



Mikes Music Room

**The Place For Piano, Organ
And Keyboard Tuition**

Learn To Play The Piano

Learn keyboard note names

Learn to read music

Play your first piece of music

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What's in lesson 1

01 Note names on the keyboard

In this section you will learn all the white notes on a keyboard

02 The staff

Here we show what the staff looks like and what symbols you can expect to see in lesson 1.

03 Notes on the staff

Here we learn what the notes are called on the staff.

04 Middle C

Here we find where middle C is on the staff and the keyboard

05 Note values

Here we look at notes used in lesson 1 with different beat values

06 Hand position

Here we look at the hand shape and position on the keyboard.

07 5 finger exercise

This is your first exercise to get those fingers working.

08 Read the notes you are playing

Here you will read the notes in the 5-finger exercise.

09 Finger numbers

Learn what each fingers number is.

10 Play your first piece of music

Here you will play your first piece of music with your right hand

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*Arguably the fastest way to learn the piano.
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Lesson 1: 01 Note names on the keyboard

This is a typical keyboard. We are going to learn the names of all the white notes. Do not worry about the black notes we do not need these for lesson 1.



There are actually only 7 notes to learn.

Here are the first 3 notes.



Here we have 2 black notes surrounded by 3 white notes C, D and E

Think of it as a shape. We will call this **shape 1**. Now see how many times you see this shape in the above full keyboard. Starting from the far left you should see this shape 4 times and the 3 white notes in each of these shapes have the same note names **C, D and E**

Shape 1

Lesson 1: 01 Note names on the keyboard

Here are the remaining 4 notes to learn.



Here we have 3 black notes surrounded by 4 white notes F, G, A and B

We will call this **Shape 2**

Now see how many times you see this shape in the above full keyboard. Again this shape appears 4 times and in each shape the notes are **F, G, A and B**

You have now learned all the white notes on the keyboard. Remember there are only 7 notes to learn.

Shape 2

Now let us look at the full keyboard again with all the note names inserted.



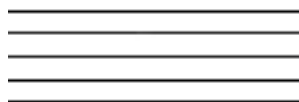
Here you can see how Shape1 and 2 repeat themselves and so the notes within those shapes repeat themselves. Now try on your own keyboard. You should be able to recognise every white note on your keyboard.

Finally, if you look at the above keyboard, far right, last note. What is its name?

Next **THE STAFF**

Lesson 1: 02 The Staff

In its simplest form the staff looks like this



Basically 5 lines and 4 spaces (the spaces are between the lines).

Musical notes are written on the lines like this



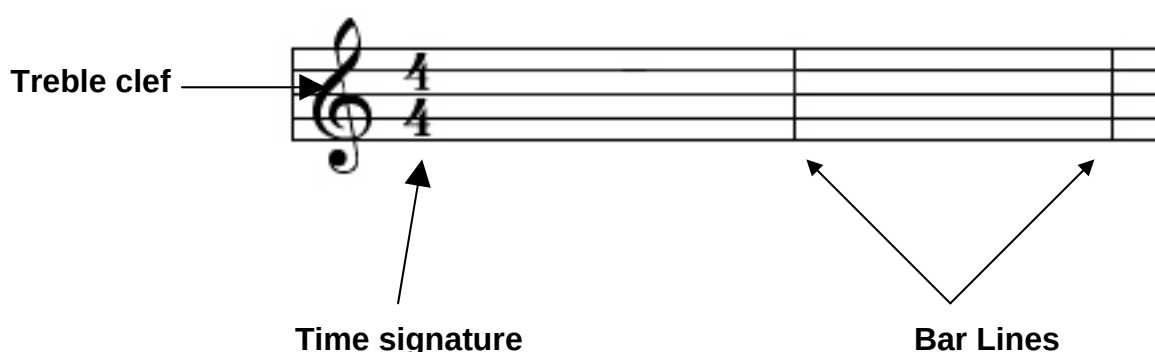
Or in the spaces like this



Or a combination of both



Now let us add a **Treble clef** and a **Time signature** and **Bar lines** to the staff.



Treble Clef

When you see the Treble clef, you will play the keyboard with your right hand. If you are playing the organ then you will play the top keyboard. If you are using a single keyboard then you will play the top part or right hand side of the keyboard.

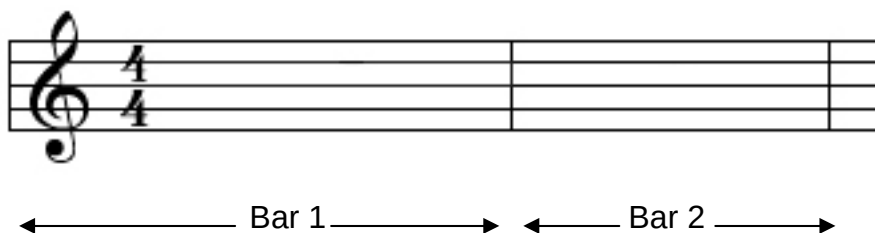
Time signature

When you see a time signature, this tells you how many beats are allowed in each bar. In our example, 4 over 4, this tells us we are allowed 4 beats to every bar, no less and no more. This will become clearer when you start your first piece of music.

