

LESSON 7

READ AND PLAY BLACK NOTES

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Tunes:

Read and play your first tune with sharps

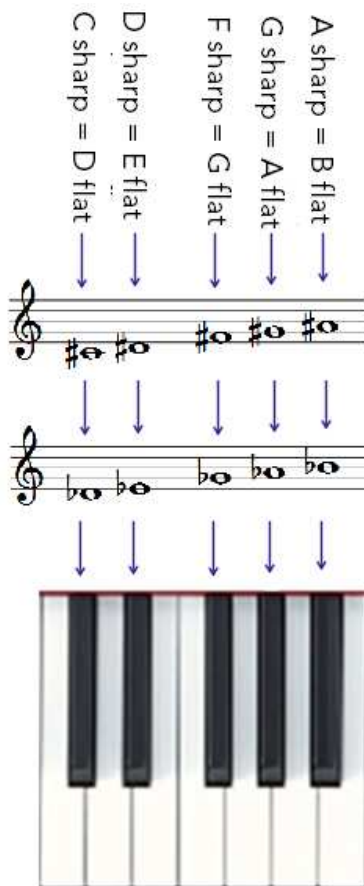
Read and play your first tune with flats

Chat with David - The size of the staff

‘Note matching diagram’, black notes in treble clef

Here is a note matching diagram that shows how the printed sharp and flat notes match up with the black notes on your keyboard.

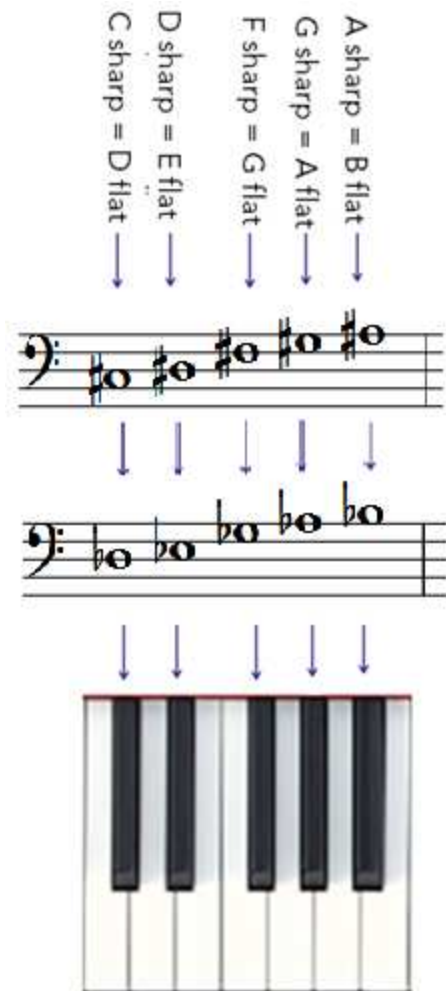
I’ve shown just the notes between middle C and upper C. You’ll have no trouble working out higher and lower notes for yourself.



‘Note matching diagram’, black notes in bass clef

Here is the corresponding note matching diagram for the bass clef.

I’ve shown just the notes between lower C and middle C. You can work out higher and lower notes for yourself.



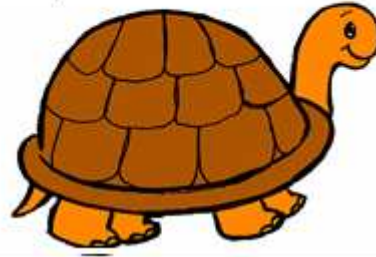
How to make fast progress

You're going to be doing some exercises in a moment.

Here's our old friend Mr. Tortoise to give us his advice again. It's worth following his advice since you are doing something new: reading and playing black notes.

Here's what he has to say:

**Slow and steady
wins the race**



You will make much faster progress if you play slowly without mistakes. If you rush and keep making lots of mistakes, you will take much much longer to get anywhere.

If you can follow the tortoise's advice, you will find your studies more satisfying and fun, and that is what I want for you.

So:

**Any time you make a mistake,
SLOW DOWN**

Maybe you already feel you are playing slowly, but slow down *even more* if you make a mistake. You will get there much faster in the end.

