

Lesson 8

Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands

Copyright © 2018 David Dempster. All rights reserved.

Version 1.0, 1 Mar 2018

Dear Reader

In today's world, where so much is changing and information is so freely available, I just want to outline your rights and mine with regard to this booklet, which is part of my home study course 'Read & Play Music'.

This is a legally binding agreement between you and myself (David Dempster). Please read it carefully.

This is a multimedia home study course which contains lessons, audios, videos, and documents – all in digital format. Unlike printed books and music where you own the physical book, the standard for digital works is to purchase a licence to use the media.

Your group has purchased a Group User Licence. This means the course materials will be used only by members of your group, such as a choir, a school music class or a community study group. This licence is intended for a group of up to 20 members. If you have a larger group, your group should purchase multiple licences.

Reminder of terms of Group User Licence	
	
Your group members <u>may</u> :	Your group members <u>may not</u> :
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• STUDY the course materials online.• DOWNLOAD the course materials and read them on their personal computers or other devices.• PRINT the course materials from downloaded files, up to one copy per group member, for their personal use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resell, lend or give away your course login, any downloaded course files, or any printed course materials.• Print additional copies of the course materials.

Thank you for respecting my intellectual property rights.


David Dempster

Course	Read & Play Music
Book 2	Read and Play Simple Tunes with Two Hands
Lesson 8	Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands

CONTENTS

LESSON 8: Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands 1

Music Theory 2

- The problem..... 2
- My solution 3
- Applying this to playing with two hands..... 5
- Making moves..... 6
- Some moves are trickier than others 7
- The steps of Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands..... 8
- Disregard timing 9
- Example of applying Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands 9
- Chat with David: The easy way to learn new music 17

Practical..... 18

- Exercise 1: Read and play with two hands 19
- Exercise 2: Right hand moves while left hand does not 20
- Exercise 3: Left hand moves while right hand does not 22
- Exercise 4: Both hands move together 23
- Chat with David: How to do these exercises..... 23
- Exercise 5: Different pitches in right hand..... 24
- Exercise 6: Different pitches in right hand, left hand same pitch 25
- Exercise 7: Different pitches in left hand..... 26
- Exercise 8: Different pitches in left hand, right hand same pitch 27
- Exercise 9: Different pitches in both hands 28
- Exercise 10: Fast notes in right hand 29
- Exercise 11: Fast notes in right hand, left hand moves 30
- Exercise 12: Fast notes in right hand, left hand changes pitch 31
- Exercise 13: Fast notes in left hand, right hand changes pitch 32
- Exercise 14: Right hand moves around more 33
- Chat with David: Do you feel like you're on a runaway train? 34
- Exercise 15: Both hands move around more 35
- Exercise 16: Hands move at different times 36

Exercise 17: Another example, hands moving at different times	42
Exercise 18: Both hands move around with quarter notes	43
Tune 1: A well-known Christian hymn.....	44
Tune 2: A delightful children's song	46
Tune 3: A well-known tune by Beethoven.....	47
Tune 4: Another song by Stephen Foster	48
Tune 5: Best-known Scottish song	49
Tune 6: A Christmas Carol	51
Chat with David: How did that go?.....	52



LESSON 8:

KNOW-BEFORE-YOU-GO FOR TWO HANDS

Back in **Book 1**, to help you as things got more challenging, I gave you my Know-Before-You-Go practice method.

Now we're going to see how that method can be expanded to help with the even greater challenge of reading and playing with two hands.

MUSIC THEORY

BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

The problem

Many people try to learn to play the piano and fail.

There are a few main reasons why they give up.

One of the reasons is that they cannot work out how to play music on the piano without making mistakes. They play a piece of music over and over trying to get it right, but make the same mistakes each time. A year later, they are still making the same mistakes when they try to play that piece of music.

They get discouraged and give up.

This happens especially with the piano because of the difficulty of playing with two hands. In most life activities that involve manual skill, you focus on one thing at a time. When you send a text message on your cellphone, you punch one letter at a time. When you tie your shoelaces, you tie one lace at a time. You don't normally stir your coffee and spread marmalade on your toast at the same time: you do one first and then the other.

But when you play the piano with two hands, your hands sometimes have to do completely different things at the same time. One hand may be playing a series of half notes while the other is playing dotted half notes and quarter notes. One

hand may be playing a series of rising pitches (A-B-C) while the other hand is playing falling pitches (G-F-E).

We need a way of meeting this challenge so we can learn to play music without mistakes. And we need to achieve that as efficiently as possible.

My solution

The solution I devised for my own use and then taught to many students, is my Know-Before-You-Go practice method, which I showed you in **Book 1**. As you'll recall, you take as much time as you need to be certain of each note before you play it.

Watch this video again now. It shows how the practice method applies when playing with one hand. Then I'll show you how to expand it to playing with two hands.



Click the blue box above,
or find the video on your Book 2 Course Materials page at
www.dempstermusic.com

Summary of video

Many students make mistakes over and over while they are practising or playing music. This can lead to very slow progress and poor results, and *it is one of the reasons people give up playing music.*

That is not how a professional approaches playing music. A professional is aware of a very important principle:

You get good at what you practise.

