Piano Basics.

Your first steps at the keyboard: finger numbers, finding the notes, scales, chords and pedals.

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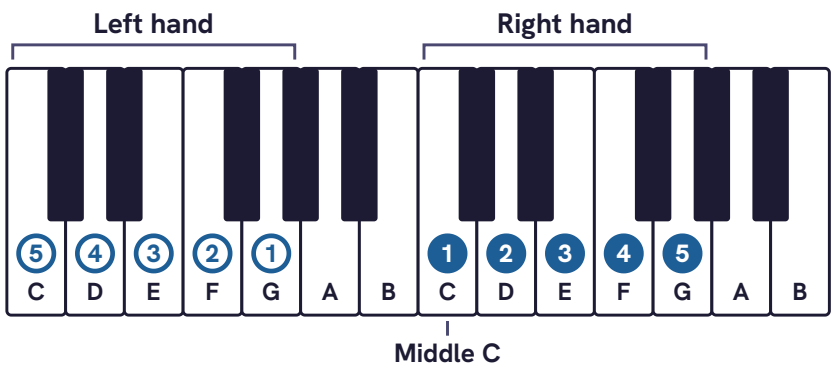
FOUNDATIONS

Finger Numbers & C Position

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



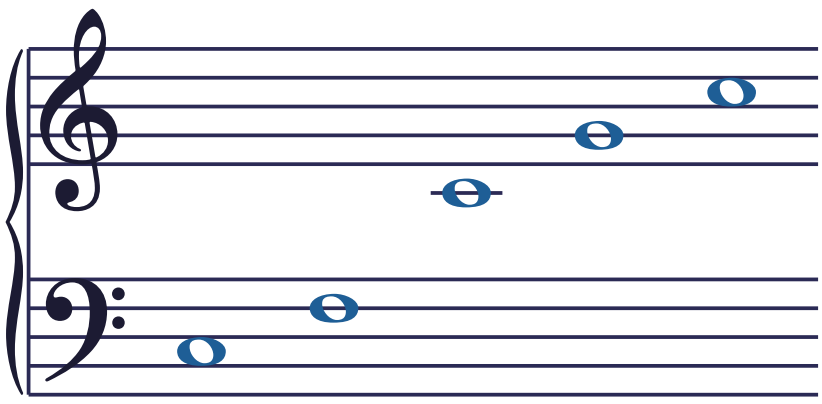
1 = thumb, 5 = little finger, on both hands. Solid circles: right hand; outlined: left hand.

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

FOUNDATIONS

The Grand Stave

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

SCALES & KEYS

Scale Fingering

One octave going up. Coming down, play the same fingers in reverse.

C MAJOR	RH	1	2	3	**1**	2	3	4	5
		C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
	LH	5	4	3	2	1	**3**	2	1
G MAJOR	RH	1	2	3	**1**	2	3	4	5
		G	A	B	C	D	E	F♯	G
	LH	5	4	3	2	1	**3**	2	1
D MAJOR	RH	1	2	3	**1**	2	3	4	5
		D	E	F♯	G	A	B	C♯	D
	LH	5	4	3	2	1	**3**	2	1
F MAJOR	RH	1	2	3	4	**1**	2	3	4
		F	G	A	B♭	C	D	E	F
	LH	5	4	3	2	1	**3**	2	1

Right hand (RH) above the notes, left hand (LH) below. Coloured numbers: where the hand moves.

The thumb passes under (going up in the right hand) and fingers cross over it, so the scale flows without a gap.

CHORDS & HARMONY

Chords on the Keys

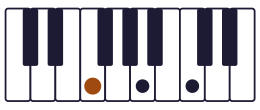
The six main chords of C major, all on white keys. A root-position chord skips one white key between each note.

C I · C E G

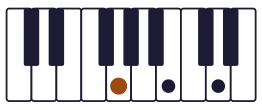
Dm ii · D F A

Em iii · E G B

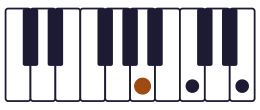
F IV · F A C



G V · G B D



Am vi · A C E



Coloured dot: the root, the note the chord is named after.

PRACTICE TIP

Practise slowly. Speed comes from playing it right, not from playing it fast.

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