Lesson 1: 02 The Staff

Bar Lines

Bar lines are used to separate bars. Therefore, the space between 2 bar lines is called a **Bar**. In this example, you can see 2 **Bars**.



So let us put all these things together.



Here we have 5 bars of music, which is played with the right hand, and we have 4 beats in every bar.

Now we need to know what all those notes are called and that is next

NOTES ON THE STAFF

Lesson 1: 03 Notes on the staff

When learning notes on the staff, rather than learn each individual note you will learn **Lines and spaces** As you saw in **Lesson1: 02 The staff**. The staff consists of 5 lines and 4 spaces and you will learn what notes are called when they are written on a particular line or space.

First, we will deal with the lines. We can use an easy to remember phrase to memorise the lines. Starting from the bottom line, the notes are called. **E, G, B, D, F**, and the phrase is:

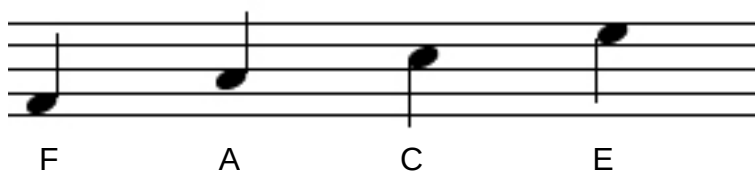
Every Good Boy Deserves Fruit



So obviously we are using the first letter of each word in our phrase to tell us what that note is called. If a note appears on the bottom line or the first line, the first word of our phrase is “**Every**” so the note is called **E**. If a note appears on the middle line or the third line, the third word in our phrase is “**Boy**” so that note is called **B**.

Now lets deal with the spaces, here we can use a popular word to memorise the spaces. Starting from the bottom space or the first space, the notes are called **F, A, C, E**, and the word is:

FACE



Here if we want to know the name of the note in the fourth space then we need the fourth letter of our word **FACE**, so that note is called **E**.

There are also notes above and below the staff. We need to deal with two notes that appear below the staff that are used in Lesson 1. The first of these notes is called **D** and is written on the underside of the first line like this:



Lesson 1: 03 Notes on the staff

The other note is **Middle C**. We will deal with this in the next section.

Now let us look at all the notes, lines and spaces mixed together.



Now here is the same selection of notes without the notes names printed. Cover the above picture and practice recognising the notes.



Remember **D** is the only note below the staff. The rest are lines and spaces. Use your phrase “**Every Good Boy Deserves Fruit**” for the lines and the word “**FACE**” for the spaces.

Next **MIDDLE C**

Lesson 1: 04 Middle C

Middle C is an important reference note on the staff and the keyboard. If I ask you to play **C** on the keyboard. You might say which one. Now if I say play me the 1st **C** above **Middle C** you will no exactly which **C** to play (*you will when you have completed this section*).

First, we will deal with **Middle C** on the staff (*this is also the second note below the staff discussed in the previous section*) this is how **Middle C** looks on the staff



Middle C

Notice there is a small line in the centre of the note. This is called a Ledger Line. It is like a continuation of the staff. Therefore, instead of printing a full line we use a small line, it is easy to read it makes the rest of the music easy to read and Middle C is probably the most recognised note in the world.

Now let us try an example of how we can use this as a reference note.

Here we have **Middle C** **D** and **D**



Middle C

D

D

As you can see, the first **D** is slightly higher than **Middle C** and the second **D** is a lot higher than **Middle C**. This tells us that the first **D** is very close to **Middle C** in fact on the keyboard it is the next white note. Therefore, the first **D** in the above example is the first **D** above **Middle C**. Which means the second **D** is the second **D** above **Middle C**. Please note that we are using distances from bottom to top not left to right. The distance from one note to another left to right does not matter at all at this stage. It is also useful to know that as the notes go higher you play higher up the keyboard, which means to the right of the keyboard and as the notes go lower you play lower down the keyboard to the left of the keyboard.

Up the Keyboard and Higher = Right

Down the keyboard and lower = Left

All this will make more sense when you know where **Middle C** is on your keyboard.

Middle C is generally considered to be the Middle note on a keyboard, which is not strictly accurate.

Middle C is about the Middle note on an 88 note Piano. Keyboards come in different flavours the most popular being 49 note keyboards and 61 note keyboards. Therefore, we will deal with these size keyboards.