If you play over and over (and over), making mistakes each time, you are practising making mistakes. And you get very good at making mistakes!

While a professional is practising, he focuses on playing *accurately*. The result is that he plays music with great confidence. You can see this when you watch a professional perform. He doesn't fumble around making mistakes.

You will get much better results – faster progress and better skill – if you do what the professionals do: practise with accuracy, not mistakes.

And here's how to do that:

Only make each move when you're confident you'll do it right.

Know what you're going to do, *before you go* and do it.

Know-Before-You-Go.

And that's what I call this: the '**Know-Before-You-Go**' practice method.

**Know Before
You Go**

Applying this to playing with two hands

I showed this to you in **Book 1** when you were playing with one hand. I hope you've been using it since then and have developed the habit of practising without mistakes.

Now I'm going to show you how to apply Know-Before-You-Go when playing with two hands.

The first time you do this, it will be very slow. I mean, very very very slow.

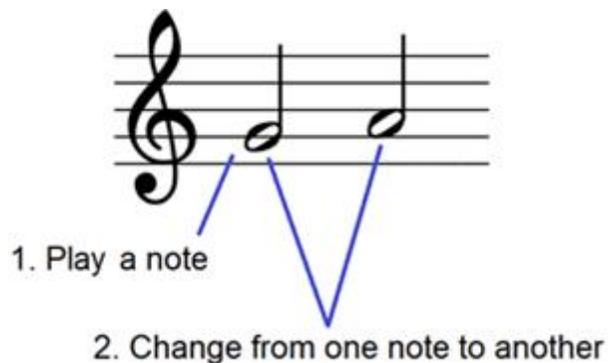
But don't be deceived. **By making this slow beginning, you will end up making much faster progress.**

Making moves

When you listen to music, you hear a series of notes. And when you play music, you are playing a series of notes.

But it's also useful to look at what you're doing as a series of *moves*.

There are two kinds of move:

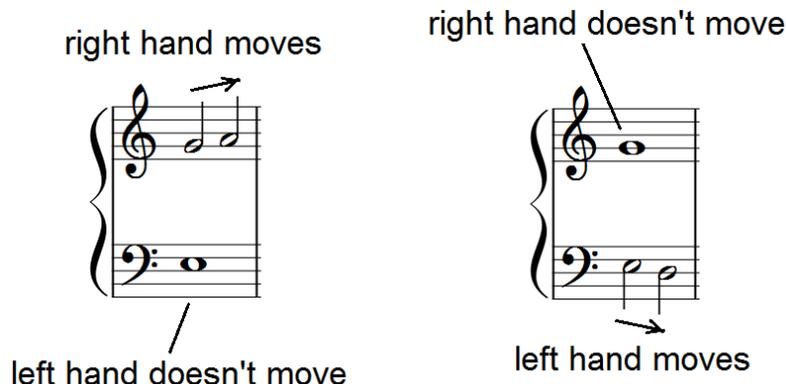


The two kinds of move.

1. **Play:** At the start of a tune, you **play** the first note by pushing down a key.
2. **Change:** In the middle of the tune, you **change** from one note to another.

Some moves are trickier than others

Sometimes you move one hand while the other hand stays where it is. That's the easier situation, because you only have to take care of one hand at a time:



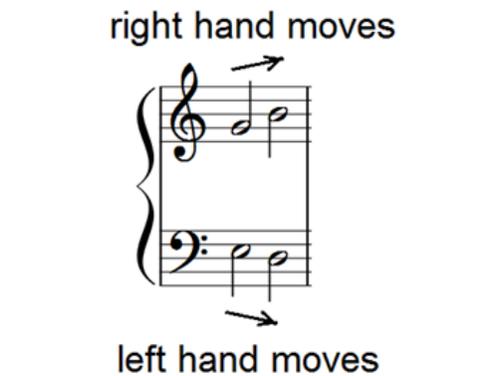
The first diagram shows a piano keyboard with the right hand moving (indicated by an arrow) and the left hand staying still (indicated by a slash). The second diagram shows the right hand staying still (indicated by a slash) and the left hand moving (indicated by an arrow).

right hand moves
left hand doesn't move

right hand doesn't move
left hand moves

One hand moving while the other hand doesn't move.

The trickier situation is when you have to move *both hands at the same time*:



The diagram shows a piano keyboard with arrows indicating that both the right and left hands are moving simultaneously.

right hand moves
left hand moves

Both hands moving at the same time.

That's perhaps the main challenge in playing piano music with two hands: making your hands do different things at the same time.

We're going to handle that challenge by breaking each move down into steps and doing one step at a time.

The steps of Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands

I'm going to give you 4 steps to apply for each move you make while reading and playing piano music for two hands.

As I mentioned, this will be very slow to start with. But as you do more and more of it, it will become faster until it becomes second nature.

These 4 steps are like trainer wheels on a child's bicycle: something to help you as you get started learning a new skill.

