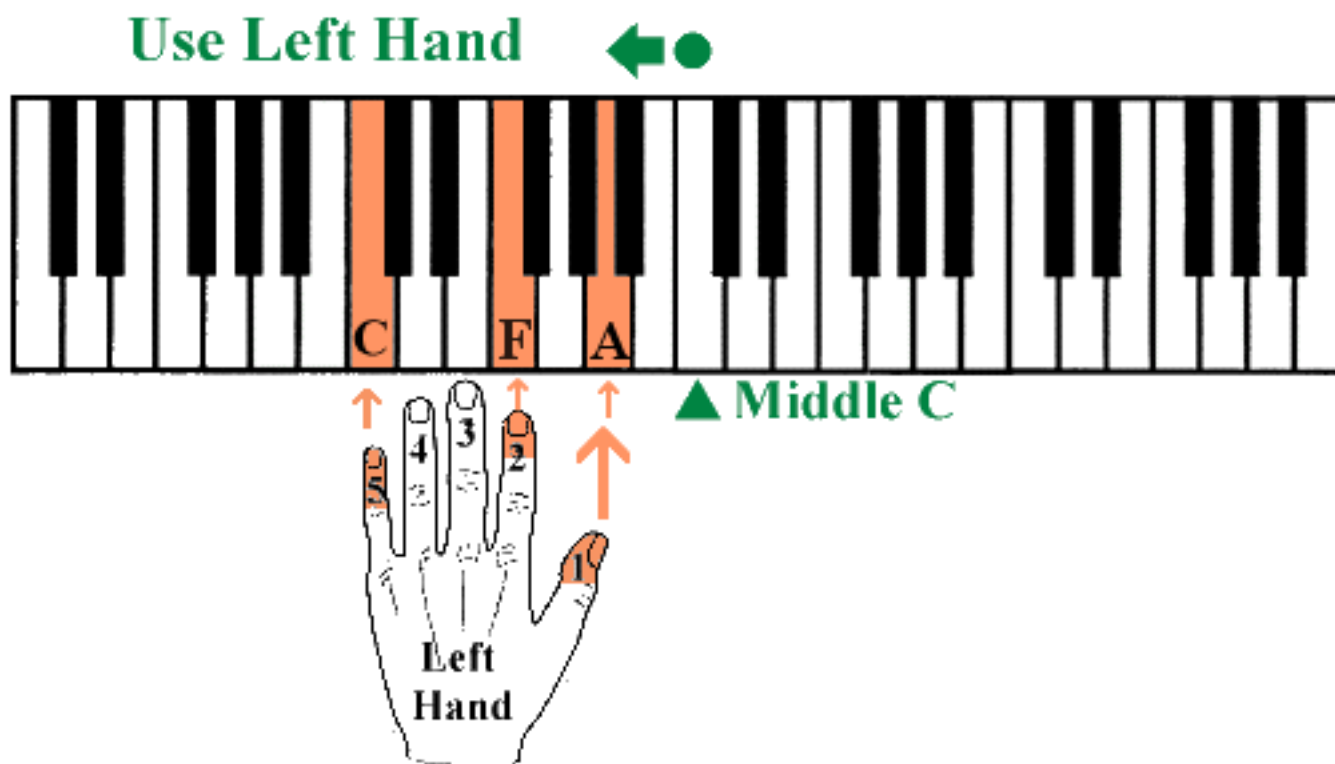
The following diagram will show you where to place your left hand fingers to play the F Chord.

Notice that your #5 finger (pinky) of your left hand is on C, just like in your C Chord.

Your second finger (index finger) plays the key that it should already be resting on, that would be F...

and your thumb reaches past it's normal position (G) and plays A.

Play this chord a few times and then [listen to it's sound](#).



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## **ABC Song with Both Hands**

The new F Chord is marked in RED. There are two F Chords in the song so keep your eye open for the one that is not marked in red.....enjoy!

After you master all of Lesson 6, you can move on to Lesson 7!

[Click to Listen](#)

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. It contains a sequence of notes: two quarter notes (F4, G4), a quarter note (A4), a quarter note (B4), a quarter note (C5), a quarter note (B4), a quarter note (A4), a quarter note (G4), and a quarter note (F4). Above the notes are fingerings: '1' above the first note, '4' above the second note, '5' above the third note, '3' above the fourth note, and '4' above the fifth note. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a 4/8 time signature. It contains a sequence of chords: a whole chord (F2, A2, C3), a whole chord (F2, A2, C3), a whole chord (F2, A2, C3), a whole chord (F2, A2, C3), a whole chord (F2, A2, C3), a whole chord (F2, A2, C3), a whole chord (F2, A2, C3), and a whole chord (F2, A2, C3). A red rectangular box highlights the first chord in the bass staff.

The second system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. It contains a sequence of notes: a quarter note (F4), a quarter note (G4), a quarter note (A4), a quarter note (B4), a quarter note (C5), a quarter note (B4), a quarter note (A4), a quarter note (G4), and a quarter note (F4). The bottom staff is in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. It contains a sequence of chords: a whole chord (F2, A2, C3), a whole chord (F2, A2, C3), a whole chord (F2, A2, C3), a whole chord (F2, A2, C3), a whole chord (F2, A2, C3), a whole chord (F2, A2, C3), a whole chord (F2, A2, C3), and a whole chord (F2, A2, C3).

The third system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. It contains a sequence of notes: two quarter notes (F4, G4), a quarter note (A4), a quarter note (B4), a quarter note (C5), a quarter note (B4), a quarter note (A4), a quarter note (G4), and a quarter note (F4). Above the notes are fingerings: '1' above the first note, '4' above the second note, '5' above the third note, '3' above the fourth note, and '4' above the fifth note. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a 4/8 time signature. It contains a sequence of chords: a whole chord (F2, A2, C3), a whole chord (F2, A2, C3), a whole chord (F2, A2, C3), a whole chord (F2, A2, C3), a whole chord (F2, A2, C3), a whole chord (F2, A2, C3), a whole chord (F2, A2, C3), and a whole chord (F2, A2, C3).

**Support Songs:**  
[Angels We Have Heard on High](#)  
[Lavendar Blue](#)  
[Irish Folk Song](#)

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## Lesson 7 Objectives

Even though you are still a beginner, you are moving quickly into advanced beginner mode and you will be introduced to many more familiar songs, here is what's coming up:

1. Chord Variations and Styling
2. New Notes - Completion of the C Scale
3. Repeat Sign
4. Ties
5. Flat signs

[You Are Here](#)

[Pg 2](#)

[Pg 3](#)

[Pg 4](#)

[Pg 5](#)

[Pg 6](#)

[Pg 7](#)

[Pg 8](#)

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## Chord Variation

Here is a fun and easy way to add some exciting sounds to your songs.

