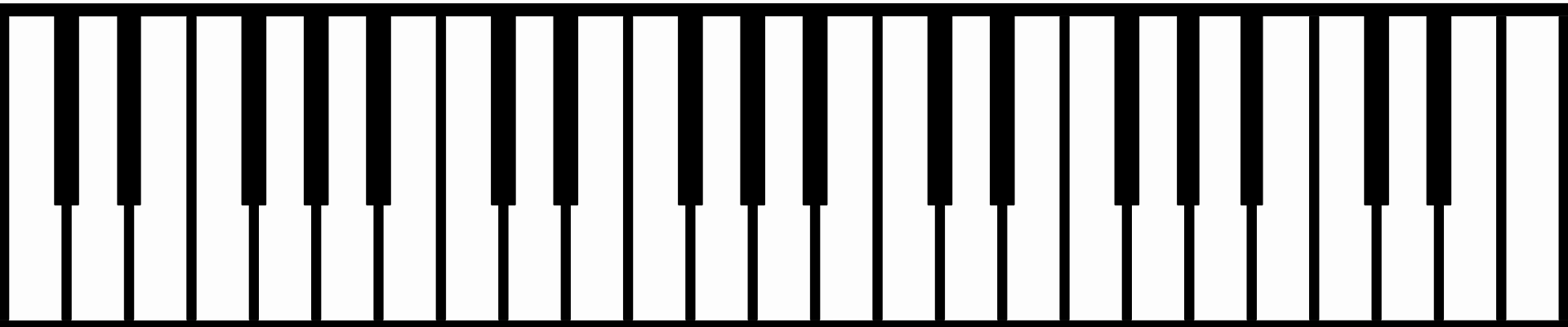
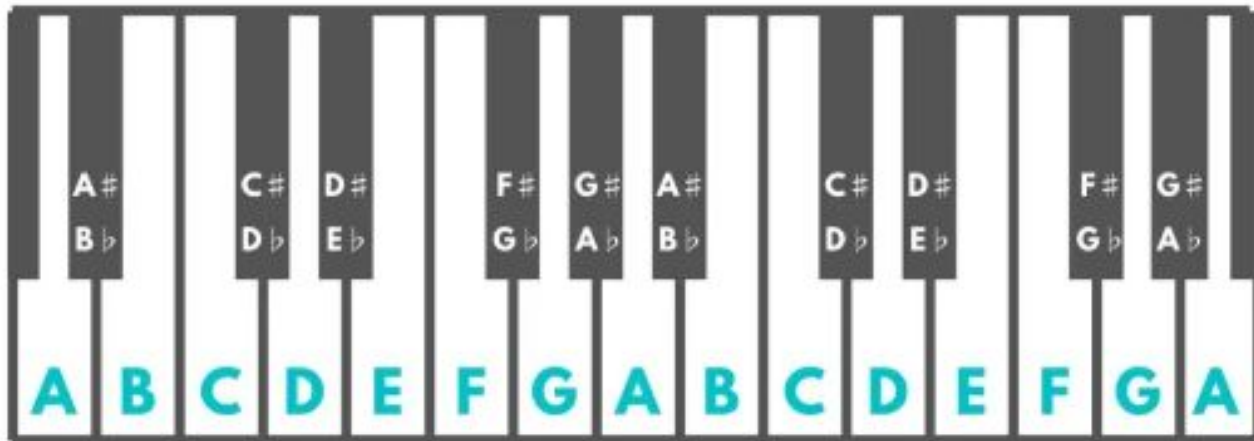


Introduction to Piano



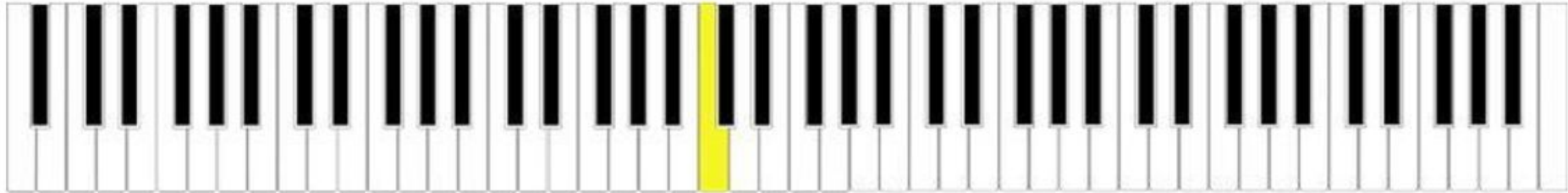
The Piano

The Piano has 88 keys that are either black or white. There are 7 different notes on the piano: C, D, E, F, G, A, and B. Each of these notes also has a flat or sharp version that can change the tone of the note.