Here are the 4 steps you do for every move:

- 1. See which hand(s) move**
 - a. The next move may involve moving both hands, or just one hand (left or right)
- 2. Prepare left hand (if it has to move)**
 - a. Place a left finger on the key, but don't play it yet.
- 3. Prepare right hand (if it has to move)**
 - a. Place a right finger on the key, but don't play it yet.
- 4. Play**
 - a. When you're certain you'll do it correctly:
 - i. Release the old note(s) where applicable
 - ii. At the same time, play the new note(s)
 - iii. Hold them down.

I'll walk you through an example in just a moment, and this will all become clear.

Disregard timing

In applying the 4 steps above, pay no attention at all to timing. Your aim is to make the sequence of moves correctly, with no mistakes. Take as much time as you need before making each move, to be certain of doing it correctly.

Let's look at an example.

Example of applying Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands

Let's say you are going to read and play the snippet of music below. I'm going to walk you through it step by step, applying Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands. Do each step as you read it.

Our purpose here is to learn to apply the procedure (Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands), not to learn the notes.

I've intentionally made this music a little tricky, to give you some challenge.

I realise these instructions are rather detailed and wordy. Just follow along and try to do each step exactly as described. Your aim at this point is to apply this procedure precisely, regardless of how slowly you do it. Then as you do the exercises that follow, you'll find you gradually speed up. And you'll have an important new skill!

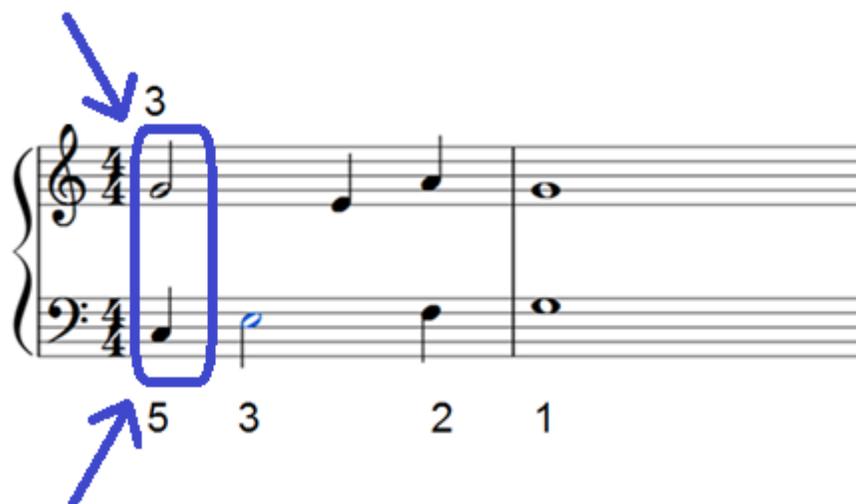
Move no. 1

1. **See which hand(s) move.** Look at the music below. (Don't play it yet.)
Does the first move involve moving your right hand, left hand or both hands?

3

5 3 2 1

The first move is a 'start'. It involves moving both hands. Your left hand will play lower C, while at the same time your right hand will play G. (Don't play them yet. All you're doing in this step is noticing which hand(s) have to move.)



Move no. 1: both hands move at the same time.

2. **Prepare left hand (if it has to move).** The fingering '5' is shown, so you'll use your little finger. Place your left little finger on lower C (do that now), but *don't play it yet*.
3. **Prepare right hand (if it has to move).** The fingering '3' is shown, so you'll use your middle finger. Place your right middle finger on G (do that now), but *don't play it yet*.
4. **Play.** When you're certain you'll do it correctly, play both notes at the same time (lower C, and G) and hold them down. Don't rush. Take all the time you need to be certain you'll get it right, before you play the 2 notes.

Done that? Good! You made the first move correctly. You applied Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.

Let's go on to the next move.

Move no. 2

1. **See which hand(s) move.** Look at the music below. (Don't play it yet.)
Does the second move involve moving your right hand, left hand or both hands?

It involves moving only your left hand. Your left hand changes from lower C to lower E, but your right hand just keeps holding down the G.

Move no. 2: Play lower E with your left hand, while holding down G with your right hand.

2. **Prepare left hand (if it has to move).** The fingering ‘3’ is shown, so place your left middle finger on lower E, but *don’t play it yet*. Keep holding down the lower C with your left little finger. Do that now.
3. **Prepare right hand (if it has to move).** It doesn’t have to move. It just keeps holding down the G.
4. **Play.** When you’re certain you’ll do it correctly, make the move with your left hand: release the lower C, and play the lower E and hold it down. Don’t rush. Take all the time you need.