The following exercise shows you how to play a chord in two separate parts.

Sound confusing? It really isn't, but like with everything else new, it'll take practice...but it'll be worth it when you impress your friends with your songs.

Ready to Start?.....

OK, place your left hand in the C chord position, when it is in position, follow the following steps:

1. Play your pinky note (C)...let go.
2. Play your middle finger and thumb (E&G) at the same time...let go.
3. Start all over with #1.

You should be playing a "broken C Chord"...instead of all three at the same time, you should be playing the pinky (C) by itself and then the remaining two (E&G) together, without the pinky. You should be alternating this back and forth...(C)(E&G)(C)(E&G) etc...

The following music shows what this exercise looks like written as music...the (C) is marked in BLUE and you should recognize it....it is the same C that you have already been playing with the pinky of the left hand. The (E&G) is marked in RED. Again, the E and the G are the same notes you have already been playing with your 3rd (middle) finger and thumb of the left hand, but here they are stacked together indicating that you will play them at the same time.....in other words, these two notes are the C chord without the C. Play the following exercise keeping your eyes on the music...NOT YOUR HANDS!!!

[Click to Listen](#)



[Broken F Chord Practice](#)

[Broken G7 Chord Practice](#)

[Combination Practice](#)

[Support Song - Oh Susana](#)

[Pg 1](#)

[You Are Here](#)

[Pg 3](#)

[Pg 4](#)

[Pg 5](#)

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# Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

This song might look a little intimidating at first and more than likely, you will not be able to play it through with both hands right away without getting a little flustered.

So, here is what I suggest....before you start, tell yourself to have lots of patience and take your time...remember, you know more now than you did yesterday...progress does not have to be FAST to be successful...are you ready?.....

Practice procedure from now on should be:

1. Practice the left hand **ALONE** until it is mastered.
2. Practice the right hand **ALONE** until it is mastered.
3. Practice with both hands together until song is mastered.
4. I put a little red mark in a couple places that you should pay close attention to and stay aware of throughout the song.
5. Remember, pace yourself...it could take a day or it could take 2 weeks before you can play this song smoothly.

[Click to Listen](#)

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[Michael Row Your Boat Ashore](#)  
[Up on the Housetop](#)

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## On Top of Old Smokey

There are several new things to watch out for in this song:

1. New notes. In measure #3 of the treble staff (right hand) you will see a note with a little blue mark on it's stem...that is high C. It will be the 8th note to the right of middle C, counting middle C. If you are unsure, [click here](#) to view a diagram.
2. In measure #3 of the bass staff (left hand) you will see an F chord...measure #4 shows an F chord broken down into single notes. The note marked with a little blue mark on it's stem, is an A, which is the note that you play with your thumb when you play an F chord. If you have forgotten how to play an F chord, [click here](#) to view a diagram.
3. In measures 4 and 5 you will see what is called a TIE. It is a curved line that connects one note to another note. A tie extends the value (number of beats) of a note...Play the note in measure 4, but DO NOT play the note that it is TIED to in measure 5. As you can see, I crossed out the note that you DO NOT play. The note that is crossed out is a half note, which you know receives 2 beats. Add these to 2 beats to the note you played in measure 4, which is a dotted half note (3 beats). The original note that you played should have been held for a total of 5 beats. Now look at measure 7. The note in measure 7 is tied through measures 8 and 9....it will be held for a total of how many beats? E-mail me your answer. Be sure to keep playing the left hand as you count out your beats!
4. At the very end of the song, you will see a thick double barline with 4 dots.



This is called a repeat sign (it is shown in green) and it tells you to repeat the song.

5. At the very beginning of the song, you will see the words "pick up note". If you notice, the first measure only has one beat in it, it's called a pick up note. Don't worry about why it's there, just play it.

The only things that will affect your playing would be the new notes and the tie. Be extremely careful with the fingering in the 2nd and 3rd measures, your fingers will be doing a little stretching...the correct fingering is marked for you.

Before practicing this song, [click here](#) to practice broken chords - (single note style)

[Listen to right hand](#)

[Listen to left hand](#)

[Listen to hands together](#)

(watch fingering!)

(Pick up note)

tie

Repeat Sign

**Support Songs:**  
[Chiapanecas - The Mexican Hat Dance](#)  
[Carnival of Venice](#)

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## Frolicking

Since I've stretched your mind a little in the previous song, I won't overwork you too hard in this song:

1. New note: In last measure of the treble staff (right hand) you will see a note with a little blue mark on it's stem...that is high B. It will be the 7th note to the right of middle C, counting middle C. If you are unsure, [click here](#) to view a diagram.
2. The left hand of this song shows you a new pattern of broken chords. Play your left hand of the first measure only, notice that each group of 4 eighth notes is a pattern of the C chord. (C-G-E-G) Look at measure 2, I marked in red the first group of 4 eighth notes...that is a pattern of the F chord. (C-F-A-F) In the 4th measure is the same pattern using the G7 chord. (B-F-G-F) Play through the entire song with the left hand several times...
3. As always, I must remind you to pay attention to the fingering.. Measure 1 has a "thumb under" movement. Measure 3 has a "second finger over" movement.
4. Those of you who have access to support material will find more songs utilizing this new broken chord pattern. It is a commonly used pattern.

[Listen to right hand](#)[Listen to left hand](#)[Listen to hands together](#)

The image shows two systems of musical notation. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The first system has a red box around the first two notes of the bass staff in the second measure. The second system has a blue checkmark above the final note of the treble staff in the fourth measure. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1, 2, and 3 above notes. The time signature is 4/4.

**Support Songs:**  
[When the Saints Go Marching In](#)  
[This Old Man](#)  
[Joy to the World](#)

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# Trumpet Fanfare

## "Intervals of the C Chord"

Intervals are two notes played at the same time as opposed to chords which are three or more notes at the same time.

Look at the left hand, the second measure has a C chord without the G (thumb). Play it.

The third measure has a C chord without the E (middle finger). Play it. Easy as 1 2 3!! Have fun!.....

[Listen to right hand](#)

[Listen to left hand](#)

[Listen to hands together](#)

1 2 3 5

[Support Song - Spanish Dance](#)



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## The C Scale

Review of all the treble notes you've learned so far...

Now you know all the notes of a C scale! A scale is a patterned series of notes that make an octave....What's an Octave? An octave is the distance between 8 notes. Middle C to High C is one octave because there are 8 notes that make up all the notes from C to C. The white keys between C and C happen to be the correct pattern to make a C scale.

Play the following exercise and be careful of the fingering!

[Listen to this exercise](#)

[Support Song - Scaling the Rockies](#)

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## The C Scale: Left Hand

Review of all the bass notes you've learned so far...plus two more!