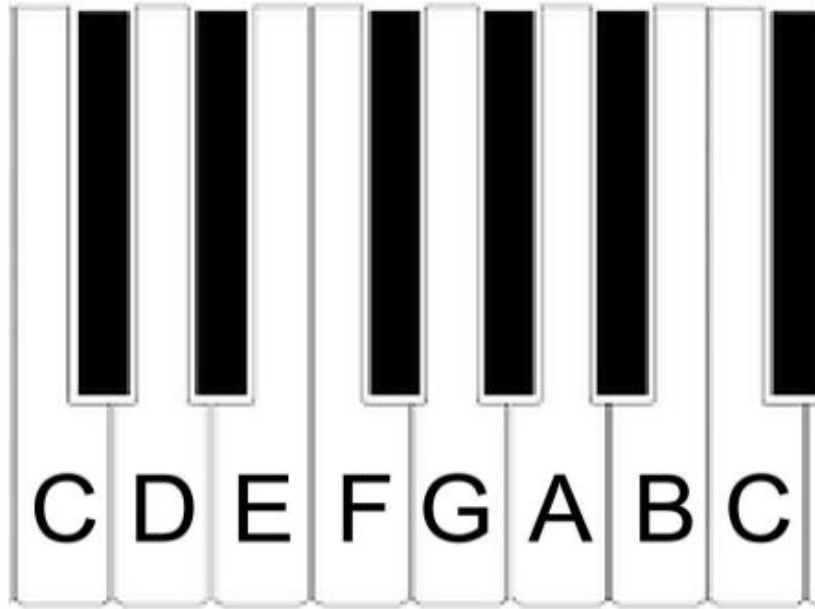
Middle C

The first note we will learn about is Middle C. In the picture, the highlighted note is Middle C, located at the center of the keyboard.



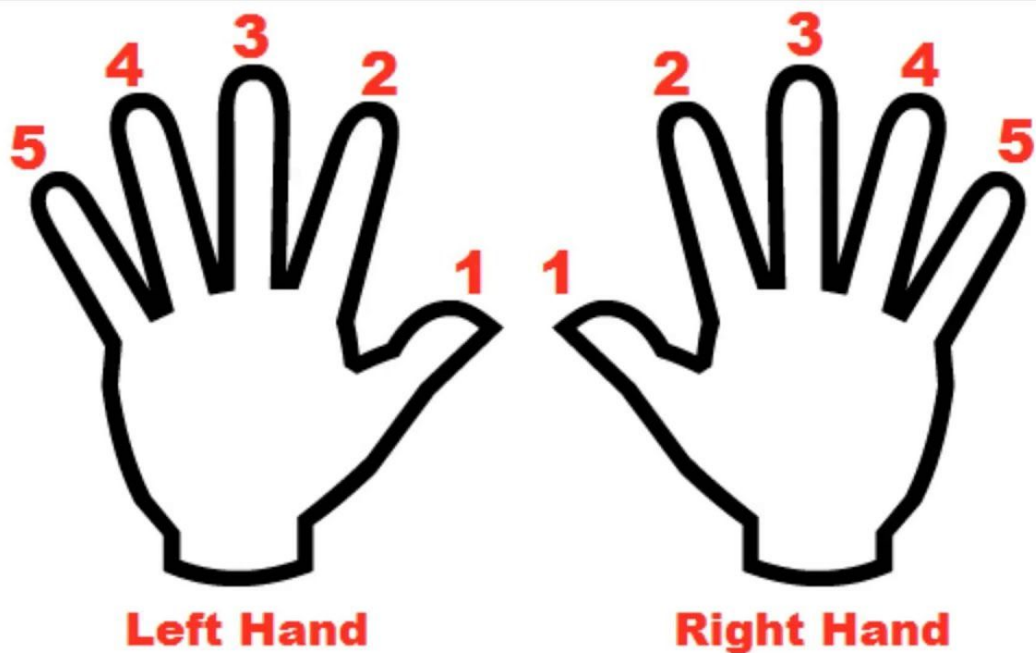
Middle C is located in the center of an 88-key keyboard

