Piano Keys Chart.

Every key named, two octaves around middle C, and how to find any note.

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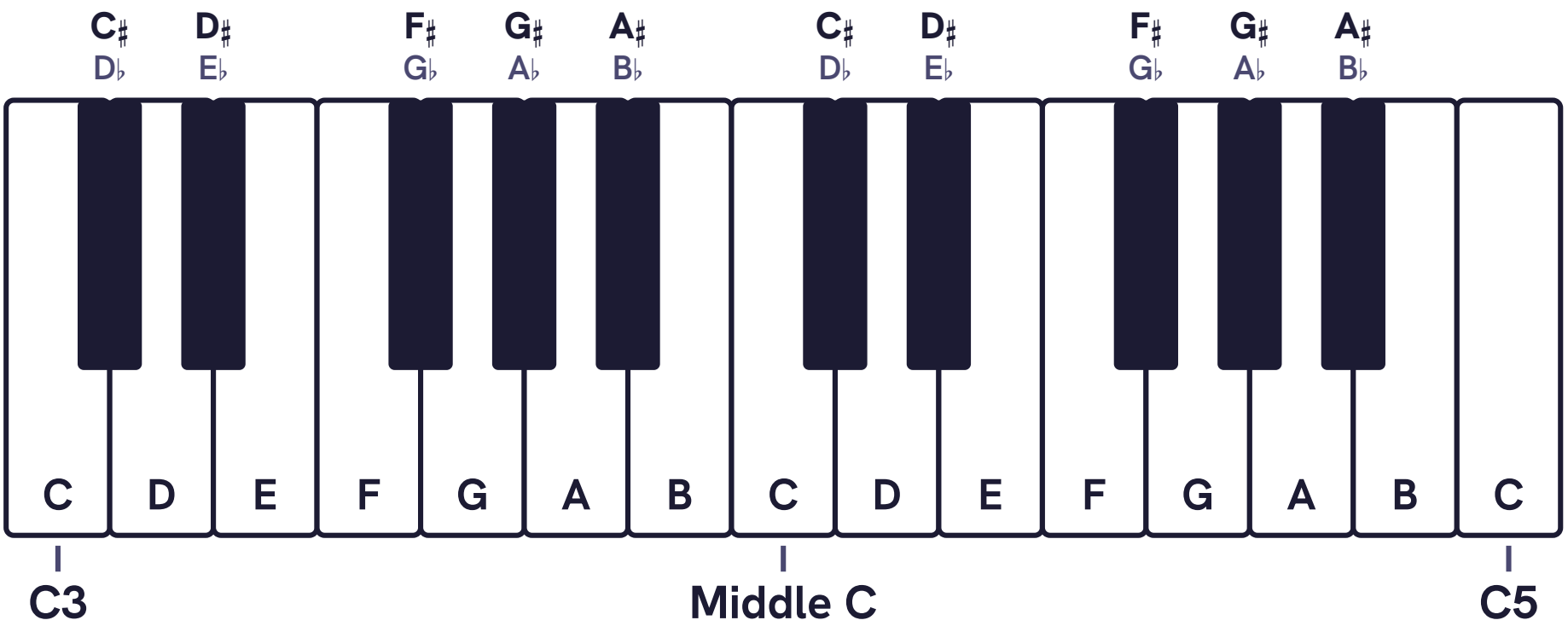
FOUNDATIONS

Piano Keys

Two octaves around middle C, with every key named. The pattern of two and three black keys repeats all the way along.



Black keys have two names: the sharp of the white key to the left, the flat of the white key to the right.

FOUNDATIONS

How to Find the Notes

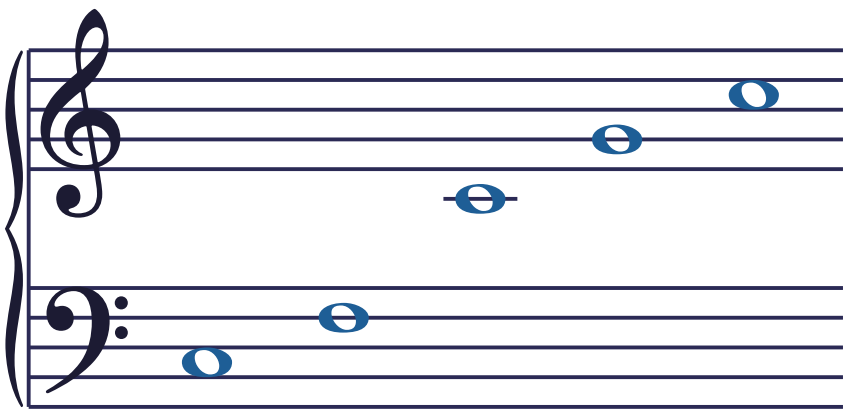
The black keys come in groups of two and three: use them as landmarks.

Find C C is the white key just left of each group of two black keys.	**C D E** (2 black keys)
Find F F is the white key just left of each group of three black keys.	**F G A B** (3 black keys)
Name a black key It is the sharp of the white key to its left and the flat of the white key to its right.	**C♯ = D♭**
Find the same note higher up Count eight white keys: the letter names repeat every octave.	**C3 → C4 → C5**
Find middle C The C nearest the middle of the piano, usually right in front of you. On paper it sits between the treble and bass staffs.	**C4**

FOUNDATIONS

The Grand Staff

Piano music uses two staffs joined by a brace: treble clef for the right hand, bass clef for the left. Middle C sits between them on its own ledger line.



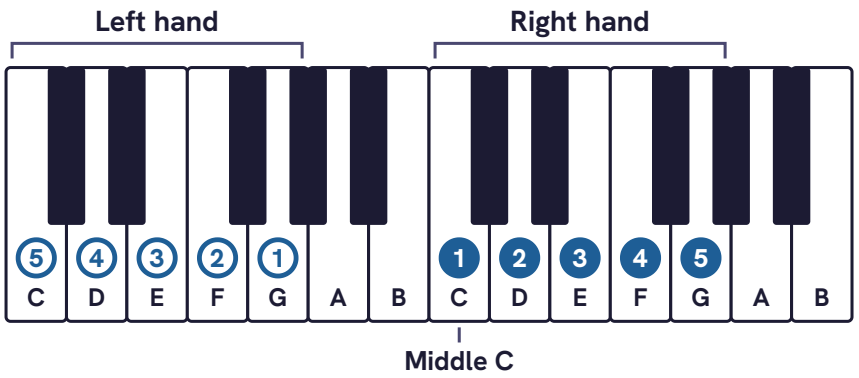
C	F	C	G	C
Bass C	Bass F	Middle C	Treble G	Treble C

Learn these landmark notes first, then read the others as steps up or down from the nearest one.

FOUNDATIONS

Finger Numbers & C Position

In C position each finger rests on its own white key.



1 = thumb, 5 = little finger, on both hands. Solid circles: right hand; outlined: left hand.

Right thumb on middle C; left little finger on the C below. Keep your fingers curved, as if holding a ball.

"Music is the universal language of mankind."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Outre-Mer, 1835

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