Here is the list of things you have been taught so far with the left hand:

1. The C, G7 and F Chords
2. Single notes of C, G7 and F Chords
3. Intervals of C and G7 Chord
4. 2 different broken chord patterns

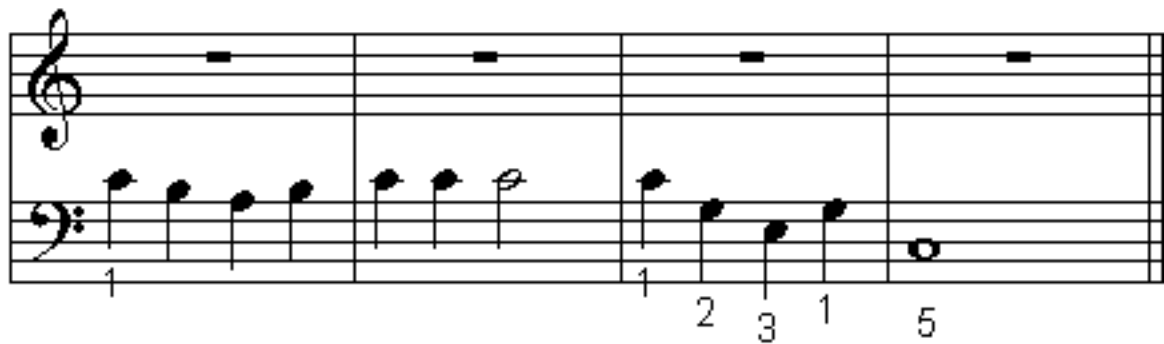
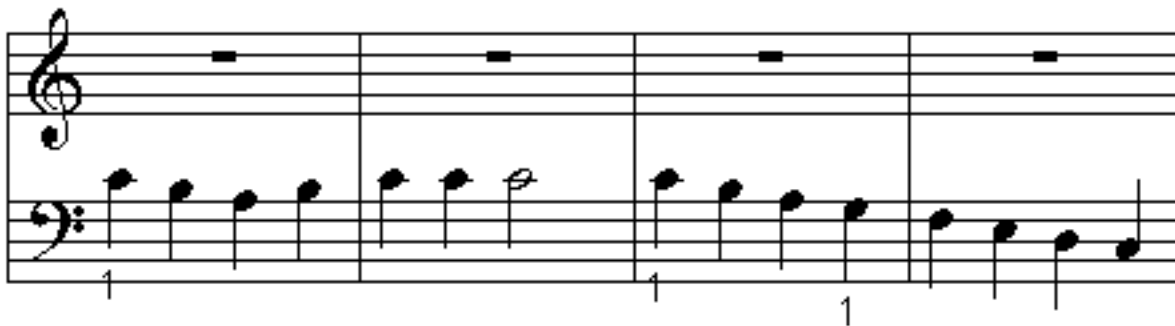
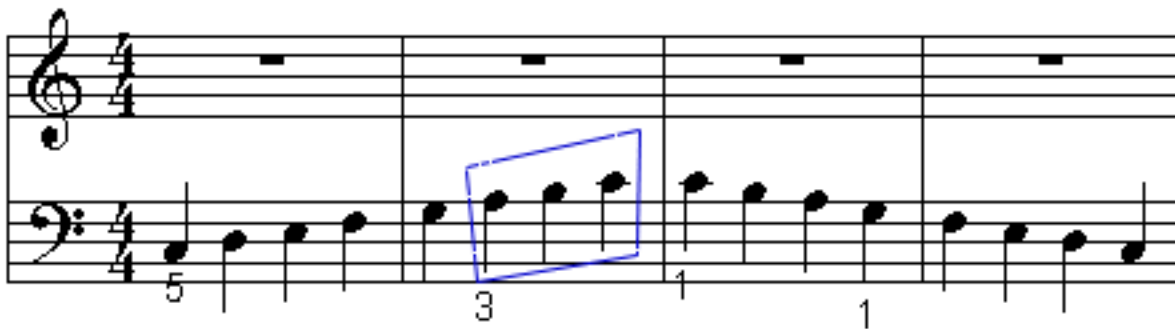
You have done alot of things with your left hand!

Learn two new notes and you will know the C scale with the left hand.

The following exercise shows the new notes marked in blue. Notice there are 3. The first one is actually one you have already been playing - A. It is part of the F chord.

The following two are B and then Middle C for the left hand. It is the exact same key as Middle C for the right hand. Yes, that is right! Middle C is shared between right hand and left hand.

[Listen to this exercise](#)



[Support Song - Alligator Crawl](#)

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# Daffodil Dance

Practicing the new bass staff (left hand) notes...

To Play this song:

1. You have a new starting position: Place your left hand thumb on the first note of the song which is Middle C.
2. Your left hand will stay in this position throughout the entire song.
3. Practice the left hand by itself.
4. I have marked some of the notes by their letter name for you.
5. When you practice the right hand, always be aware of the fingering.
6. The last measure is tied from the previous measure, so you will be holding notes with both hands, and not playing anything in the last measure.

[Listen to left hand](#)

[Listen to hands together](#)



Musical score for a piano exercise in 3/4 time. It consists of three systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The first system includes a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a bass line with notes B, A, and G. The second system features eighth-note runs in the treble and a bass line with a dotted quarter note. The third system shows a treble line with eighth notes and a bass line with a dotted half note.

[Support Song - BINGO](#)

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# Happy Birthday!

This page is dedicated to my student, David in India...he wanted to learn to play this song...

What's new:

1. In this song, you will see a note marked in blue...in front of the note is a little sign that looks like a "b". That is called a FLAT sign. The FLAT sign tells you to play the marked note (which is a "B") a half step lower. A half step lower is the BLACK key found directly left of the B.

[Click here](#) to view a diagram.

2. So, you DO NOT play the B, you play the B flat.

3. When a note is marked with a FLAT sign, then that note stays FLAT throughout the remainder of the measure, if there are any.

4. In this song, you DO have another B in that same measure, right next to the first B.

5. Yes, you are correct, you will play both of those B's as B FLATS.

[Click to Listen](#)



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# Home on the Range

The Ultimate Test of Skill...

## Review:

1. In this song you will find a little bit of everything you have learned so far. It will be a little bit challenging but do not give up! Those of you who have been using support material up to this point should have no problem with this song.
2. It will be extremely important for you to practice each hand separately before trying to play both hands together.
3. An average amount of time for you to learn this song fluently is about 2 weeks, practicing daily.

## What's new:

1. In measure 4, you will see a flat sign next to the left hand B. Remember to play the black note that is directly left of the B.

[Click here](#) to view a diagram.

2. In measure 18, you will see an F and then an interval of 2 notes...those two notes are A and Middle C...you already know those notes, this is just a freindly reminder!

[Click here](#) to view a diagram.