I know you want to play your keyboard fast, just like the professionals do, but they started slowly as well. And they won the race, didn't they?

Practical

Build Your Skill

Exercise 1:

Read and play sharps in treble clef

1. Point and call out names: Starting from the left, point to each note and call out its name. Do not play anything for now: just point and call out the names.

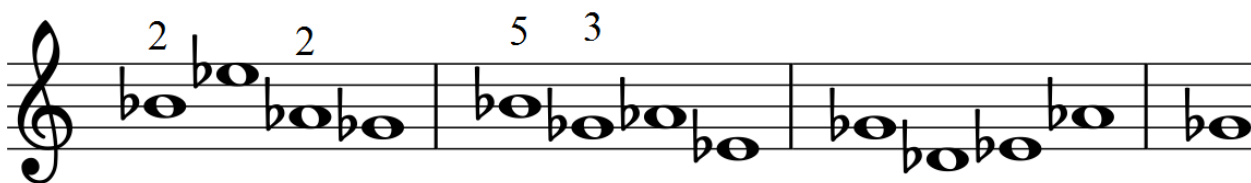


2. Repeat: Repeat as needed until you can call out the names easily.
3. Play: Now play the above notes on your keyboard. Start slowly! Apply Know Before You Go, so you play it without mistakes the first time through. I've added bar-lines to help you keep track of where you are. The bar-lines are just a visual guide; they don't mean you should pause.
4. Repeat: Repeat as needed until you can play the notes pretty easily and smoothly.

Exercise 2:

Read and play flats in treble clef

1. Point and call out names: Starting from the left, point to each note and call out its name. Do not play anything for now: just point and call out the names.



2. Repeat as needed until you can call out the names easily.
3. Play: Play the above notes on your keyboard. Start slowly! Remember the tortoise.
4. Repeat: Repeat as needed until you can play the notes pretty easily and smoothly.

Exercise 3:

Read and play white notes, sharps and flats in treble clef

1. Point and call out names: Starting from the left, point to each note and call out its name. Do not play anything for now: just point and call out the names.



2. Repeat as needed until you can call out the names easily.
3. Play: Play the above notes on your keyboard. Start slowly!
4. Repeat: Repeat as needed until you can play the notes pretty easily and smoothly.

Exercise 4:**Read and play sharps in bass clef**

1. Point and call out names: Starting from the left, point to each note and call out its name. Do not play anything for now: just point and call out the names.



2. Repeat as needed until you can call out the names easily.
3. Play: Play the above notes on your keyboard. Start slowly!
4. Repeat: Repeat as needed until you can play the notes pretty easily and smoothly.

Exercise 5:**Read and play flats in bass clef**

1. Point and call out names: Starting from the left, point to each note and call out its name. Do not play anything for now: just point and call out the names.



2. Repeat as needed until you can call out the names easily.
3. Play: Play the above notes on your keyboard. Start slowly!
4. Repeat: Repeat as needed until you can play the notes pretty easily and smoothly.

Exercise 6:

Read and play white notes, sharps and flats in bass clef

1. Point and call out names: Starting from the left, point to each note and call out its name. Do not play anything for now: just point and call out the names.



2. Repeat as needed until you can call out the names easily.
3. Play: Play the above notes on your keyboard. Start slowly!
4. Repeat: Repeat as needed until you can play the notes pretty easily and smoothly.

Tunes for Lesson 7:

Read and play your first tune with sharps

Start very slowly! Work at playing the black notes with certainty, pressing down in the centre of the note so there is no danger of your finger slipping off one side of the note.p

This is in the bass clef, so play it with your left hand.

Danny Boy

5 5 4 1 3 1

In the 3rd measure above, I've suggested you play the F sharp with your thumb. Since your thumb is shorter than your other fingers, you'll need to move your hand forward a little to reach the black note. For that reason, some pianists try to avoid playing black notes with their thumb.

Here's an alternative fingering that avoids playing that black note with your thumb. Do whatever works best for you.

Danny Boy

5 5 4 2 1 1

