

First Steps In Learning
Piano

A Beginners Guide prepared by

Phil Dell

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Learn Piano Notes, The Scale of C and A Simple Tune

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You are free to make copies of this Beginners Guide and give them away to anyone you know who wishes to learn to play piano.

[Click Here To Read My Review Of Piano For All](#)

Introduction:

Hello Future Pianist.

I always like to stress that playing music is not nearly as difficult as it seems. It does not take a genius to be a good musician. You **can** learn to do amazing things with your hands. It just takes the desire and motivation to do so....and don't forget practice! "Practice makes perfect."

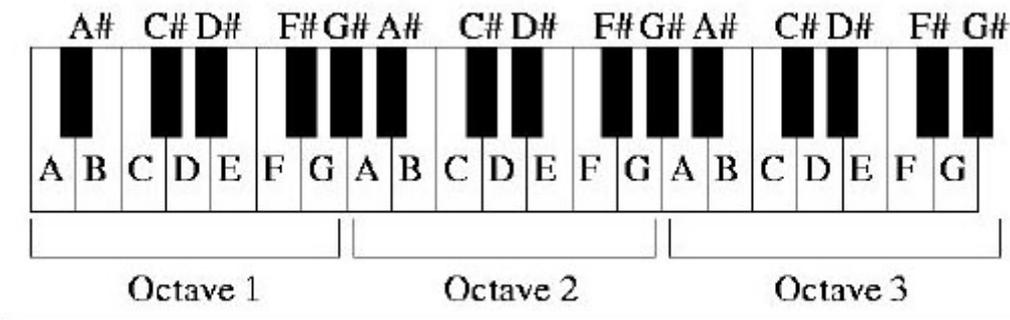
Think about it, to excel at any profession, activity, hobby, sport etc. it takes a lot of practice. For example, Footballers practice like CRAZY every day of the week for **hours** to maintain their ability...

Good News!

This introduction to playing the piano does not require an insane amount of practice. By the end of this report you will have a good idea of how to:

1. Determine which notes are which on a Piano
2. Play notes on the Piano
3. Play a 'major' scale in the Key of C
4. Play a simple song

The Notes On a Piano



This is a Piano Keyboard with the NOTES written on each key.

Let me break it down for you. There are ONLY 12 notes in existence and they repeat themselves over and over again in what we call 'Octaves' Pronounced (Octives). An Octave obviously refers to the number 8 (Oct.)

Musical Notes are identified by letters of the alphabet. The letters in music are A, B, C, D, E, F, G. There is **No** 'H'. After 'G', it simply starts over at 'A' again (see above).

How can you have more than one 'A'? The TONE of the note sounds the same, but the PITCH is higher or lower.

There are many 'A's' on the piano and many of the other letters as well. The lowest 'A' will sound extremely low like a Bass and will not be very distinguishable. The highest 'A' will sound very high pitched like a flute or piccolo. The best example of an Octave I can think of is in the song 'Happy Birthday.'

In the middle part where you sing "Happy BIRTH-day to so and so...", the word 'Happy' is a C for example, and the word BIRTH is also be a 'C' note but one octave above. It's a big stretch, a whole 8 notes! So it's 8 notes from 'A' to 'A' and 'C' to 'C' and so on. Thus, it's called an 'Octave'.

So, back to my original point. Did you realize what I said? There are

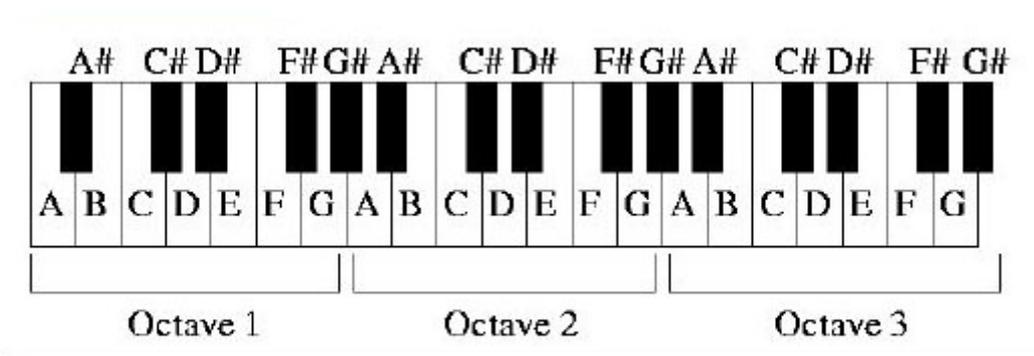
ONLY 12 notes in existence! This makes music a lot easier than you thought doesn't it.