3. [Click here](#) for step by step directions/fingering for playing the left hand. (If you feel you need help)

[Listen to right hand](#)

[Listen to left hand](#)

[Listen to hands together](#)

First system of musical notation (measures 1-4). The right hand (treble clef) starts with a whole rest in measure 1, followed by quarter notes in measures 2-4. Fingerings are indicated: 1 (measure 2), 3 (measure 3), 3 (measure 4). The left hand (bass clef) has a whole rest in measure 1, followed by quarter notes in measures 2-4. Fingerings are indicated: 3 (measure 2), 2 (measure 3).

Second system of musical notation (measures 5-8). The right hand (treble clef) has quarter notes in measures 5-6, a half note in measure 7, and quarter notes in measure 8. Fingerings are indicated: 2 (measure 5), 1 (measure 7), 3 (measure 8). The left hand (bass clef) has quarter notes in measures 5-6, a half note in measure 7, and quarter notes in measure 8. Fingerings are indicated: 5 (measure 5), 3 (measure 8).

Third system of musical notation (measures 9-12). The right hand (treble clef) has quarter notes in measures 9-10, a half note in measure 11, and quarter notes in measure 12. Fingerings are indicated: 3 (measure 9), 5 (measure 11). The left hand (bass clef) has quarter notes in measures 9-10, a half note in measure 11, and quarter notes in measure 12. Fingerings are indicated: 2 (measure 9), 4 (measure 11), 5 (measure 12).

Fourth system of musical notation (measures 13-16). The right hand (treble clef) has a half note in measure 13, quarter notes in measures 14-15, and a half note in measure 16. Fingerings are indicated: 5 (measure 14). The left hand (bass clef) has quarter notes in measures 13-14, a half note in measure 15, and quarter notes in measure 16. Fingerings are indicated: 5 (measure 13), 5 (measure 15).

The image displays three systems of musical notation for a piano piece. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The first system begins with a treble clef staff containing a quarter note G4 (fingered 1), followed by eighth notes A4, B4, and C5, then a dotted quarter note B4, and finally a half note G4. The bass clef staff starts with a chord of G2, B2, and D3, followed by quarter notes G2, B2, and D3, then a dotted quarter note G2, and finally a half note G2. The second system continues with eighth notes G4, A4, and B4 in the treble, and quarter notes G2, B2, and D3 in the bass. The third system features a half note G4 in the treble and quarter notes G2, B2, and D3 in the bass. The piece concludes with a double bar line. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes.



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## Lesson 8 Objectives

If you made it this far and can play the most recent songs (Home on the Range) smoothly and without any trouble, then you are doing a wonderful job!

Congratulations! If you are experiencing any frustration and having a difficult time with Home on the Range, then I would highly recommend purchasing access to the support material which includes more songs to help you master each each lesson.

For those who are going to continue to Lesson 8, you will be introduced to more basic music reading and a few more "tools" you will need to be comfortable with the piano/keyboard. Lesson 8 is the final free lesson, however, if you purchase access to the Support Material, it includes a variety of songs that support each of the previous FREE lessons, PLUS a continuation of "mini-lessons". Mini lessons are simply exciting new songs that teach you new notes and techniques. Mini-lessons are a continuation of the free lessons, but with the freedom to choose which song you want to learn next!

Included in the Support Materials:

1. Holiday Music (Christmas is just around the corner!)
2. Classical Music....including the highly requested song playing on our home page.
3. Childrens Music, Traditional Music, Folk Songs and more!
4. Continued E-mail support.
5. Additional songs being added frequently.

## 5. And of course, a continuation of easy-to-understand "mini-lessons".

As always, each song includes step by song instruction when something new is presented. You are never left wondering how to play something. You will continue to enjoy my exclusive easy to understand directions and you will impress your family and freinds with your newfound talent! New songs are continuously being added to the support material for your enjoyment!!

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# America, the Beautiful

Dedicated to the Tragedy of September 11th, 2001

## What's new:

1. In measure #2, you will see a [harmonic interval](#) indicated in blue. The notes in this interval are F (top note) and D (bottom note). Play this interval using the correct fingering indicated in red. Locate other intervals throughout the song and practice them with the correct fingering. I marked the interval in measure #3, but I left the others for you to locate on your own.

2. In measure #2, you will see a small green arrow pointing to the B. This is just a reminder that since the previous B in the same measure is FLAT, you will need to play the marked B flat as well.

[Click here](#) to view a diagram.

3. Starting in measure #7, you will see a big green box. Inside the green box is a segment of this song that is a bit challenging. Practice this section by itself being careful of fingering, harmonic intervals and smoothness. Follow the same practice procedure with the section marked with a blue box.

4. Within the green box is a red arrow pointing to a new note. That note is a D.

[Click here](#) to view a diagram.

5. The last measure of this song has a red arrow pointing to low B flat. This is not a new note, I just wanted to point to it! Hee hee hee! Make sure you play it flat as indicated. [Click here](#) to view a diagram.

6. Remember to practice each hand separately! Fingering is important! Do not overlook it. Give yourself a few days with hands separate before trying to play them together...

[Listen to right hand](#)
[Listen to left hand](#)
[Listen to hands together](#)

The first system of musical notation shows the right hand (treble clef) and left hand (bass clef) in 4/4 time. The right hand has a sequence of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand has a sequence of notes: G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1. Fingering numbers are placed above the notes: 4 above G4, 4 above A4, 2 above B4, 4 above C5, 1 above B4, 4 above A4, 1 above G4. Blue boxes highlight the chords G4-A4-B4 and C5-B4-A4. A green arrow points to the E2 note in the left hand.

The second system of musical notation shows the right hand (treble clef) and left hand (bass clef) in 4/4 time. The right hand has a sequence of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand has a sequence of notes: G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1. Fingering numbers are placed above the notes: 3 above G4, 1 above A4, 2 above B4, 1 above C5, 4 above B4, 4 above A4, 2 above G4. Blue boxes highlight the chords G4-A4-B4 and C5-B4-A4.

The third system of musical notation shows the right hand (treble clef) and left hand (bass clef) in 4/4 time. The right hand has a sequence of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand has a sequence of notes: G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1. Fingering numbers are placed above the notes: 5 above G4, 3 above A4, 1 above B4, 4 above C5, 5 above B4, 1 above A4, 1 above G4. A green box highlights the notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4. A red arrow points to the C5 note. Blue boxes highlight the chords G4-A4-B4 and C5-B4-A4.

The fourth system of musical notation shows the right hand (treble clef) and left hand (bass clef) in 4/4 time. The right hand has a sequence of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand has a sequence of notes: G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1. Fingering numbers are placed above the notes: 5 above G4, 3 above A4, 1 above B4, 2 above C5, 2 above B4, 1 above A4, 3 above G4. A blue box highlights the notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4. Blue boxes highlight the chords G4-A4-B4 and C5-B4-A4.

