

Lesson 9

Read and Play 10 Notes in the Bass Clef

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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'.

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David Dempster

Course	Read & Play Music
Book 2	Read and Play Simple Tunes with Two Hands
Lesson 9	Read and Play 10 Notes in the Bass Clef

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LESSON 9:

READ AND PLAY 10 NOTES IN THE BASS CLEF

We're going to learn 2 more notes.

As you work your way down the keyboard (further to the left), you'll discover the rich sounds your keyboard can create.

MUSIC THEORY

BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

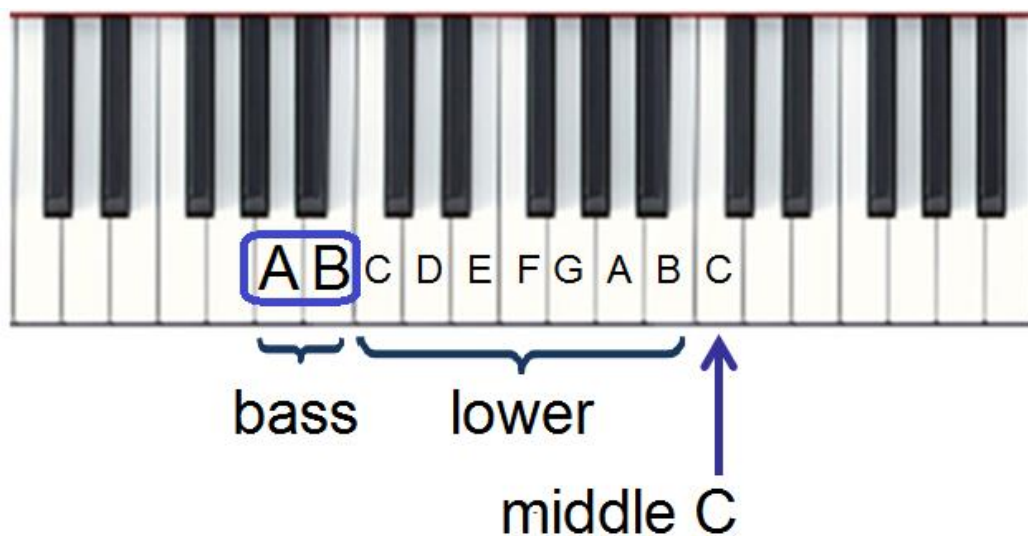
Your next 2 notes in the bass clef: bass A and B

We've already learned the notes down to 'lower C', the C below middle C.

Now we're going to go even lower. I'm going to refer to the notes below lower C as the 'bass' notes. **Reminder:** 'bass' (pronounced like 'base') means low-pitched.

The 2 white notes to the left of lower C are called bass A and bass B.

Play bass A and B on your keyboard

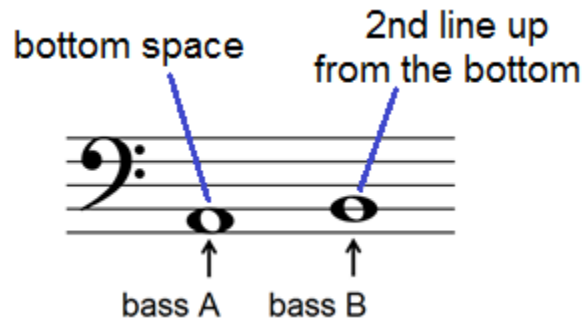


The location of bass A and B on your keyboard.

Find those 2 new notes on your keyboard and play them: bass A and B.

How bass A and B are shown in printed music

Here is how those 2 new notes are printed in the bass clef: bass A and B:

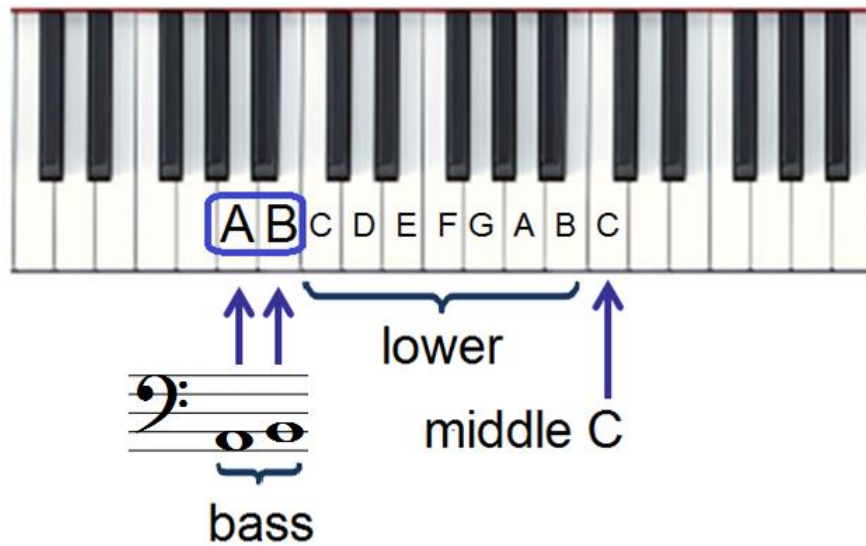


How the notes bass A and B are printed in the bass clef.

- Bass A is in the bottom space.
- Bass B is centred on the 2nd line up from the bottom.

Note-matching diagram for bass A and B

The diagram below shows how the 2 new notes on your keyboard correspond to printed notes in the bass clef.



Note-matching diagram for bass A and B.

Read bass A and B from printed music and play them

Here again is how bass A and B are printed in the bass clef:



Look at the above notes one at a time. As you read each one, play it on your keyboard with your left hand. Do that now.

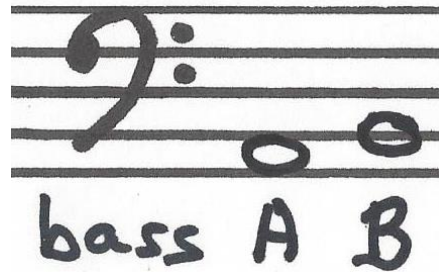
Did you

- **read** the printed notes bass A and B
- **play** the notes bass A and B on your keyboard with your left hand?
- **hear** the music sounds of the notes bass A and B?

Great! You learned to read and play 2 new notes in the bass clef.

Draw the notes bass A and B

Your drawing should look something like this:



Do each step as you read it:

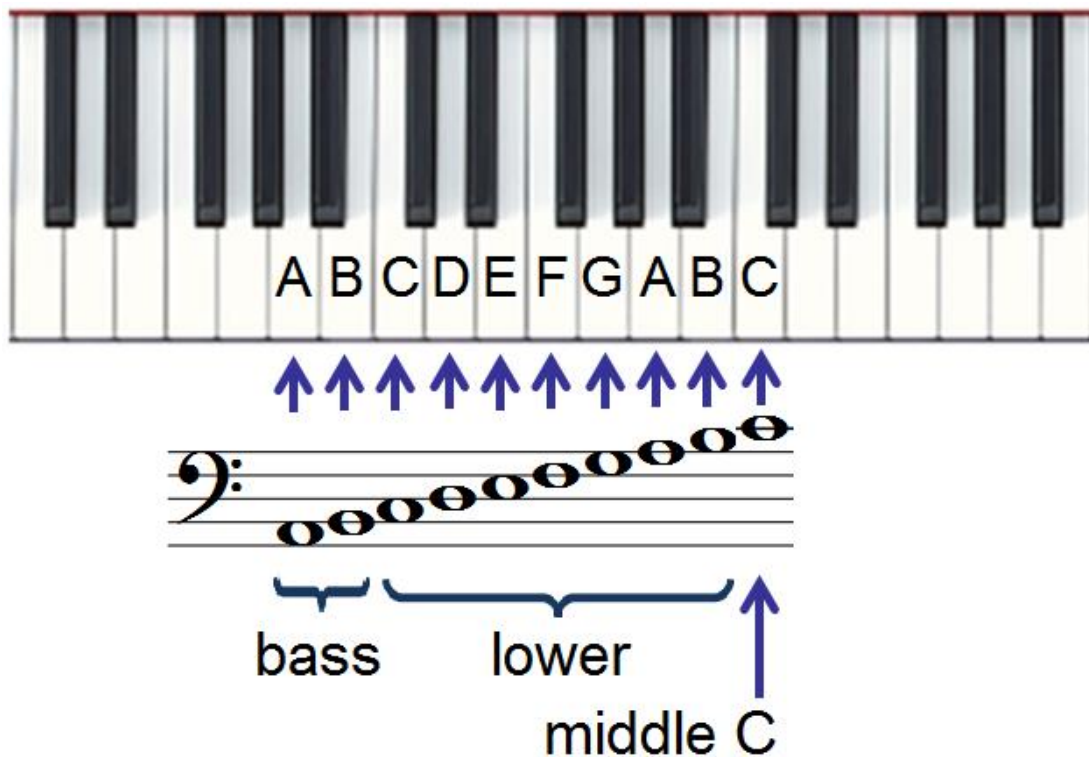
1. **Draw** the staff and the bass clef.
2. **Draw** the notes bass A and B.
3. **Prop up** your sheet of music and **play** it.