First let us look at the 49-note keyboard. These are more commonly found on organs that have two keyboards and a pedal board. We will be dealing with the top keyboard. The bottom keyboard does have a **Middle C** but we will not need to deal with this in Lesson 1. The pedal board does not have a **Middle C**. For the 61 note keyboarders what follows applies to you to.

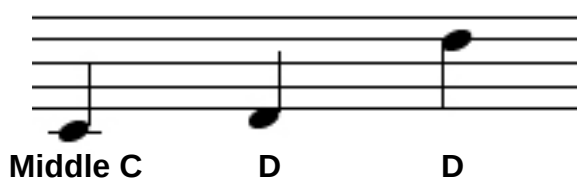
Lesson 1: 04 Middle C

First let us check your keyboard is 49 notes. Count the amount of C notes you have on your top keyboard starting from the left. If you have five C notes then you have a 49-note keyboard. You could of course count all the notes, but do not forget to count the black notes as well.

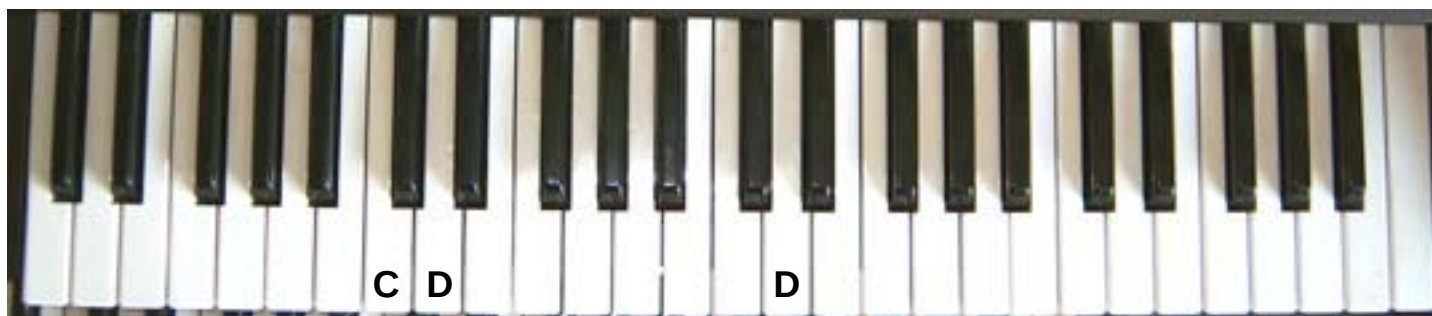


This is where **Middle C** is on our 49-note keyboard. As you can see it is the second C on the keyboard counting from the left. Therefore, when you see **Middle C** on your music this is the note you play.

Let us try our previous example



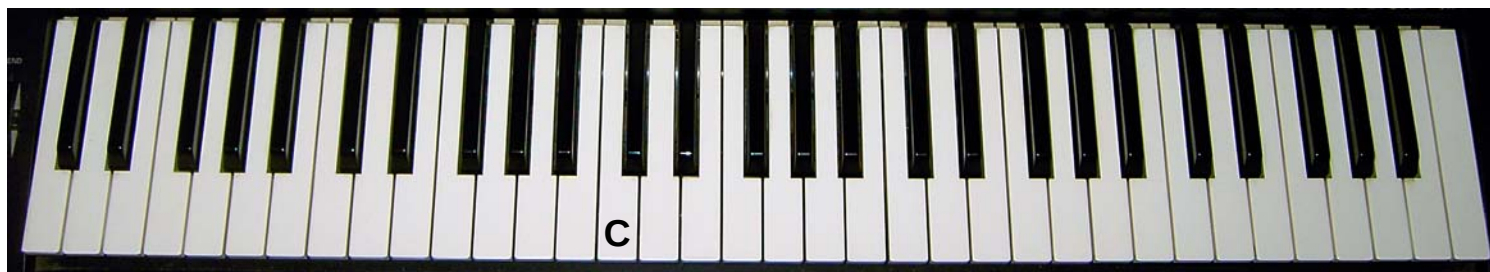
In addition, see what it looks like on our keyboard



Notice how **Middle C** and the first **D** are close together on the keyboard and on the staff, **D** is a little higher than **Middle C**. The second **D** on the keyboard is higher up the keyboard (to the right) and on the staff the second **D** is a lot higher than **Middle C**. What I want you to notice is that on the staff we are using distances from bottom to top and vice versa and on the keyboard we are using distances left to right and vice versa. So on the staff **Middle C** to the first **D** is a little higher. On the keyboard **Middle C** to the first **D** is a little to the right.