Move no. 3

1. See **which hand(s) move**. Only your right hand moves, from G to E.

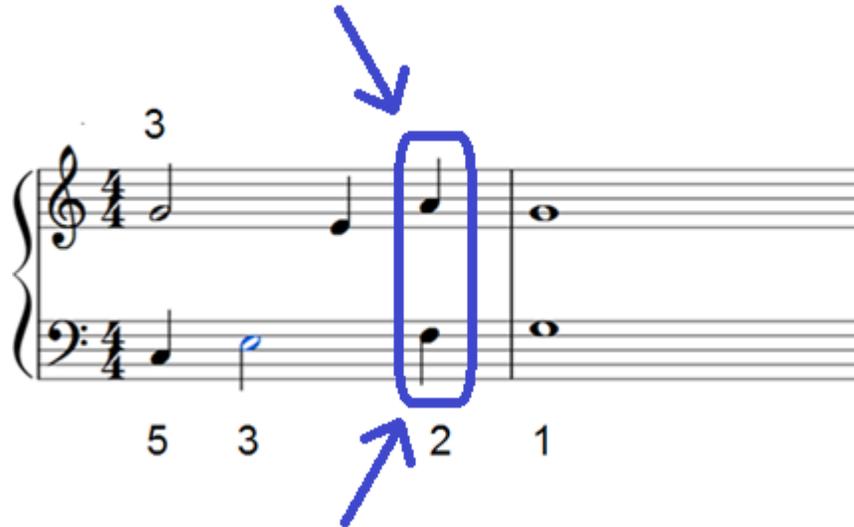
Musical notation for Move no. 3. The piece is in 4/4 time. The right hand starts with a quarter note G (finger 3) on the first beat, followed by a quarter note E (finger 2) on the second beat. The left hand starts with a quarter note E (finger 5) on the first beat, followed by a quarter note E (finger 3) on the second beat. A blue arrow points to the right-hand E note, and a blue box highlights it. Another blue box highlights the left-hand E note on the second beat. Below the staff, the fingerings are listed: 5 3 2 1.

Move no. 3: Play E with your right hand, while holding down lower E with your left hand.

2. **Prepare left hand (if it has to move)**. It doesn't move. It keeps holding down the lower E.
3. **Prepare right hand (if it has to move)**. Place your right thumb on the E, but don't play it yet.
4. **Play**. When you're certain you'll do it correctly, make the move with your right hand: release the G, and play the E and hold it down.

Move no. 4

1. See which hand(s) move. Both hands move.

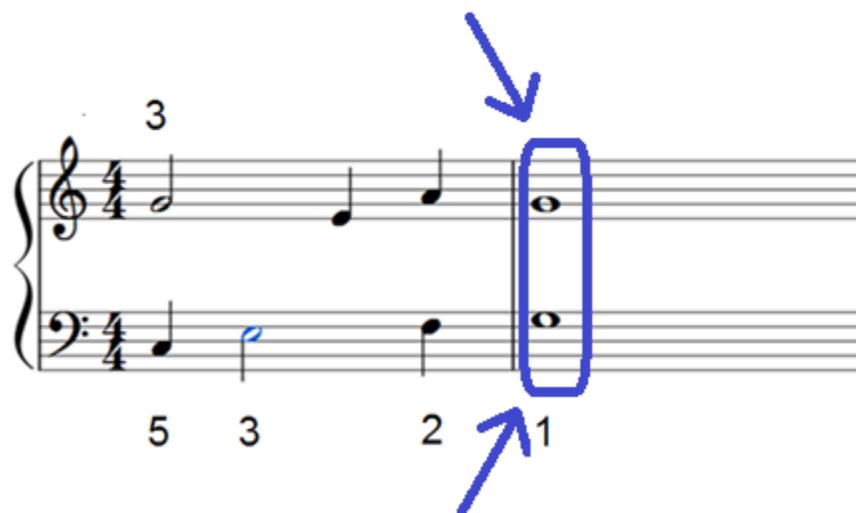


Move no. 4: Both hands move.

2. **Prepare left hand (if it has to move).** Place your left index (pointer) finger on lower F.
3. **Prepare right hand (if it has to move).** Place your right ring finger on A.
4. **Play.** When you're certain you'll do it correctly, make the move with both hands: release the previous notes, and play the new notes and hold them down. Don't rush. Take all the time you need.

Move no. 5

1. See which hand(s) move. Both hands move.



Move no. 5: Both hands move.

2. **Prepare left hand (if it has to move).** Place your left thumb on lower G.
3. **Prepare right hand (if it has to move).** Place your right middle finger on G.
4. **Play.** When you're certain you'll do it correctly, make the move with both hands: release the previous notes, and play the new notes and hold them down.

Did you play that music with no mistakes on the very first time through? If you did, you applied the technique Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.

Please realise what an achievement it is to read and play music for two hands, and to get it right on the first time through. This is called ‘sight reading’. You are now a sight reader.

If you made any mistakes, read over the instructions again to make sure you’re clear what you are to do, and try it again. Don’t rush. Take as long as you need to prepare each move, so you will be certain you’ll make the move correctly. When both hands move together, make sure you do one step at a time: place the left finger on its note, then place the right finger on its note, and then play them both at the same time.

Now play it through again and do exactly the same. No mistakes at all please!

Once you’ve played it correctly a time or two, it’s tempting to try to play it fast, and then you make mistakes. Work at your precision in applying Know-Before-You-Go. Your speed will increase naturally, little by little, without pushing it.

Chat with David:

The easy way to learn new music



It is well worth acquiring the habit of learning new music this way.