All the notes you've learned so far in the bass clef

Note-matching diagram for bass A to middle C

You've learned 10 notes so far in the bass clef. The diagram below shows how they correspond between your keyboard and the printed music in the bass clef.

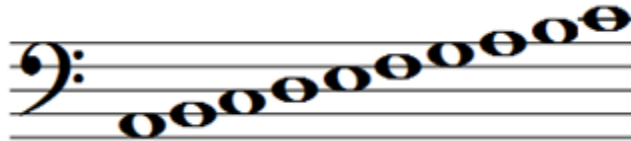
You can refer back to this diagram any time you need to.



Note-matching diagram for all 10 notes learned so far in the bass clef.

Read bass A to middle C from printed music and play them

Here are those 10 notes again:



Look at the above notes one at a time. As you read each one, play it on your keyboard with your left hand. Do that now.

Great! Now you can read and play 10 notes in the bass clef.

Play them over and over while looking at the printed music until they begin to seem familiar.

PRACTICAL

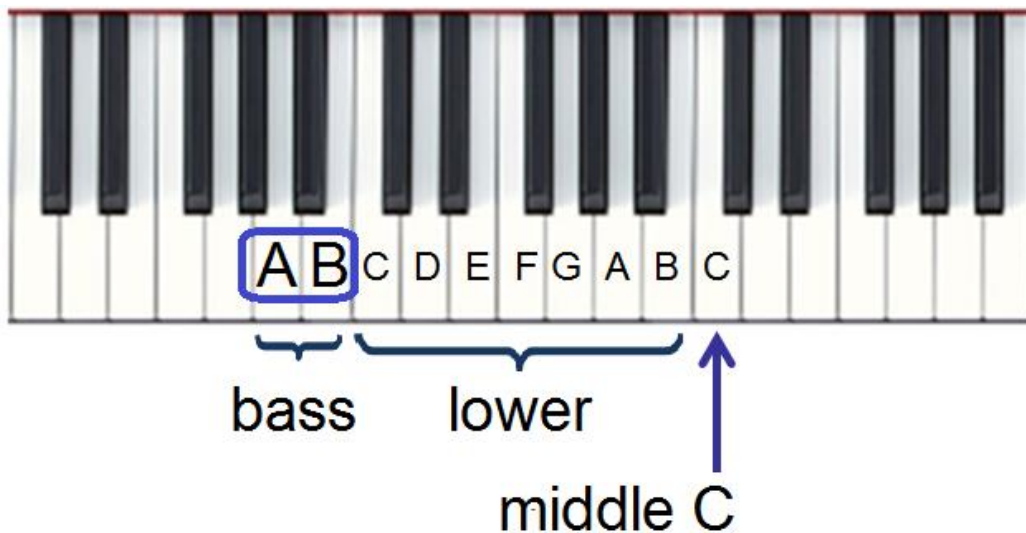
BUILD YOUR SKILL

Let's get some practice in reading and playing all 10 notes you've learned in the bass clef.

Exercise 1:

Bass A B

Here's a reminder of how bass A and B look on the keyboard:



Reminder: The 2 new notes bass A and B.

1 Find the keys

1. **Call out** these notes, and **point** to the keys on your keyboard. (Don't play yet. Just point.) Make sure you're pointing to bass A and B.

bass ABA – BAA – AAB – BAB

2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do the whole line of 12 accurately and easily.

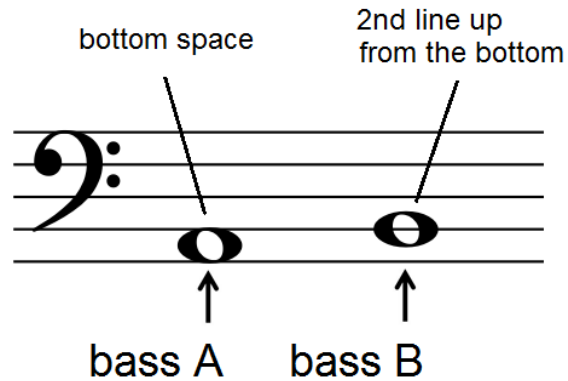
2 Play from note names

1. **Call out** these notes, and **play** them on your keyboard with your left hand.

bass BAA – AAB – BAB – ABA

2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do the whole line of 12 accurately and easily.