Lesson 1: 04 Middle C

Now let us look at the 61-note keyboard. Count the amount of C notes you have on your keyboard starting from the left. If you have six C notes then you have a 61-note keyboard.

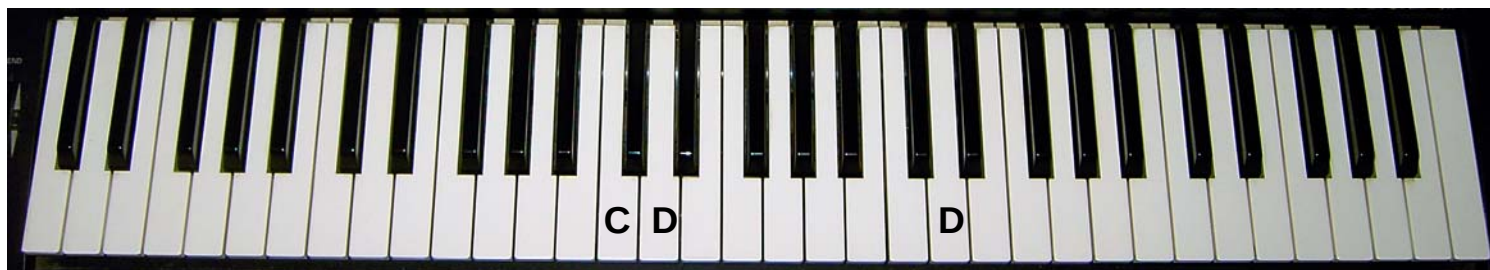


This is where **Middle C** is on our 61-note keyboard. As you can see it is the third C on the keyboard counting from the left.



Middle C **D** **D**

Our examples are the same, as above now you know where **Middle C** is.



Next **NOTE VALUES**

Lesson 1: 05 Note Values

In this section we will look at three different types of notes with different beat values. In **Lesson 1 Notes on the staff** you learned what a note was called when written on a line or space. In this section we will learn what type of note is being written and how many beats that note is worth.

First we will start with a note type that has been written throughout lesson 1 so far.



This is a **Crotchet** and is worth 1 beat

Now let us look at the shape. A black circle with a stick. The stick can go up or down. Notice that the stick is pointing down from the circle on the left hand side. If it were pointing up it would be on the right hand side.

There are no hard and fast rules as to when the stick should point up or down.

Look at this selection of notes



Here you can see from **D** to **A** the sticks are pointing up then from **B** onwards the sticks are pointing down. This keeps the music neat and leaves room for chord symbols or lyrics to be written above or below the staff but the point to this is that if the sticks from **B** onwards had their sticks pointing upwards it would still be a Crotchet. So again think of a **Crotchet** as a black circle with a stick.

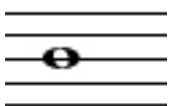
Next note is a **Minim**.



This is a **Minim** and is worth 2 beats

Think of this note as a clear circle with a stick.

Next note is a **Semibreve**



This is a **Semibreve** and is worth 4 beats

Think of this note as a clear circle on its own (no sticks)

Now we will have a preview of the first line of our piece of music in section 10. Here you learn how to count the beat using our different types of notes.

Lesson 1: 05 Note Values

1

The new world symphony

Antonin Dvorak

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1

count 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

First of all I want you to start counting aloud **1, 2, 3, 4**, at about the speed of seconds, which is 60 beats per minute. (60 bpm) It does not have to be accurate. It is just a rough speed to get us started. So you should be counting **1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4**, and so on until you have an even count.

Now notice the count numbers in the music above. I want you to point to each note starting from the left as you count. So for instance in the first bar our notes are **E, G, G**. So point to **E** when you say **1**. Point to **G** when you say **2** and point to the next **G** when you say **3 4**. Notice the third note **G** is a **Minim** so your finger should stay in that position until you have said **3 4**. That is because the **Minim** is worth 2 beats so you must keep your finger in position for 2 beats. Then carry on to the second and third bar and in the fourth bar when you point to **D** hold that position until you have counted 4 beats (1, 2, 3, and 4).

Lets look at this another way. I will write a series of taps and counting numbers and I want you to tap a tabletop and count the numbers at the same time.

	tap tap tap	tap tap tap	tap tap tap tap	tap
count	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1234

Remember when you are counting your sets of **1,2,3,4**, they must be even and when you do your last tap keep your finger down until you have finished counting **1,2,3,4**.

This is a lesson in timing, which is extremely important when playing music.

Next **HAND POSITION**

Lesson 1: 06 Hand position

First let us create the hand shape. Put your right hand in front of you hand open and fingers straight. Now bend all you fingers slightly into a half claw shape. All your fingers should now be slightly bent. Now very slightly straighten you little finger until it is just straight. Now put your hand over the keyboard. Your thump should be over **middle C**, your second finger over **D**, your third finger over **E**, your fourth finger over **F** and you little finger over **G**. It should look something like this.