Many people who try to learn the piano find it too difficult and give up, and we don’t want that for you.

This procedure, Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands, can make the difference between hours of frustration, and smooth progress in building your skills. ■

PRACTICAL

BUILD YOUR SKILL

The purpose of these exercises is *not* to learn to play these little snippets of music.

Our purpose is for you to become familiar with applying the technique you just learned, Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.

I've given you a lot of exercises here, but they are all very short. In doing them, you will increase your amazing new skill of reading and playing piano music with both hands.

Disregard the timing in all of these exercises. Just focus on playing the notes correctly by applying Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.

At the end of this lesson are some snippets of tunes for both hands that are quite a bit more complicated than any you've played so far. If you do all the exercises, really applying Know-Before-You-Go, you'll read and play the tunes without any trouble.

Exercise 1:

Read and play with two hands

Let's start very simply and work up from there.

1 Play

1. **Play** the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands. Here are the steps to do for each move:

1. See which hand(s) move
2. Prepare left hand (if it has to move)
3. Prepare right hand (if it has to move)
4. Play



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Exercise 2:

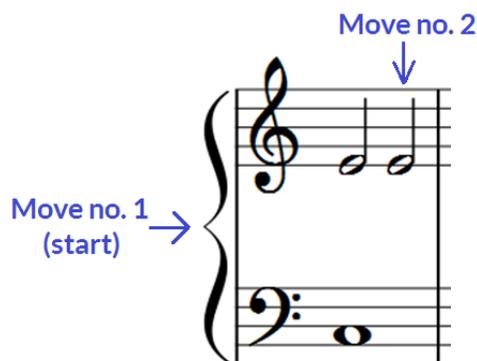
Right hand moves while left hand does not

This one is slightly more complicated.

1 Play

1. **Play** the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands to each move.

I'm going to explain exactly how you apply the 4 steps of Know-Before-You-Go to the 2 moves. (I realize this looks rather laborious and complicated, but please try doing it step by step. I think you'll find it useful.)

**Move no. 1 (start):**

1. See which hand(s) move
 - a. Both hands move.
2. Prepare left hand (if it has to move)
 - a. Place your left little finger on lower C, but don't play it yet.
3. Prepare right hand (if it has to move)
 - a. Place your right middle finger on E, but don't play it yet.
4. Play
 - a. Push down both keys at the same time, and hold them down.

Move no. 2:

1. See which hand(s) move
 - a. Only your right hand moves.
2. Prepare left hand (if it has to move)
 - a. (Ignore this step)
3. Prepare right hand (if it has to move)
 - a. Place your right middle finger on E, but don't play it yet. (You'll have to release the E first and then place your finger back on E.)
4. Play
 - a. Push down the E with your right hand. Make sure you keep holding down the lower C with your left hand.

Reminder: Disregard the timing. Take as much time as you need before making each move, to be certain of doing it correctly.

Repeat as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Exercise 3:

Left hand moves while right hand does not

1 Play

1. **Play** the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Exercise 4: Both hands move together

1 Play

1. **Play** the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Chat with David: How to do these exercises



You're used to me telling you to repeat exercises 'until you can do it accurately and easily'!

These exercises are different. Our purpose is to practise applying Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands, not to learn to play these little pieces of music. Just play each exercise once correctly (no mistakes!) and go on to the next one.

When you've finished all the exercises, you can cycle back around and do them again if you want more practice in applying Know-Before-You-Go.

Make sure you apply all 4 steps to each move.

Work at playing each exercise correctly, no mistakes, on the first time through. By doing this, you are developing your skill in reading and playing music with two hands. ■

Exercise 5: Different pitches in right hand

1 Play

1. **Play** the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Exercise 6:

Different pitches in right hand, left hand same pitch

1 Play

1. **Play** the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Exercise 7:

Different pitches in left hand

1 Play

1. **Play** the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Exercise 8:

Different pitches in left hand, right hand same pitch

1 Play

1. **Play** the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Exercise 9:

Different pitches in both hands

This one is trickier, because both hands move at the same time, and they both move on to different notes.

1 Play

1. **Play** the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands. Make sure that on each move you really apply the 4 steps of Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands. Here are the steps again:

1. **See which hand(s) move**
2. **Prepare left hand (if it has to move)**
3. **Prepare right hand (if it has to move)**
4. **Play**

Don't rush. Disregard the timing, and take as long as you need before making the move so you're certain you'll do it correctly. Here you go:



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Exercise 10: Fast notes in right hand

1 Play

1. **Play** the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Exercise 11:

Fast notes in right hand, left hand moves

1 Play

1. **Play** the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Exercise 12:

Fast notes in right hand, left hand changes pitch

1 Play

1. **Play** the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Exercise 13:

Fast notes in left hand, right hand changes pitch

1 Play

1. **Play** the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Exercise 14:

Right hand moves around more

1 Play

1. **Play** the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Chat with David:

Do you feel like you're on a runaway train?



Get the idea of a train tearing along the track, out of control, heading for a sticky end.

