



Lesson 14

The Learning Procedure for Two Hands

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LESSON 14:
**THE LEARNING PROCEDURE FOR TWO
HANDS**

MUSIC THEORY

BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

In the last dozen lessons we've covered a lot of ground:

- You've learned to use your metronome to fine-tune your sense of timing and develop your ability to play with accurate timing.
- You've learned to play legato and staccato.
- You've learned to use my Speed-Up-Slowly practice method to play accurately at speed.
- And you've learned to use my Learning Procedure to help you play longer pieces of music.

In order to achieve this fairly rapidly, all the exercises I gave you were for playing with your right hand or left hand individually. None of them were for two hands together.

Before going on to the next part of Book 3, let's catch up on your two-handed playing. Here are some exercises where you'll apply what you've learned while playing with two hands.

PRACTICAL

BUILD YOUR SKILL

Tune 1:

A jolly Christmas carol

You played this with one hand in the last lesson. Here it is now for two hands. Let's see how the tune changes as we add these harmonies.

We're going to apply the Learning Procedure, just as we did playing with one hand, combining these practice methods:

1. **Practise-in-Sections method**
2. **Know-Before-You-Go method**
3. **Speed-Up-Slowly method.**

I'll walk you through this step by step.

1 Step 1: Apply the Practise-in-Sections method

- a. Here is the entire piece of music:

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

- b. We have to choose a small section. Let's choose to make each small section two measures long, just as we did when learning this piece with one hand. For the first section, we'll also include the pickup measure:

2 Step 2: Apply the Know-Before-You-Go method to the small section

- a. In Book 2, you had a lesson 'Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands'. How have you been doing in applying that? If you think it would be helpful,

you can review that Book 2 lesson now. Or simply follow my instructions here.

- b. **Reminder:** By really applying the Know-Before-You-Go practice method, you will play this with no mistakes and end up playing the notes accurately and easily. That will prepare you perfectly for the next step where you will play with accurate timing.
- c. Here's what to do: Prepare each move with both hands together. When you are certain you will do it correctly, make the move with both hands at the same time.
- d. You don't need the metronome for this step. Ignore the timing and take as long as you need before making each move.
- e. Repeat this whole small section as many times as you need until you can play the notes accurately and easily, disregarding the timing.



3 Step 3: Apply the Speed-Up-Slowly method to the same small section

- a. Now you apply the 3 steps of Speed-Up-Slowly to the small section: start slowly, gradually speed up, and then find your top speed. Apply Speed-Up-Slowly now:



4 Choose the next small section

- a. We decided to make each section 2 measures long, so we'll choose the next 2 measures:



- b. Apply Know-Before-You-Go and then Speed-Up-Slowly. Do that now.

(See Lesson 13)

5 Combine sections 1 and 2

- a. Apply Know-Before-You-Go to the combined sections.

Tip: If you find it useful, you can start by applying Know-Before-You-Go to the 'join': the last few notes of the old section and the first few notes of the new section. That helps you play the join smoothly before you apply Speed-Up-Slowly to the combined sections.

- b. Apply Speed-Up-Slowly to the same combined sections. (see Lesson 13)

6 Choose the next small section

- a. There are only 3 measures left, so let's make that the final small section:



- b. Apply Know-Before-You-Go and then Speed-Up-Slowly. Do that now.
(See Lesson 13)

7 Combine the whole tune

- a. Apply Know-Before-You-Go and then Speed-Up-Slowly to the whole tune. Do that now.

The image shows a musical score for a two-hand exercise in 3/4 time. The right hand (treble clef) plays a melody with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The left hand (bass clef) plays a bass line with notes G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes.

Well done! You just applied the Learning Procedure to play that tune accurately and at speed with two hands.

Tip: Let's say you end off practising for the day, playing a tune at a top speed of 100. The next day you sit down to play the same tune, expecting to play it at a speed of 100. Surprise! You make lots of mistakes. Well, don't be discouraged. That is perfectly normal. Just turn your metronome lower and apply Speed-Up-Slowly again. You'll soon get your speed back up and all will be fine.

Note your top speed

Make a note of your top speed for this complete tune, and today's date. A bit later, I'll ask you to try playing it again to see if your top speed has changed. ^add that later

Tune 2:

Sailors' song

Apply the Learning Procedure. (See Lesson 13) That will help you play it pretty fast so you can give the tune the jaunty character it deserves. Here are the steps:

Step 1: The Practise-in-Sections practice method

Step 2: The Know-Before-You-Go practice method

Step 3: The Speed-Up-Slowly practice method

The three steps of the Learning Procedure.

Notice the staccato notes in your right hand. This is a nice challenge for you, playing staccato with your right hand while your left hand plays legato. A bit like patting your head with one hand while your other hand makes circular motions on your tummy! I hope you like the effect – I'm rather proud of those staccato notes.

Important: I want you to focus on your application of Know-Before-You-Go, as part of the Learning Procedure. When you are really applying that, you should make *no mistakes at all*. The key is to really wait until you are certain you'll play the next move correctly, before making the move.

What Shall We Do with the Drunken Sailor?

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The time signature is 4/4. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes.

System 1: Treble clef has quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5 with fingerings 4, 1, 3, 5, 4. Bass clef has whole notes G2, C3, G2, C3, G2 with fingerings 5, 1, 5.

System 2: Treble clef has quarter notes D5, E5, F5, G5 with fingerings 2, 1, 2. Bass clef has whole notes G2, C3, G2, C3, G2 with fingerings 5.

System 3: Treble clef has quarter notes A4, B4, C5, B4 with fingerings 4, 2, 3. Bass clef has whole notes G2, C3, G2, C3, G2.

SHEPHERD'S SONG BY BEETHOVEN

The first system of musical notation for 'Shepherd's Song' by Beethoven. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is 3/4. The treble staff contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes, ending with a half note. The bass staff contains a simple accompaniment of eighth notes, with some notes beamed together.

The second system of musical notation for 'Shepherd's Song' by Beethoven. It continues the melody from the first system. The treble staff has a half note followed by a quarter note, then a half note. The bass staff continues with eighth notes, including some beamed eighth notes and a quarter note.

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL - INTRODUCTION

The musical notation for the introduction of 'America the Beautiful'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is 4/4. The treble staff features a melody of eighth and quarter notes, with some notes beamed together. The bass staff features a simple accompaniment of eighth notes, with some notes beamed together.



AMERICA - MY COUNTRY 'TIS OF THEE' - INTRO



Chat with David

Well done!

That completes Part 1 of *Book 3*.

You have taken your playing up to a whole new level of precision and speed.

And you've acquired a new tool, my Learning Procedure. You can continue using this tool long after you've finished studying this course and gone on to explore the music you want to play.

So, very well done! I realise this took a bit of work, and I hope you feel a rosy glow of accomplishment. ■