The first system of musical notation for 'America the Beautiful' consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. It contains a melody of quarter notes: Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains a bass line of quarter notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, Bb3. A finger number '2' is written below the first note of the bass line.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. The top staff has a melody of quarter notes: Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The bottom staff has a bass line of quarter notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, Bb3. A red arrow points to the final note (Bb3) in the bass line, with the number '5' written below it, indicating the fifth finger.

[Support Song - The First Noel](#)

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# God Bless America

Dedicated to the Divine Nature of America...

What's new:

1. In measure #1 you will see a green arrow pointing to a sharp sign. Sharps are opposites of flats. You will play the black key that is located directly to the right of the note that is to be sharp.

[Click here](#) to view a diagram.

2. In measure #13, you will see a red arrow pointing to a new note...that note is E. [Click here](#) to view a diagram.

3. In measure #14, you will notice the fingering is marked in red. This is a reminder that when you play your #1 finger (thumb) and the next finger mark is #2, cross your #2 finger over your thumb.

4. Remember to practice each hand separately and focus on correct fingering! Watchout for repeat sharps within the same measure....they won't be marked!

5. An important note about fingering: The finger numbers are your guides. When placing your finger on a note indicated by a finger number, move your whole hand and stay in that position. When there are no finger numbers, use the fingers that are naturally in position. **DO NOT MOVE OUT OF POSITION**, unless a finger number moves you.

[Listen to right hand](#)

[Listen to left hand](#)

[Listen to hands together](#)

The first system of musical notation for 'God Bless America' is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note A4 with a green arrow pointing to it. The bass clef staff starts with a quarter note G2, followed by a quarter note B1, then a quarter note D2, and a quarter note E2. The system concludes with a quarter note G4 in the treble and a quarter note G2 in the bass.

The second system continues the piece. The treble clef staff features a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, with a triplet of eighth notes G4-A4-B4 above the final measure. The bass clef staff has a quarter note G2, a quarter note B1, and a quarter note D2.

The third system continues the piece. The treble clef staff has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, with a triplet of eighth notes G4-A4-B4 above the final measure. The bass clef staff has a quarter note G2, a quarter note B1, and a quarter note D2.

The fourth system concludes the piece. The treble clef staff has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, with a triplet of eighth notes G4-A4-B4 above the final measure. The bass clef staff has a quarter note G2, a quarter note B1, and a quarter note D2.

The image displays a musical score for the song "God Bless America". It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system shows the beginning of the piece with a red arrow pointing to the first note (F4) in the treble staff, which is labeled with the number 5. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment, with fingerings 1, 2, and 3 indicated above the treble staff notes. The third system concludes the piece, with fingerings 1, 2, 3, and 5 indicated below the bass staff notes. The bass staff accompaniment features chords and single notes in a steady rhythm.

[Support Song - The Blue Danube](#)

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# 12 Bar Blues

A little something to impress your friends with....

What's new:

1. In measure #1 there are two new notes as indicated by the red arrows. These notes are easy to find....Put your hand in the position indicated (#1 thumb on lower C), now play the C and the next three consecutive notes down. You will have played C,B,A,G. The new notes are A and G. [Click here](#) to view a diagram.
2. This is the pattern used in Blues music. It is made up of a pattern of 12 measures. The support pages will offer some fun music using this 12 bar pattern. Note that each measure starts with your #1 (thumb). Enjoy!

[Listen to the 12 Bar Blues](#)

[Support Song - In the Mood](#)

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# Fuer Elise

A Favorite Melody by Beethoven...

Do not let the appearance of this beautiful piece scare you! I will help you along the way...have patience and you will succeed!:

1. In measure #1 a blue arrow points to high E..place your #5 finger on this note to start the song.
2. In measure #2 there is a green arrow pointing to a sign called a "natural" sign. This sign cancels the D sharp. (Remember, without the natural sign, that D would have been sharp because of the previous D sharp in that measure)  
A natural sign tells you to play the note in it's natural position, it cancels a previous sharp or flat.
3. The entire left hand of this piece is very simple...it consists of two patterns repeating itself. I highlighted in yellow the two patterns. The first one has a blue arrow pointing to the first note, which is a low A.

Place your #5 finger (pinky) on low A, the next note is E with finger #2 (a little stretch) and the last note is A with your #1 thumb (if you have forgotten where this A is located, it is two notes below Middle C).

You will be stretching a little to reach the notes with the correct fingers...you may let go of the previous finger to reach the next note.

Play this pattern of 3 notes over and over by itself until you can play it very smooth and with ease. This pattern is found two more times in this song.



The other pattern, also highlighted in yellow is a bit easier. The notes, E, G sharp, and B are marked with the correct fingering. This pattern is found 1 other time in this song.

4. Always remember to practice slowly and have patience. Correct fingering is extremely important for the smoothness of this piece. The RED 4's are extremely important finger placements, because you will need #5 finger for the following note.

5. There are a lot of finger marks in the beginning few measures, but when you reach a place in the song that repeats previous note patterns, the fingering is left for you to remember or refer back to.

This is a favorite Beethoven melody, known worldwide. A more complete version of it is available in the support material.

[Listen to right hand](#)

[Listen to left hand](#)

[Listen to hands together](#)

The first system of musical notation for 'Fuer Elise' is in 3/4 time. The treble clef staff contains a sequence of notes: G4 (finger 5), F4 (finger 4), E4 (finger 2), D4 (finger 4), C4 (finger 3), B3 (finger 1), and A3 (finger 1). The bass clef staff contains a sequence of notes: G3 (finger 5), F3 (finger 2), E3 (finger 1), and D3 (finger 1). A blue arrow points to the G4 note in the treble staff. A green arrow points to the D4 note in the treble staff. A yellow callout box highlights the G3, F3, and E3 notes in the bass staff, with a blue arrow pointing to G3 and the numbers 5, 2, 1 below it.

The second system of musical notation for 'Fuer Elise' continues the piece. The treble clef staff contains notes: G4 (finger 5), F4 (finger 1), E4 (finger 2), D4 (finger 4), C4 (finger 5), B3 (finger 5), A3 (finger 5), and G3 (finger 5). The bass clef staff contains notes: G3 (finger 5), F3 (finger 3), E3 (finger 1), and D3 (finger 1). A yellow callout box highlights the G3, F3, and E3 notes in the bass staff, with a blue arrow pointing to G3 and the numbers 5, 3, 1 below it.

The third system of musical notation for 'Fuer Elise' continues the piece. The treble clef staff contains notes: G4 (finger 1), F4 (finger 5), E4 (finger 5), D4 (finger 5), C4 (finger 5), B3 (finger 5), and A3 (finger 5). The bass clef staff contains notes: G3 (finger 1), F3 (finger 1), E3 (finger 1), and D3 (finger 1).