EVERY SONG YOU'VE EVER HEARD WAS MADE UP OF A COMBINATION OF THESE 12 NOTES.

No matter how complicated a piece by Mozart is, there are only 12 notes to choose from:

A, B, C, D, E, F, G and then back to 'A'.

The Black Keys are in sets of 2 and 3. I call them 'twins' and 'triplets'.



To the left of the 'Twins' is the note 'C'. To the left of the 'triplets' is the note 'F'.

The twins and triplets repeat themselves over and over again and the note at the beginning of them will always be the same.

In front of every pair of twins the note will always be 'C'.

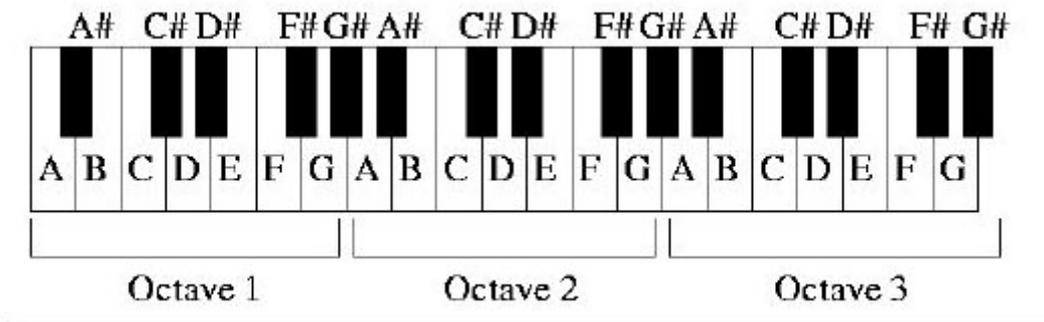
In front of every pair of triplets the note will always be 'F'.

This will help you memorize which notes are which, without writing the notes on each key!

What do the `#` signs mean?

The # sign stands for "Sharp".

So if you see `A#` that means " `A` Sharp." C# = C sharp and so on. The Sharps (`#`s) are the black keys. **The very next key to the RIGHT of any given key is the `Sharp` of that note.**



On the piano, the distance between any note to the very next note (whether the next note is a black key OR white) is called a 'half-step'. So from `A` to `A#` is a half step. From `A#` to `B` is also a half step.

NOW NOTICE `B` and `C`. There are no sharps in between them but they are still considered a 'Half-Step'. This is very important to understand because a lot of people think that if you go a 'half-step' from one letter the next note will be that letter 'Sharp'. This is true for MOST notes except for `B` to `C` and `E` to `F`. If you look at the piano above you'll see that E goes right to F and they are both white keys and the same for B to C. These are STILL HALF-STEPS. There is no `B#` because `B#` would just be called `C`. An `E#` would just be called `F`. These are the TWO exceptions.

If you skip a half-step and go directly from let's say, `A` to `B`, it is called a **Whole Step**. Remember those exceptions now! The difference from `B` to `C` is **NOT** a whole step. Remember, from `B` to `C` is a HALF-STEP because they are right next to each other. So from `B` to `C#` would be a WHOLE-STEP. Same goes for `E` to `F` (half step). From `E` to `F#` would be the WHOLE STEP.

The reason why people get confused with this is because from every other white key to the next white key is a WHOLE STEP because there is a black key in between which is the half step.

Learning The 'C' Major Scale

Scales are a very important fundamental of music. The 'Scale' makes up the sounds 'Do-Re-Mi-Fa-So-La-Ti-Do.' It's called the 'Major Scale' and it is one of the MAIN modes of music.

There are 'major' and 'minor' scales. The 'major' scale sounds more happy while the 'minor' scales sound sad. Every song you've ever heard was either in a 'major' or 'minor' key.

OK so your RIGHT hand is numbered as follows...Your thumb is finger number 1, index finger is number 2, middle finger is number 3, ring finger number 4, and pinky finger number 5.

Your LEFT hand is the same. Thumb is finger number one, and so on. They go opposite ways but the thumb is still number 1 and so on.

We are going to learn the scale of C with our RIGHT hand first. The right hand is the lead hand in the piano and plays the important lead melodies of a song.

The left hand is an accompaniment and plays chords and bass lines.

The 'C Major Scale' is as Follows:

C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C

Moving from LEFT to RIGHT. Finger number One will play the first 'C'. Then finger number 2 plays 'D' followed by Finger #3 which plays 'E'.