Notice the position of the hand on the keyboard. Your second finger and third finger are very close to the black notes this ensures that the thumb and little finger are comfortably over a key. Obviously hand sizes differ while keyboard sizes remain the same. Therefore, you may have to adjust slightly depending on the size of your hand. It is important that each finger be over a key. If your thumb or little finger is floating in mid air (not over a key) then your hand is too close to the edge of the keyboard. If you cannot move your hand position left to right then your hand is too far in the keyboard and the black notes are in the way. Try and get as close as you can to the above picture.

Now with hand in place we will now play the notes. Each finger should now be over the note we wish to play. Keeping you hand as still as possible press and play middle C with you thumb then lift you do not need to hold the note down just press and lift. As soon as the thumb is lifted the second finger should be pressed when the second finger is lifted the third finger is pressed and so on for the fourth and fifth finger.

Your hand should be still, while playing these notes. Do not use you hand to press a key just use the appropriate finger.

Now let us see if we can play these 5 notes smoothly. Put you hand in position and say the note names out loud **C, D, E, F, G** slowly to start with. When you say **C** press the **C** key with your thumb. When you say **D** press the **D** key with your second finger and so on with the third, fourth and fifth fingers.

Let us look at the exact movement of your fingers playing these notes.

- Movement 1** thumb presses key
- Movement 2** as thumb lifts. Second finger presses key
- Movement 3** as second finger lifts. Third finger presses key
- Movement 4** as third finger lifts. Fourth finger presses key
- Movement 5** as fourth finger lifts. Fifth finger presses key
- Movement 6** Little finger lifts.

Lesson 1: 06 Hand position

Make sure to practice the above slowly and carefully to start with.

Common faults from beginners are:

- 1 Keeping two or more notes pressed at the same time.**
- 2 Fingers not available to play notes because the hand is too close to the edge of the keyboard.**

Next 5 **FINGER EXERCISE**

Lesson 1: 07 5 Finger exercise

In the last section you played 5 notes. **Middle C** to **G**. In this section we will extend this so that you will play **Middle C** to **G** then back to **Middle C** like this.

C, D, E, F, G, F, E, D, C

You will also repeat this set of notes a minimum of 4 times like this.

C, D, E, F, G, F, E, D, C, D, E, F, G, F, E, D, C, D, E, F, G, F, E, D, C, D, E, F, G, F, E, D, C

Instead of saying the notes names you can now count in four like this.

C, D, E, F, G, F, E, D, C, D, E, F, G, F, E, D, C, D, E, F, G, F, E, D, C, D, E, F, G, F, E, D, C
 Count 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1234

This exercise is excellent for strengthening fingers. The idea is to gradually build the speed that you play this exercise. However before you start playing at warp speed it is important to start slow and count.

Therefore, your starting speed should be no more than 60 bpm (beats per minute). We are trying to achieve a smooth even playing style. Therefore, when you are counting aloud put an accent on the 1st beat or 1 like this

ONE two three four **ONE** two three four and so on.
1 2 3 4 **1** 2 3 4

When you can count and play these notes without any gaps or stops. Then you can increase your speed. Think of the second hand on a clock. It keeps going round with no gaps no stops. It just goes round the clock smooth and even. That is what you are aiming for.

Next **READ THE NOTES YOU ARE PLAYING**

Lesson 1: 08 Read the notes you are playing

Now you have practiced your five-finger exercise you are ready to read the 5-finger exercise in music form. Basically you will play exactly as you did in the previous section but I want you to fix your eyes on the music and follow the notes you are playing.

1

5 Finger exercise

Michael Shaw

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1

Count 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

6

Count 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Notice the note in bar 9 (second line fourth bar). This is a semibreve. Make sure when you play this note you hold the key down for a full 4 beats then lift.

Before starting to play make sure your right hand is in the correct position as described in **Lesson 1 Hand position**. Then fix your eyes on the first note in bar 1. Count 1, 2, 3, 4 aloud to get you started. Then off you go. As you play the notes on the keyboard follow the notes you are playing on the music. Keep counting aloud. Do not look at the keyboard look at the music.

Next **FINGER NUMBERS**

Lesson 1: 09 Finger numbers

So before you start playing your first piece of music in the next section. We need to look at finger numbers. You have 5 fingers; a keyboard has 61 or 49 notes. Therefore, you need to pay particular attention to finger numbers. Now let us see those numbers.

Thumb = 1

Second finger = 2

Third finger = 3

Fourth finger = 4

Fifth finger = 5

That is it. Simple isn't it. Well of course it's simple when you are playing the 5-finger exercise with your 5 fingers. What about going higher up the keyboard?