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# Minuet in C

Enjoy this pretty little tune...

What's new:

1. In measure #1 there are two new notes. The first is high G and the second is high F.

[Click here](#) to view a diagram.

2. In measure #2 you have a blue arrow pointing to a previous new note, this is just a reminder that that note is low G.

[Click here](#) to view a diagram.

3. In measure #8 there is a red arrow pointing to a new note. That note is low, low C. [Click here](#) to view a diagram.

[Listen to right hand](#)

[Listen to left hand](#)

[Listen to hands together](#)

The first system of musical notation for 'Minuet in C' consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature, showing a continuous eighth-note melody. Two red arrows point to the first two notes, with a '5' above them, indicating a fifth finger fingering. The lower staff is in bass clef, showing a simple accompaniment of dotted half notes. A blue arrow points to the second note, with a '4' below it, indicating a fourth finger fingering.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. The upper staff features a triplet of eighth notes marked with '1' and '3' above them, followed by a quarter note. A '5' is placed above the first note of the subsequent eighth-note run. The lower staff continues with dotted half notes.

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece. The upper staff shows the final eighth-note run. The lower staff features a dotted half note with a red arrow pointing to it and a '5' below it, indicating a fifth finger fingering. The system ends with a double bar line.

[Support Song: Fuer Elise - Longer Version](#)

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# Can Can

I don't know anyone who doesn't love this lively dance piece!

## What's new:

1. In measure #1 you will see two green arrows pointing to sharp signs. As you can see, there is one on the treble staff (right hand) and one on the bass staff (left hand). What does it mean? If you look closely, you will see that both sharps are sitting on the F position. When you see this, you will automatically play every F in the song as F sharp. However, in the song, the F's will NOT be marked with a sharp sign. You will have to remember it all by yourself. (Don't worry...I put a little red mark on the F stems for you to remind you to play it sharp.) There are only two F's to watch out for. In this particular song, there are no F's in the bass staff (left hand). When you see flat signs or sharp signs at the beginning of the song, it is referred to as the Key Signature.

2. Also in measure #1, you will see a small blue arrow pointing to a small blue dot. If you look throughout the song, every note in the bass staff has a little blue dot above it. This dot is called a staccato. Staccatos tell you to play that note very, very short. When you play the note, you touch as if it felt as hot as fire. If you were to touch something as hot as fire, you would jerk away immediately. That is how to play a staccato note. Play it and jerk away immediately. I recorded the left hand with staccato and I also recorded it without staccato so you can hear the difference.

3. This song is played fairly fast which means correct fingering is a must! I marked a couple finger numbers in red where you need to pay extra attention.

[Listen to right hand](#)

[Listen to left hand](#)

[Listen to hands together](#)

The first system of musical notation for 'Can Can' consists of two staves. The right-hand staff (treble clef) contains a melody with a green arrow pointing down to the first note (F4) and a blue arrow pointing to the second note (G4). Fingerings are indicated by red numbers: 1, 5, 4, 1, 2. The left-hand staff (bass clef) contains a bass line with a green arrow pointing up to the first note (F3) and a blue arrow pointing to the second note (G3). Fingerings are indicated by red numbers: 1, 4.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. The right-hand staff has a red slash on the first note (F4) and a blue arrow pointing to the second note (G4). Fingerings are indicated by red numbers: 1, 5, 1, 3, 1, 5, 4. The left-hand staff continues with a bass line and fingerings indicated by red numbers: 1, 4.

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece. The right-hand staff has a red slash on the first note (F4) and a blue arrow pointing to the second note (G4). Fingerings are indicated by red numbers: 1, 2, 1, 2. The left-hand staff continues with a bass line and fingerings indicated by red numbers: 1, 4.

[Support Song: Minuet in G](#)



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# La Donna e Mobile

(A Familiar Melody from the famous Rigoletto)

## What's new:

1. In measure #1 you will see a green arrow pointing to flat sign in the treble staff. There is one in the bass staff as well, but I didn't point to it this time. You will see that both flats are sitting on the B position. When you see this, you will automatically play every B in the song as B flat. However, in the song, the B's will NOT be marked with a flat sign. You will have to remember it all by yourself. (Don't worry...I put a little red mark on the B stems for you to remind you to play it flat, aren't I nice?) If you have forgotten how to play a FLAT, [click here](#) to review the lesson that introduced you to flats. (Use your back button to get back here if you leave here!)

[Listen to right hand](#)[Listen to left hand](#)[Listen to hands together](#)

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. A green arrow points to the first note in the treble staff. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 3, 5, and 3 above the notes. The bass staff has a fingering of 5 below the first note.

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat and the time signature is 3/4. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 5 and 4 above the notes. The bass staff has fingerings of 5 and 1 below the notes.

The third system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat and the time signature is 3/4. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 5 and 3 above the notes. The bass staff has a fingering of 5 below the first note.

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[Carol of the Bells](#)

[Silent Night](#)

[Kumbaya](#)

[Hello Mother](#)

**Support Songs:**

[Carol of the Bells](#)

[Silent Night](#)

[Kumbaya](#)

[Hello Mother/Camp Granada](#)

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Why change fingers?

There are 88 keys on the piano, (or less if you are practicing on a keyboard). Regardless of how many keys there are, you definitely do not have enough fingers to play all the keys without moving them around.

It is extremely important that you learn how to read finger numbers and move your fingers accordingly. It is even more important to learn to do that as early as possible in your lessons. That is why I am introducing fingering now, so that you do not get too comfortable with keeping your hands and fingers in the same place.

Right now it may not make sense to change fingers, but you still need to practice doing it so that when you advance into harder music, you will be able to do it with ease.

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You have entered the **FREE** portion of the [support pages](#).

**The same middle C song with different finger numbers...**

This is the same exact song from your lesson page, with different fingering. Be extra careful! Remember the following:

1. Where to find the note on the piano.
2. How long to hold the note.
3. Which finger to use on the note.

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## Support Pages

Support pages are formatted the same way as the free lessons with the same easy to follow instructions to ensure your success. Included are traditional and popular songs that will be very familiar to you and will increase your enjoyment of practicing. Practicing these songs will strengthen your playing skills which will make the transition to the next lesson so much easier.

Increase your rate of success, deepen your understanding of each new concept and add variety to your FREE lessons by ordering access to the support pages today!

Take a sneak peak at our support song contents!.....

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## Watch for D...

Finger numbers are in red. The finger numbers that are enclosed in parenthesis are reminders of what finger you will naturally use for that note.