There was a runaway train in my mother's home town of Chapel-en-le-Frith, England in 1957. The brakes stopped working because of a broken steam pipe. The driver made a heroic effort to avert disaster, and was awarded the George Cross for his bravery.

But I digress.

If you have an out-of-control feeling as you're playing, always wondering when you'll make the next mistake, you are playing like a runaway train. Know-Before-You-Go is the opposite of that: complete control, and certainty that you'll make the next move correctly.

Any time you feel like you're on a runaway train, try using Know-Before-You-Go to put on the brakes and get the train under control. ■

Exercise 15:

Both hands move around more

Now they are getting a bit trickier! Don't rush. Take all the time you need before making each move, to be certain you'll do it correctly.

1 Play

3. **Play** the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.



4. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Exercise 16:

Hands move at different times

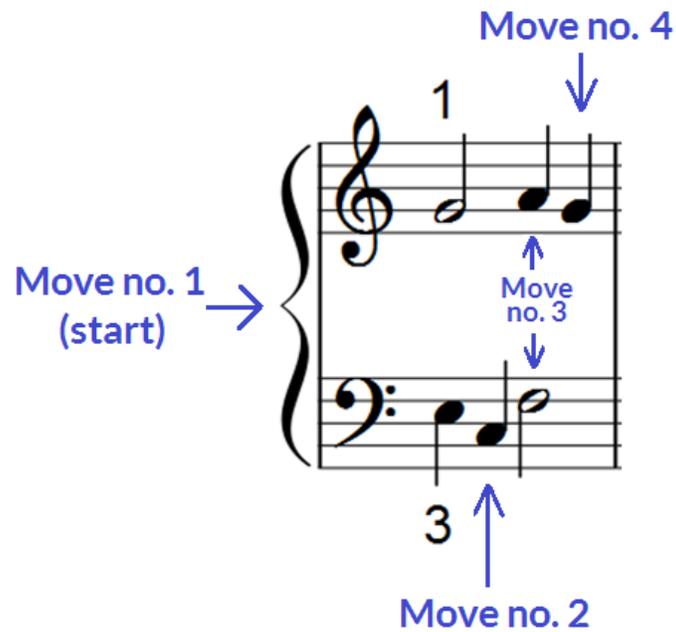
1 Play

1. **Play** the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.



Because this one is pretty tricky, I'm going to spell out in detail how to apply Know-Before-You-Go for 2 hands. Again, this is very detailed, but I think you'll find it useful if you take the time to follow along and do it step by step.

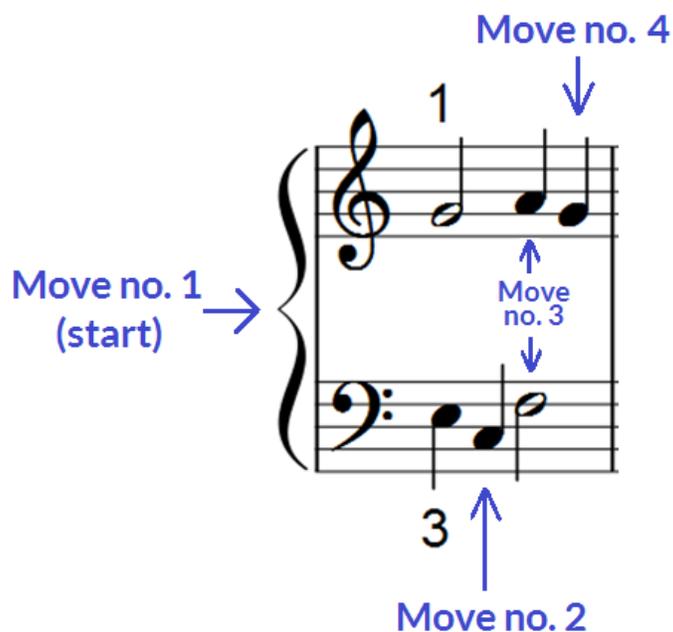
There are 4 moves in this music:



Here is how to play each of the 4 moves:

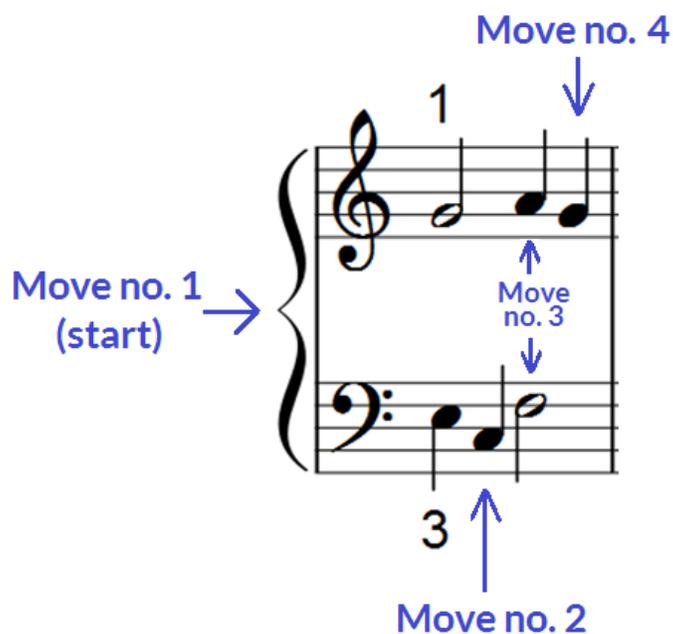
Move no. 1 (start):

1. See which hand(s) move
 - a. Both hands move.
2. Prepare left hand (if it has to move)
 - a. Place your left middle finger on lower E, but don't play it yet.
3. Prepare right hand (if it has to move)
 - a. Place your right thumb on G, but don't play it yet.
4. Play
 - a. Push down both keys at the same time, and hold them down.