Here is an example taken from our piece of music in the next section.



The first two bars are easy. If you remember your 5 finger exercise and hand position. Before you turn to the next page fill the numbers in yourself for the first two bars. Just write the finger number on the left hand side of each note. Now try to guess the finger numbers for the last two bars.

The answers are on the next page.

Lesson 1: 09 Finger numbers

Here is the above example with the finger number written in.



Most of you should have got the answers to the first two bars. If not read sections 6 to 8 again. I wouldn't expect many beginners to get the answer to the last two bars. If you did. Well done.

So if we go from the second bar. Middle C is shown with a thumb and we need to get to **A**. If you stretch your hand so your little finger plays the **A** then you would have no fingers left for the next 2 notes **C** and **C**. You could say that you could move up again and play these notes with your little finger. Yes you could but it would be very wrong. For a start you would waste a perfectly good hand with 5 fingers not 1. Secondly you would be playing these notes with your weakest finger and thirdly if this was a fast piece of music you would probably miss those notes altogether.

So when choosing a finger number we always want to get back to or close to our original hand shape. Even though we move to a different part of the keyboard we can still use the same hand shape.

Most popular music today is constructed in sections these can be 4 bar sections or 8 bar sections or 16 bar sections. The trick to choosing the correct finger number, is to look at these different sections and find the highest note, which would be played with your fifth finger (finger number 5) and the lowest note which would be played with your Thumb (finger no 1) so you have fingers available to play the notes in that area.

So in the above example, again from the second bar. You are playing Middle C with you thumb and your hand position should look like this.



Because this note is a semibreve you must keep that note pressed and count a full 4 beats. While you are counting 4 beats for this note. Move your hand shape so your middle finger is over the **A** key.

Lesson 1: 09 Finger numbers

Your hand shape should now look like this.



Notice the thumb is still playing Middle C. The hand shape as moved and your third finger is now ready to play the next note, which in this case is **A**.

When you play **A** with you middle finger (finger no 3) Move you hand shape back to the original position. Like this.



Now we have a different hand position (higher up the keyboard) with our original hand shape.

Now you are ready to play your first piece of music.

Next **PLAY YOUR FIRST PIECE OF MUSIC**

Lesson 1: 10 Play your first piece of music

You are now ready to play your first piece of music, before you start, I would like to give you a bit of information about the piece you are going to play.

This piece of music is called **Largo** and is taken from the **new world symphony** composed by **Antonin Dvorak** in 1893. There are four movements in this symphony and **Largo** is the second and most popular movement. **Largo** is also a musical term and means to **play slow**. This piece of music is also well known as the **Hovis bread theme**.

The new world symphony

Antonin Dvorak

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1

Count 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

6

Count 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

12

Count 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

18

Count 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Always look at a piece of music before starting to play. Important things to look for are:

- 1 Time signature
- 2 Finger numbers

Lesson 1: 10 Play your first piece of music

First, our **time signature** is 4 over 4 so you know this piece has 4 beats to every bar.

Second. **Finger numbers** are placed at important parts of the music tell you what your hand shape and position should be. For example the first note of this piece is played with finger no 3 (third finger) and no other **finger numbers** written until the 9th bar. This tells you to use the hand shape and position discussed in **Lesson 1 Hand position**.

Now look at bars **16** and **17**. From the **A** you stretch slightly to play **E** with you thumb then squeeze you hand together so your 5th finger can play **G** then you can return to the original hand position and finish the piece.

Notice the counting numbers. Please use these and count aloud. You will find once you have learned the piece you will not need to count aloud and you will play smooth and even.

You have now completed Lesson 1. I hope it has been helpful and will inspire you to carry on learning and playing the piano or electronic keyboard.

If you know anybody else that wants to learn to play the piano, keyboard or organ please share this book with them. You can easily copy this book or email it to friends and family.

Where Do You Go From Here

Now you have started you want to carry on to the next stage and the quicker the better. You have two choices:

1. You can buy a Piano Course online.

I have included in this book, two reviews of the most popular top selling courses available for beginners. They are:

Pianoforall

Learn And Master Piano

You can also read these reviews at [The Piano Lessons Software Expert](#) website. These courses offer the fastest and beginner friendly way to playing the piano.

2. Piano Tuition Books

Again you can buy these books online or at your local music shop. This is the cheaper option but can be more difficult because these books don't offer the support that Online Piano lessons offer.

You can find out more about tuition books by clicking the links below:

[The Complete Piano Player](#)

Or for the electronic keyboard players;

[The Complete Keyboard Player](#)

If you read the reviews in this book and click the above links to find out about tuition books it will give you a better understanding of which direction you want to go in.

