

# LESSON 2

## GETTING USED TO PLAYING BLACK NOTES

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You got started playing some black notes in Lesson 1. If you've been following the instructions in **Books 1, 2 and 3** exactly, those were the first black notes you've played. (But if you've been having some fun with the black notes already, that's no problem.)

There is quite a bit to learn about the black notes and the role they play in music. Before we get into all that, let's spend a little time just getting used to playing some black notes. They have a different shape than white notes, and that gives them a different feel.

# Practical

## Build Your Skill

### Exercise 1:

#### Play black notes with your right hand

1. Pick any black note.
2. Play it with a finger of your right hand:
  - a: Play in the centre**  
The black notes have a different feel than the white notes. They are narrower and they are raised, so there is a danger of your finger slipping off the note. The solution is to hit the black notes with your finger *exactly in the centre of the note*, not near the left or right edge.
  - b: Definite start**  
Each note should have a definite start with a firm, quick downward stroke.
  - c: Light pressure**  
Your finger pressure should be light while holding the note down. This doesn't apply when you play a very short note.
  - d: Definite end**  
The note should have a definite end, by lifting your finger quickly.
3. Pick another black note and play it with a finger of your right hand. Use a different finger each time, so you get used to using all 5 fingers of your right hand to play black notes.
4. Keep doing this until you can play black notes confidently and accurately with any of your right hand fingers, without your fingers slipping off the notes.

## **Exercise 2:**

### **Play black notes with your left hand**

1. Pick any black note.
2. Play it with a finger of your left hand:  
**a: Play in the centre**  
**b: Definite start**  
**c: Light pressure**  
**d: Definite end**
3. Pick another black note and play it with a finger of your left hand. Use a different finger each time, so you get used to using all 5 fingers of your left hand to play black notes.
4. Keep doing this until you can play black notes confidently and accurately with any of your left hand fingers, without your fingers slipping off the notes.

## **Chat with David**

### **Playing the published music you purchased**

Hopefully you purchased some published music and played tunes from it at the end of Book 3.

The music books you purchased will also have tunes in them that will do for Book 4. These tunes have black notes in them, and you're going to learn all about that.

You'll also find tunes with black notes in the 'Book 4' section of the Companion Tune Book.