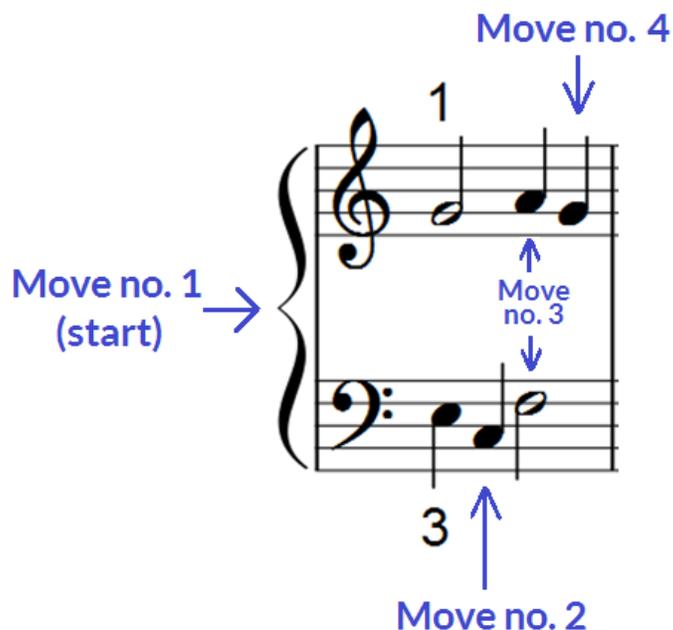
Move no. 2:

1. See which hand(s) move
 - a. Only your left hand moves.
2. Prepare left hand (if it has to move)
 - a. Place your left little finger on lower C, but don't play it yet.
3. Prepare right hand (if it has to move)
 - a. (Ignore this step)
4. Play
 - a. With your left hand, release the lower E and push down the lower C, and hold it down. Make sure you keep holding down the G with your right hand.



Move no. 3:

1. **See which hand(s) move**
 - a. Both hands move.
2. **Prepare left hand (if it has to move)**
 - a. Place your left index (pointer) finger on lower F, but don't play it yet.
3. **Prepare right hand (if it has to move)**
 - a. Place your right index (pointer) finger on A, but don't play it yet.
4. **Play**
 - a. Make the move at the same time with both hands. Both hands have to release the old note and push down the new note. Take all the time you need.

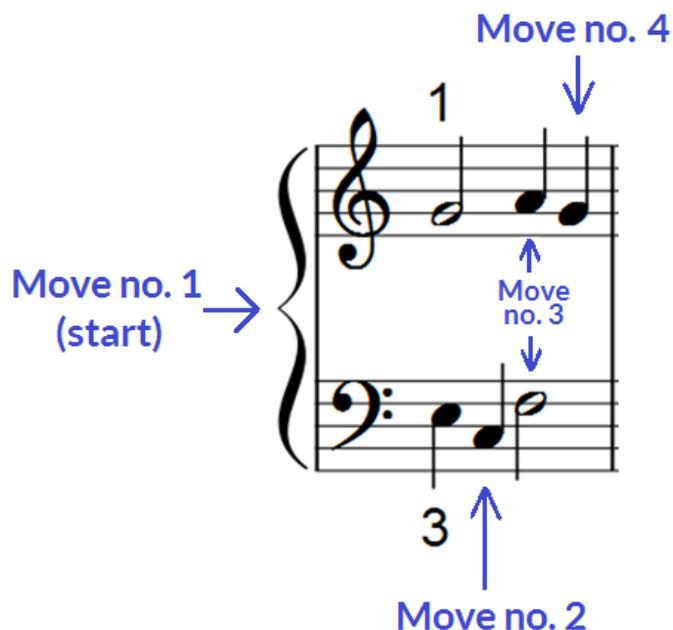


Move no. 4:

1. See which hand(s) move
 - a. Only your right hand moves.
2. Prepare left hand (if it has to move)
 - a. (Ignore this step)
3. Prepare right hand (if it has to move)
 - a. Place your right thumb on G, but don't play it yet.
4. Play
 - a. With your right hand, release the A and push down the G and hold it down. Make sure you keep holding down the lower F with your left hand.

Reminder: Disregard the timing. Take as much time as you need before making each move, to be certain of doing it correctly.

2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.



Exercise 17:

Another example, hands moving at different times

Do you see how these examples are beginning to look and sound like real music?