I strongly recommend you choose the Online Piano Lessons option, not because they are more expensive but because you will receive help and support as part of the package.

[PIANOFORALL Complete Review](#)

GENUINE REVIEWS BY A MUSICIAN AND TEACHER

Website: www.pianoforall.com

Price: \$79.50

Skill: Beginners To Advanced

Customer Service: Yes

Money Back Guarantee: Yes

My first impressions of this course is the simplicity of use. When you get this course on your computer, you simply click on the first book to open it and off you go. In the first book, you are given an overview of what you can accomplish with this course.

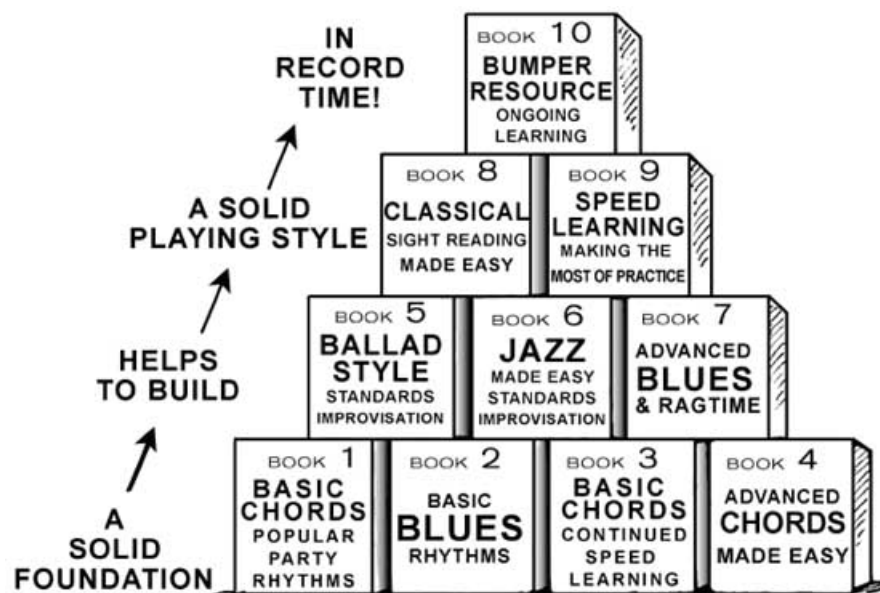
Here's an example taken from the book.

The Pianoforall Process

Traditional piano instruction generally begins with Sight Reading (being taught to memorize other peoples musical compositions using musical notation) Unfortunately, this is an extremely laborious process and many accomplished 'sight readers' have no idea about how to play by ear or how the music they can sight read is constructed in the first place.

To do this they have to learn about chords and harmony.

Pianoforall works the other way round. You build a solid foundation using chords, 'real' sounding rhythms and grooves and then you BUILD on top of that and learn to play by ear and sight read along the way.



Simple To Use

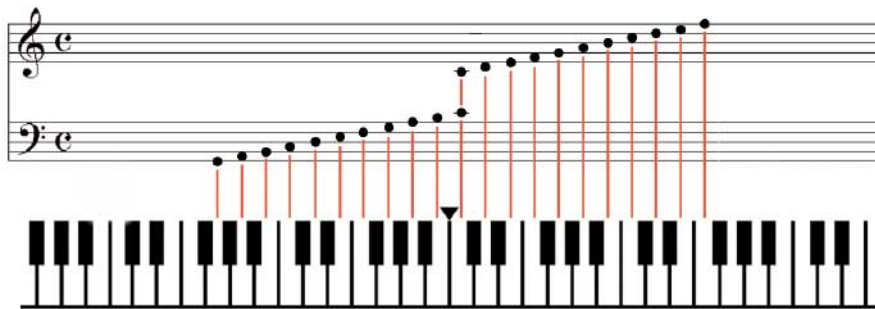
As you can see, the first book will start you off with simple chords and Robin Hall who is the teacher of this course will show you how to play these chords using video. All you have to do is click the icon that says Play Video and you are presented with

Robin showing you exactly where to place your hands and fingers on the keyboard, it's as simple as that.

As well as the included videos in this course, there are also audio files, again it's so simple, you just click on a loudspeaker icon and you will hear whatever chord or phrase Robin wants you to hear. As well as video and audio, there are hundreds of pictures and diagrams showing the keyboard, chord positions and of course music notes, again all very simple to follow.

PIANOFORALL Screenshots

keyboard and notes



piano chords



Course Contents

This course comes with 10 books 200 audio files and 500 videos. The audio and video are all embedded within the books so there nothing for you to set up. As mentioned above, when you want to watch a video or hear an audio file you simply click on the appropriate icon.

Download Or CD

After payment of this course, you can choose to download this course to your computer or have the complete course sent to you on CD. Both options are the same price and there is no added postage cost for the CD, which is a nice touch.