[Click to Listen](#)

3 (3) (4)

2 (3)

Always remember the following:

1. Where to find the note on the piano.
2. How long to hold the note.
3. Which finger to use on the note.

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## **Hot Cross Buns**

### **A Familiar Childrens Melody...**

**The blue numbers are just a reminder of how many counts to give each note...**

**[Click to Listen](#)**

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains a quarter note on G4, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note on A4, and another quarter rest. A red number '3' is positioned above the first measure. The bass clef staff contains a whole chord of G2, B2, and D3 in the first measure, followed by a half note chord of G2 and B2, and then a whole chord of G2, B2, and D3. Blue fingerings are written below the treble staff: '1 2 1 2' under the first two notes, and '1 2 3 4' under the next two notes.

The second system of musical notation continues in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff has a whole note G4 in the first measure, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The bass clef staff has a whole chord of G2, B2, and D3 in the first measure, followed by a whole chord of G2, B2, and D3, and then a whole chord of G2, B2, and D3.

The third system of musical notation concludes in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff has a quarter note G4, a quarter rest, a quarter note A4, and a quarter rest. The bass clef staff has a whole chord of G2, B2, and D3 in the first measure, followed by a half note chord of G2 and B2, and then a whole chord of G2, B2, and D3. The system ends with a double bar line.

Always remember the following:

1. Where to find the note on the piano.
2. How long to hold the note.
3. Which finger to use on the note.

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## **Soft N Sweet**

**Play this song slow and gently...**

**Again, you are in the early stages of developing a good habit of correct fingering - be exact!**

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1 2 3 (3)

1 2 3 (3)

Always remember the following:

1. Where to find the note on the piano.
2. How long to hold the note.
3. Which finger to use on the note.

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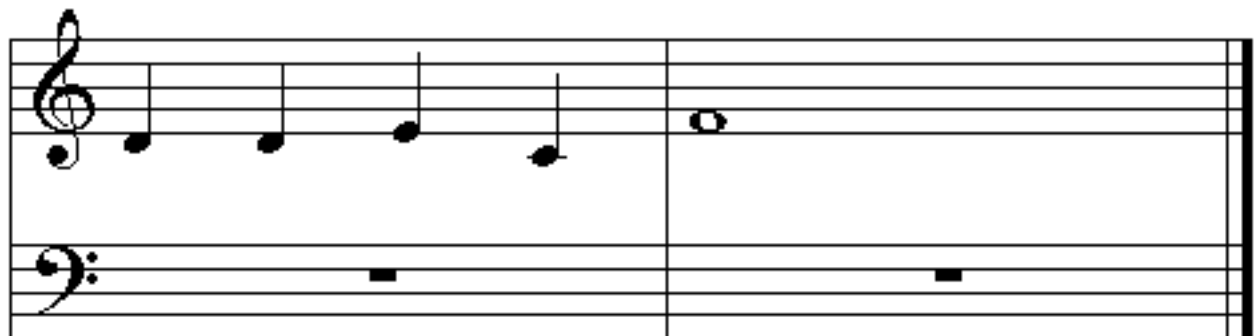
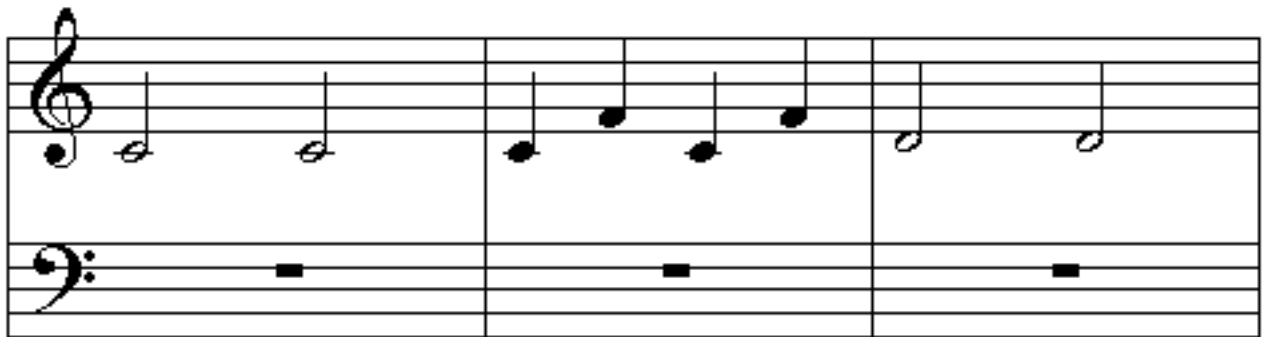
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## **Funny Face**

**Right hand only...(thought I'd give you a little break from using both hands)**

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Always remember the following:

1. Where to find the note on the piano.
2. How long to hold the note.
3. Which finger to use on the note.



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## **Step by Step**

### **A Test on Timing....**

**The blue numbers will remind you how many counts each note or rest receives.....**

**[Click to Listen](#)**

Always remember the following:

1. Where to find the note on the piano.
2. How long to hold the note.
3. Which finger to use on the note.

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## **Aura Lee**

**A Perhaps you will recognize this as "Love Me Tender"**

[Click to Listen](#)

1 3

1

3

Always remember the following:

1. Where to find the note on the piano.
2. How long to hold the note.
3. Which finger to use on the note.

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## **Marching**

**A fun little piece with a marching spirit..**

**How is your fingering?**

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Always remember the following:

1. Where to find the note on the piano.
2. How long to hold the note.
3. Which finger to use on the note.

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# Broken F Chord Practice

Place your left hand in the F chord position, when it is in position, follow the following steps:

1. Play your pinky note (C)...let go.
2. Play your second finger and thumb (F&A) at the same time...let go.
3. Start all over with #1.

You should be playing a "broken F Chord"...instead of all three at the same time, you should be playing the pinky (C) by itself and then the remaining two (F&A) together, without the pinky. You should be alternating this back and forth...(C)(F&A)(C)(F&A) etc...

The following music shows what this exercise looks like written as music...the (C) is marked in BLUE...it is the same C that you have already been playing with the pinky of the left hand. The (F&A) is marked in RED. These two notes are the F chord without the C (pinky). Play the following exercise keeping your eyes on the music...NOT YOUR HANDS!!!

[Click to Listen](#)

Musical notation for Broken F Chord Practice, first system. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Bass clef shows a sequence of notes: F2 (blue box), C3 (red box), F2, C3, G2, F2, C3, F2. Treble clef has whole rests.

Musical notation for Broken F Chord Practice, second system. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Bass clef shows a sequence of notes: F2, C3, G2, F2, C3, F2, C3, F2. Treble clef has whole rests.

[Broken C Chord Practice](#)

[Broken G7 Chord Practice](#)

[Combination Practice](#)

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# Broken G7 Chord Practice

Place your left hand in the G7 chord position, when it is in position, follow the following steps:

1. Play your pinky note (the B below C)...let go.
2. Play your second finger and thumb (F&G) at the same time...let go.
3. Start all over with #1.