1 Play

1. **Play** the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Exercise 18:

Both hands move around with quarter notes

1 Play

1. **Play** the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Tune 1:

A well-known Christian hymn

Now let's play some snippets of tunes.

Both hands move around, and they move at different times.

In the exercises you just did, your attention was on making the moves accurately with little or no attention on the timing. Now that you're going to play some real tunes, we need to attend to the timing or the tune won't sound right.

We're going to approach it in 2 steps:

1. **Play the notes, disregarding timing.** (Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.)
2. Once you can do that accurately and easily, then you **play with correct timing.** Count the timing aloud if you find that helps.

So here we go.

1 Play, disregarding timing

1. **Play** the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.

Abide with me



The image shows a musical snippet for two hands. The title "Abide with me" is written in blue italics above the notation. The notation consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The bass staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music is in 4/4 time. The treble staff has a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, Bb4) followed by a quarter note (C5). The bass staff has a quarter note (G2) followed by a quarter note (Bb2). The numbers 3 and 5 2 are written below the notes to indicate fingering.

2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily while disregarding the timing.

2 Play with correct timing

1. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Tune 2:

A delightful children's song

1 Play, disregarding timing

1. **Play** the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.

Old Macdonald Had a Farm



The image shows a musical snippet for the song 'Old Macdonald Had a Farm'. It is presented in a grand staff with two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and contains a sequence of notes: a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains a sequence of notes: a quarter note G2, a quarter note F2, a quarter note E2, and a quarter note D2. Above the first measure of the top staff is the number '4', and below the first measure of the bottom staff is the number '5'. The entire snippet is enclosed in a rectangular box.

2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily while disregarding the timing.

2 Play with correct timing

1. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Tune 3:

A well-known tune by Beethoven

You played this tune early in *Book 1*. Here it is now arranged for two hands.

1 Play, disregarding timing

1. **Play** the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.

Ode to Joy, by Beethoven

3

5

2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily while disregarding the timing.

2 Play with correct timing

1. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Tune 4:

Another song by Stephen Foster

1 Play, disregarding timing

1. Play the snippet of music below.

Camptown Races



The image shows a musical snippet for 'Camptown Races' in 4/4 time. The title is written in blue italics above the staff. The music is written on a grand staff with a treble clef on the top staff and a bass clef on the bottom staff. The top staff contains a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The bottom staff contains a bass line of quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2. The number '4' is written above the first measure of the top staff, and the number '5' is written below the first measure of the bottom staff.

2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily while disregarding the timing.

2 Play with correct timing

1. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Tune 5:

Best-known Scottish song

1 Play, disregarding timing

1. Play the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.

Loch Lomond

The musical notation is for the first five measures of the Scottish song 'Loch Lomond' in 4/4 time. The piece is in G major. The first measure contains a quarter note G4 with a '1' above it. The second measure contains a quarter rest followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5 with a '3' above the first note. The third measure contains quarter notes D5, E5, and F5. The fourth measure contains quarter notes G5, A5, and B5. The fifth measure contains a quarter note C6 with a '2' above it, followed by a quarter rest. The bass line starts with a quarter rest in the first measure, a half note G3 in the second, a half note F3 in the third, quarter notes E3 and D3 in the fourth, and quarter notes C3 and B2 in the fifth.

2. Repeat as needed until you can do it accurately and easily while disregarding the timing.

2 Play with correct timing

1. Repeat as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

If you'd like to repeat this so you can play it faster, go ahead. Just make sure you don't try to play it too fast and make mistakes. As you play it over and over, you'll find your speed increases naturally without pushing it.

Tip: If you're having trouble reading and playing with two hands, it may be because you haven't had quite enough practise reading the bass clef and playing with your left hand alone. If so, go back and spend some more time on the exercises in lessons 3, 4 and 5.

Tune 6: A Christmas Carol

1 Play, disregarding timing

1. Play the snippet of music below. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.

Good King Wenceslas

4

2

5

2

2. Repeat as needed until you can do it accurately and easily while disregarding the timing.

2 Play with correct timing

1. Repeat as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Chat with David: How did that go?



Did you feel your skill increase as you did these exercises?

You can think of this practice method, Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands, rather like stabilisers (in America, ‘training wheels’) on a child’s bicycle. It’s a tool to help you as you get started in this new activity.

Of course, an experienced pianist does not prepare his left hand and then prepare his right hand before playing each note! But I hope you will use this tool consistently for now as you take your first baby steps. It can turn this seemingly impossible task (getting your hands to do different things at the same time) into a task that is manageable.

You can stop using this tool when you no longer need it (like taking off the stabilisers / training wheels). But please don’t stop too soon and fall off your bike!

Success story: ‘I used Know-Before-You-Go for quite a while. When I became confident, I put it aside. But whenever I come across a particularly difficult piece, I pull it out again. Works like a charm.’ ■

What's next?

Armed with the Know-Before-You-Go practice method for two hands, you can confidently learn two more bass-clef notes!

To find Lesson 9, click the green box:

Go on to your next lesson



or go to your Book 2 Course Materials page at
www.dempstermusic.com