NOW PAY ATTENTION: On the FOURTH Note which is 'F', you will cross your thumb underneath your middle finger (finger #3) and play the 'F' with your THUMB! This allows you to finish the rest of the scale with the rest of your hand using fingers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

In case this was confusing, the fingering for C. D. E, F, G, A, B, C would be fingers: 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

After the third note; 'E' you CROSS your thumb UNDERNEATH your

middle finger (which is still on 'E') and play the next note to the right of 'E' which is 'F' with your Thumb.

Now, when you come back down the scale...(to the left) you play every note that you played on the way up the scale AND with the SAME fingers.

So, the scale would be **C, D, E, F, G, A, B**, C, B, A, G, F, E, D, C.
Fingers are: **1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5**, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3, 2, 1.

The **Bold** letters and numbers are going 'up' the scale which is left to right. Then on the way back 'down' the scale, (not bold) it is right to left.

'Up' refers to UP IN PITCH. and 'Down' refers to DOWN IN PITCH.

When you play notes from left to right you will always be going UP in pitch from a LOW sound all the way on the left, it gets higher and higher as you move to the right and all the way on the right is the HIGHEST pitched note. Therefore, when you play to the right you are going 'up'.

I have prepared a video to show you what the 'C Major Scale' looks and sounds like! I play it slow at first, then medium, then fast. Click the link below and a page will open in your web browser with the video.

[Scale of C Major](#)

How To Play Other Scales

There is a Major scale for EVERY key.

There is an 'A Major Scale' a 'B Major Scale, even for the #'s. 'A#' Major Scale, starts on a black key 'A#' for example.

They ALL sound like 'Do-Re-Mi...' but they just start on a different **pitch**.

But don't worry, I HAVE A SECRET WEAPON! Everyone loves the 'C Major Scale' because it is ALL white keys.

Every other scale has a black key in it, whether it's one, two, three or more!

Instead of memorizing EACH of the 12 Major Scales, which would take a lot of time, you can use a **secret** formula that will allow you to play any major scale based on a pattern. Anything you can do in one spot on the piano, you can do in another spot.

Remember I talked about Whole Steps and Half Steps?

Well, if you look at the 'C' major scale you can see that there is a pattern to the scale.

After the starting 'C', the next note is 'D'. The distance between these notes is a Whole Step.(because you skip over C# and go to D)

Lets call a Whole Step 'W' and a Half Step 'H'.

The pattern of the C Major scale is:

W, W, H, W, W, W, H.

Pretty easy to remember if you see the pattern: two whole steps and then a half step followed by three whole steps and a half step.

This holds true for EVERY MAJOR SCALE!!! That makes it A LOT EASIER.

Let's test this out...The next Major Scale, the 'D Major Scale' would be

D, E, F#, G, A, B, C#, D.

This obeys the rule! After the first note 'D' it follows the pattern:

W, W, H, W, W, W, H.

D, E, F#, G, A, B, C#, D
1st W, W, H, W, W, W, H.

The first note can not be a whole step or a half step because you need to be referring to the distance between TWO notes to have a whole step or a half step.

Learn a Simple Song

Scales are so important because EVERY song that is in a 'Major' key will be made up of ONLY THE NOTES OF THE MAJOR SCALE. So, if the song is in 'C Major' such as THOUSANDS of songs are...the song would consist of ONLY THE NOTES OF THE C MAJOR SCALE!

Example:

The song 'Mary Had a Little Lamb' is in the key of 'C Major'. This means that every note in this song will be a note in the 'C Major Scale'. Here are the notes for 'Mary Had a Little Lamb.'

3, 2, 1, 2, 3, 3, 3, 2, 2, 2, 3, 5, 5
E, D, C, D, E, E, E, D, D, D, E, G, G

3, 2, 1, 2, 3, 3, 3, 2, 2, 3, 2, 1
E, D, C, D, E, E, E, D, D, E, D, C.

The numbers are the fingers you should use.
The letters are the notes on the piano. The numbers are right above the corresponding letter.

I have prepared a video to show you what the song looks and sounds like! Click the link below and a page will open in your web browser with the video.

[Mary Had A Little Lamb](#)

Congratulations!

You have learned the basics of playing the piano, the Major Scale of C and your first song!

Time To Get Serious About Playing The Piano

If you really want to learn to play piano quickly then I highly recommend that you take a look at the course "Piano For All" by Robin Hall. You can read my review of the course here:

[Piano For All Review](#)

Or Click on the Image below to find out more about the course