Customer Service

Robin Hall is very proud of the support he offers his students, so I will let him tell you himself in his own words what he offers:

"I take great pride that I answer all student enquiries within a few hours and I love to hear how students progress through the course."

Robin Hall

Guarantee

Like many of the top piano courses PIANOFORALL offer a 60-day money back guarantee, which means you have nothing to loose.

Cost

This course is very competitively priced at \$79.50 and in my opinion offers great value for money and considering there is no extra cost for postage if you choose the CD option you will be hard pushed to find a better deal.

Mikes Conclusion

I like the way Robin teaches his students to play. I use a similar way myself with my own students. The method is really very basic, all you do is watch, listen and copy. This has the effect of allowing you to play almost immediately and as a piano teacher myself; I can confirm that this method does work very effectively.

I have nothing negative to say about this piano course and I am not going to make something up for the sake of balance in this review. If you want a simple to use, easy to follow piano course then I can recommend the PIANOFORALL course with confidence.

Mikes Rating

5/5

[Visit PIANOFORALL Website](#)

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GENUINE REVIEWS BY A MUSICIAN AND TEACHER

Website: www.learnandmaster.com

Price: \$249.00

Skill: Beginners To Advanced

Customer Service: Yes

Money Back Guarantee: Yes

Before I start this review, I just want to mention a couple of things. First, this course is not a download and will be posted to you. Second, this course is aimed at people who have an 88-note piano. This can be electric or acoustic. If you have a smaller keyboard, you can still benefit from the lessons in this course but as Will Barrow, who is the teacher of this course, says on the very first DVD, you will need to graduate to an 88-note keyboard to get the best out of this course.

So let's get to the full review. I received my review copy of this course 5 days after I ordered it, which is not bad considering I live in the UK and the course, is sent from the US. The course comes well presented in a very professional looking binder and contains:

Fourteen DVDs

Five Play Along CDs

One Lesson Book

The DVDs

Each DVD contains two sessions and two workshops. Each session is broken down in to mini sessions or you could call them lessons. Each mini session is accessible on your DVD player using chapters, or you can go back to main menu and choose which mini session to play. Think of the complete session as a teacher giving you a piano lesson as a real teacher would, the only difference being, that with this course you can keep going back to parts of the lesson (mini sessions) you would like to see again.

Linked to each session is a workshop. Again, this is split up in to mini workshops. Think of the workshops as your practice time. This is where you will practice the concepts that Will Barrow showed you in the session. The workshops are an important part of the learning process and Will Barrow goes in to more detail, guiding you carefully through your practice.

At the end of the workshop there is a section called "Your Ready To Move On When". In this section, Will tells you what you need to accomplish before moving on to the next session. Everything in the sessions and the workshops are laid out in an easy to follow manner, easy accessible by chapters or DVD menu and split screen video showing you exactly what to do.



The CDs



This course also contains five audio CDs. This is the fun part for every player because you get to play with a band, it's not a big band, it consists of a drums, guitar, bass and keyboards, but I promise you this, you'll enjoy this bit. This is where you will appreciate your efforts and practice when you can hold your own with other musicians.

The Lesson Book



This book contains all the songs and exercises that appear on the DVDs. Using this book will help you to read music and understand what you are playing. The book is laid out in sessions to match the DVDs so everything clicks together nicely.

Ease of use

Providing you have a piano a DVD player and a TV, you should find this course very easy to follow. It is without doubt the closest thing to having a real teacher with you all the time.

Customer Service

You can contact Legacy Learning Systems direct via email with your question or you can join the Student Support Discussion Board, which is free. You can ask questions or just read what others are asking. You might find that other learners are asking the same questions as you and of course, everybody in this discussion board is in the same boat as you.

Guarantee

If you are not happy with course within 60 Days, you can return the course for a full refund. This kind of guarantee is pretty much standard now for upper end piano courses.

Cost

There's no doubt that at \$249.00 this is an expensive course. Is it worth it? In my opinion, it's worth every penny. Okay, if you have an electronic keyboard or a piano with less than 88 notes then I would recommend you go for a cheaper download course, but if you have an 88 note piano, which lets face it are not cheap, then why wouldn't you go for a quality course to match your quality piano.

Mikes Conclusion

This course absolutely oozes quality. It doesn't try to be everything to everybody; it's mainly aimed at the 88 note piano players. The teaching method is clear and concise; you don't need a computer, which will suit a lot of people. For people with electronic keyboards and smaller pianos, yes, you can use this course, but be warned, in the first session on the first DVD; Will Barrow will tell you this course is going to be taught using an 88 note piano keyboard. If you intend upgrading, then fine go for it.

Mikes Rating

5/5

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