You should be playing a "broken G7 Chord"...instead of all three at the same time, you should be playing the pinky (B) by itself and then the remaining two (F&G) together, without the pinky. You should be alternating this back and forth...(B)(F&G)(B)(F&G) etc...

The following music shows what this exercise looks like written as music...the (B) is marked in BLUE and you should recognize it as the bottom note of the G7 chord. The (F&G) is marked in RED. These two notes are the G7 chord without the B (pinky). Play the following exercise keeping your eyes on the music...NOT YOUR HANDS!!!

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[Broken C Chord Practice](#)

[Broken F Chord Practice](#)

[Combination Practice](#)

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# Broken Chord Practice

Watch out for the following:

1. This exercise starts with a broken C chord.
2. Measure #7 has 2 different broken chords in it.
3. Practice until this is very smooth.

Play the following exercise keeping your eyes on the music...NOT YOUR HANDS!!!

[Click to Listen](#)

Musical notation for the first exercise, measures 1-4. The notation is in 4/4 time, with a treble clef on the top staff and a bass clef on the bottom staff. The top staff contains whole rests for all four measures. The bottom staff contains a sequence of notes: Measure 1: C4, E4, G4, C5; Measure 2: C4, E4, G4, C5; Measure 3: C4, E4, G4, C5; Measure 4: C4, E4, G4, C5.

Musical notation for the second exercise, measures 1-4. The notation is in 4/4 time, with a treble clef on the top staff and a bass clef on the bottom staff. The top staff contains whole rests for all four measures. The bottom staff contains a sequence of notes: Measure 1: C4, E4, G4, C5; Measure 2: C4, E4, G4, C5; Measure 3: C4, E4, G4, C5; Measure 4: C4, E4, G4, C5.

<a href="#">Broken F Chord Practice</a>	<a href="#">Broken G7 Chord Practice</a>	<a href="#">Broken C Chord Practice</a>
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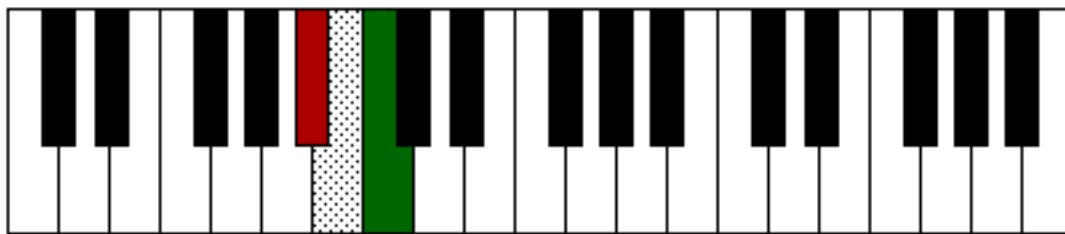
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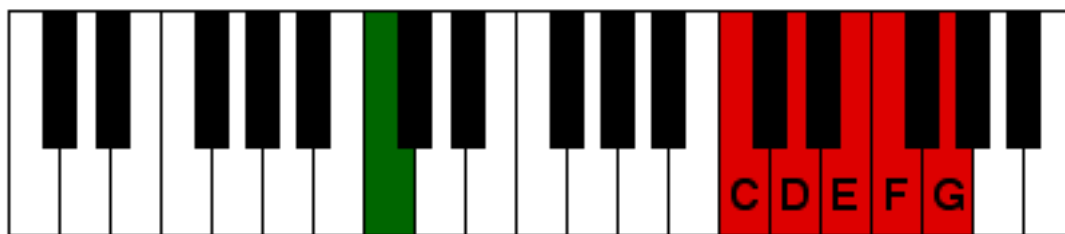
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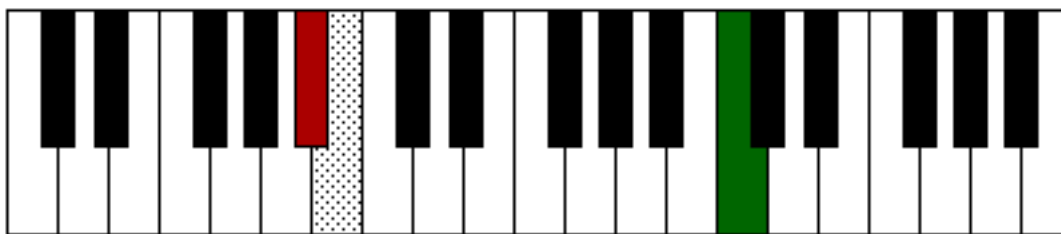
Middle C is green. B is shaded. B flat is red.



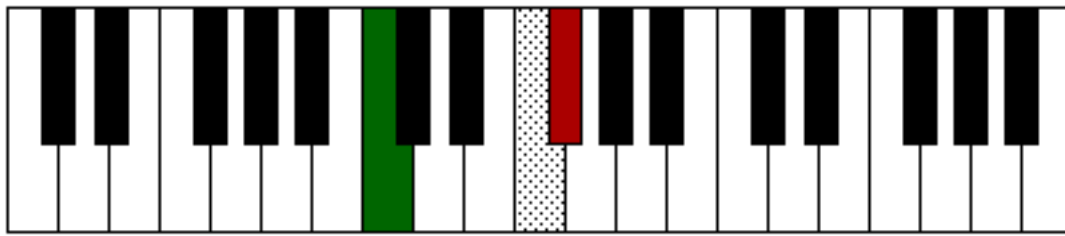
Middle C is green. New notes are marked in red.



Middle C is green. Low B is shaded. Low B flat is red.



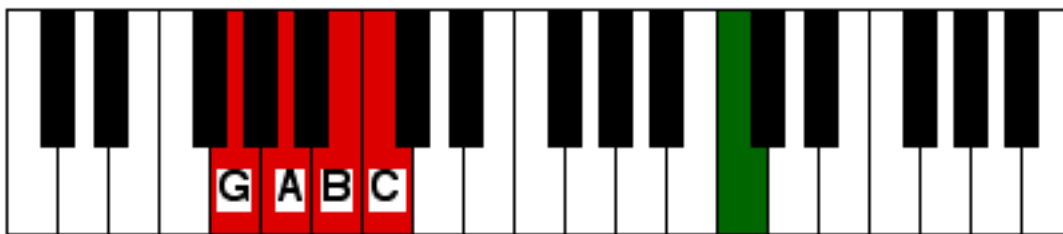
Sharps are played on the key one half step to the right.



Middle C is green. F is shaded. F sharp is red.



Middle C is green. New notes are marked in red.



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Middle C is green. New notes are marked in red.