Notes on the keyboard



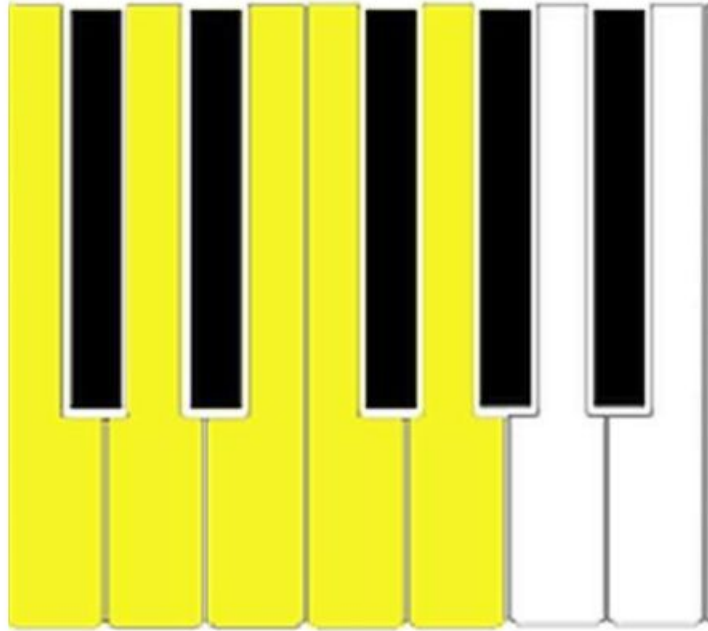
This exact set of notes repeats all over the keyboard

The piano keyboard is made up of a repeating set of notes. In the picture, we start at C and then go all the way until B. After B, we are at C again. The distance between one note to another (including black and white keys) is called a half-step. For example, from E to F is a half-step. Two half-steps is a whole step. C to D is a whole step.



To play the piano, we use all 10 of our fingers, 5 on the left hand and 5 on the right.

Playing exercise



Let's try an exercise. Place your right hand on the piano starting with your thumb on middle C. From there, place your 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th fingers on the following keys as shown.

Now, try playing these notes in order while keeping your fingers on the right keys.

Clefs



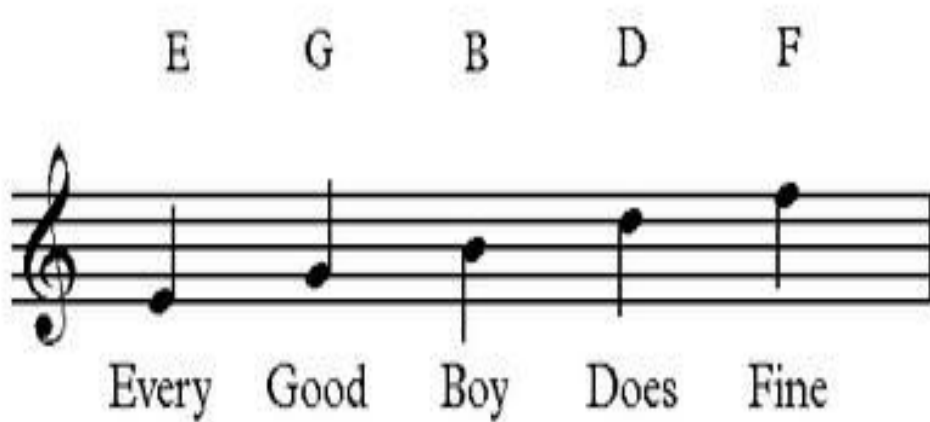
For piano playing, we will be dealing with two clefs: Treble Clef and Bass Clef.

Treble Clef is the one at the top of the picture and is used to play higher sounding notes with your right hand.

Bass Clef is the one at the bottom of the picture and is used to play lower sounding notes with your left hand.

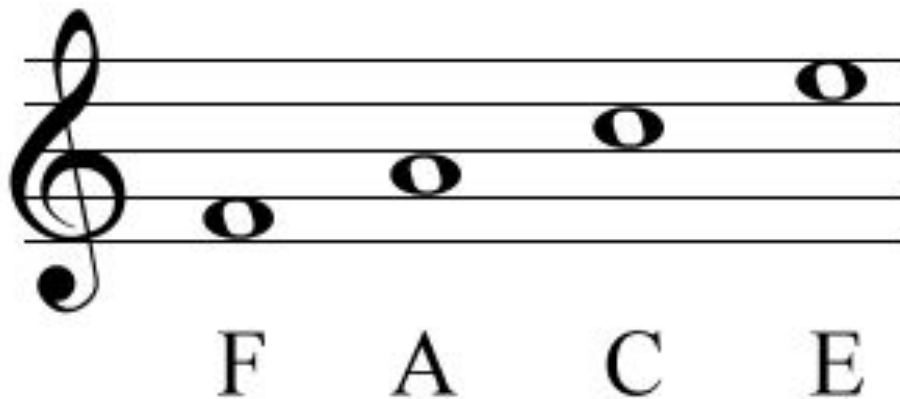
In piano music, you will see both clefs together in a grand staff.

Reading Treble Clef



To read the Treble Clef, we can use a few tricks to help us. As you can see in the picture, the notes on the lines of the Treble Clef can be remembered using the mnemonic “Every Good Boy Does Fine”. The note on the first line is E, the note on the second line is G, and so on.

Reading Treble Clef Cont'd



To remember the names of the notes in the spaces between the lines, we can remember “FACE”. The first space is F, the second space is A, the third space is C, and the fourth space is E.

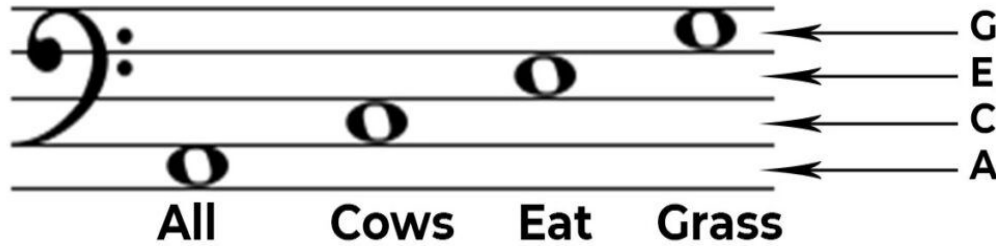
Reading Bass Clef



Good Boys Deserve Food Always




Reading Bass Clef is a little bit different. To remember the notes on the Bass Clef lines, we can use the mnemonic “Good Boys Deserve Food Always”. The note on the first line is G, the note on the second is B, and so on.

Reading Bass Clef Cont'd



To remember the names of the notes in the spaces between the lines of the Bass Clef, we can remember “All Cows Eat Grass”. The first space is A, the second space is C, and so on.

Basic Rhythms

Symbol	Name
	whole note
	half note
	quarter note
	eighth note
	sixteenth note

In piano playing, there are things called rhythms that tell you how long you play a note. There are 5 main types of notes that dictate rhythms: whole, half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth. You can see the symbols on the picture.

Rhythms



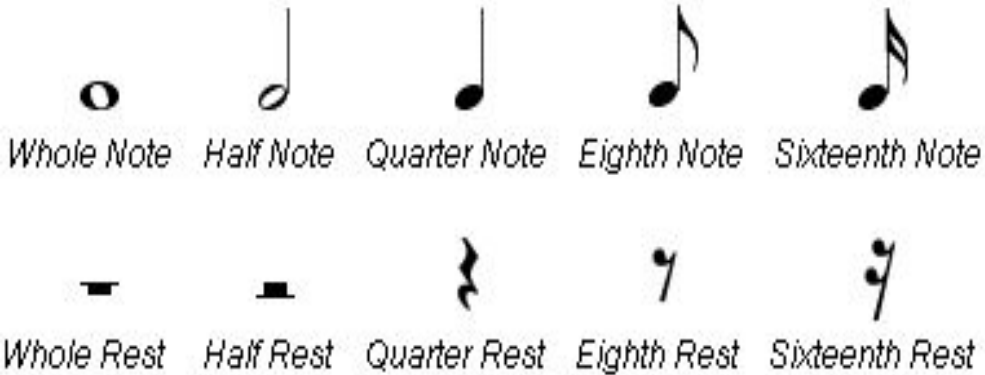
With all of these different types of notes, we can make some comparisons.

The whole note is the longest note, followed by the half, quarter, eighth, and finally the sixteenth.

From this chart, you can see that 2 half notes is equal to 1 whole note, 2 quarter notes is equal to one half note, etc.

This shows us that a whole note is twice as long as a half note, which is twice as long as a quarter note.

Rests



In piano, there are also things called rests. While notes are used to represent the sound we hear, rests are used to symbolize the sounds we don't hear. You can think of it as silence where there isn't a note.

Much like rhythms for notes, there are also rhythms for rests! From the picture, we can see how these rhythms compare for notes and rests.

C Major Scale

C Major Scale



Now, let's practice by playing a C Major scale.

A scale is a series of notes that helps us explore a key.

We will be exploring the C Major key using the C Major scale.

This scale starts on C, and goes all the way up until the next C using the white keys.