3 Name the printed notes



Reminder: The printed notes bass A and B.
Notice where they are in relation to the 5 lines.

1. **Point** to the printed notes below and **call out** their names. Don't play them yet:



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do the whole line of 12 accurately and easily.

4 Play from printed music

1. **Call out** the names of these notes, and **play** them on your keyboard with your left hand:



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do the whole line of 12 accurately and easily.

5 Draw the printed notes, then play them

1. **Draw** 5 lines and the bass clef.
2. **Draw** these notes on the staff:

bass ABB – BAB – BBA – ABA

3. **Prop up** your sheet of music and **play** it.

Exercise 2: Bass A B, lower C

1 Name the printed notes

1. **Point** to the printed notes below and **call out** their names. Don't play them yet:



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do the whole line of 12 accurately and easily.

2 Play from printed music

1. **Call out** the names of these notes, and **play** them on your keyboard with your left hand:



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do the whole line of 12 accurately and easily.

Exercise 3:

Bass A B, lower C D

1 Name the printed notes

1. **Point** to the printed notes below and **call out** their names. Don't play them yet:



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do the whole line of 12 accurately and easily.

2 Play from printed music

1. **Call out** the names of these notes, and **play** them on your keyboard with your left hand:

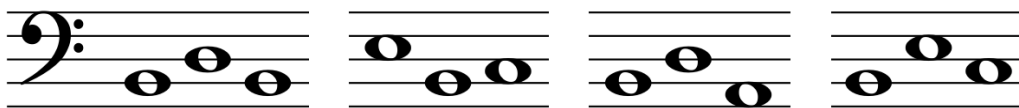


2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do the whole line of 12 accurately and easily.

Exercise 4: Bass A to lower E

1 Name the printed notes

1. **Point** to the printed notes below and **call out** their names. Don't play them yet:



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do the whole line of 12 accurately and easily.

2 Play from printed music

1. **Call out** the names of these notes, and **play** them on your keyboard with your left hand:



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do the whole line of 12 accurately and easily.

Exercise 5: Bass A to lower F

1 Name the printed notes

1. **Point** to the printed notes below and **call out** their names. Don't play them yet:



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do the whole line of 12 accurately and easily.

2 Play from printed music

1. **Call out** the names of these notes, and **play** them on your keyboard with your left hand:



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do the whole line of 12 accurately and easily.

Exercise 6: Bass A to lower G

1 Name the printed notes

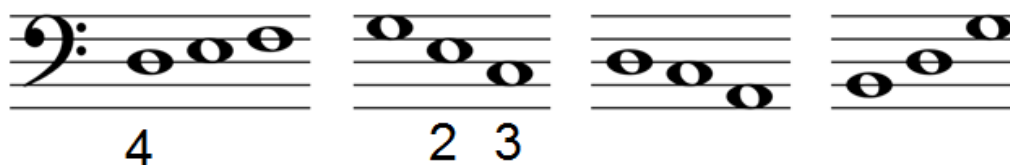
1. **Point** to the printed notes below and **call out** their names. Don't play them yet:



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do the whole line of 12 accurately and easily.

2 Play from printed music

1. **Call out** the names of these notes, and **play** them on your keyboard with your left hand:



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do the whole line of 12 accurately and easily.

Exercise 7:

Bass A to lower A

1 Name the printed notes

1. **Point** to the printed notes below and **call out** their names. Don't play yet:

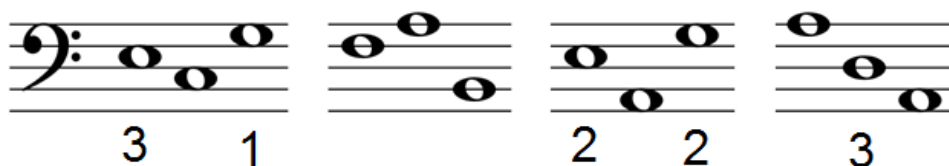


2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do the whole line of 12 accurately and easily.

2 Play from printed music

You may be finding some of these exercises quite a challenge, as your hand has to move around a lot. Just take it slowly. Give yourself as much time as you need to make each move correctly. In piano music, your left hand often has to move around a lot, so it's not a bad idea to start getting in some practice on that now.

1. **Call out** the names of these notes, and **play** them on your keyboard with your left hand:



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do the whole line of 12 accurately and easily.

Tune 1:

A tune to play with your left hand

The best-known Irish song of all time.

1 Play the notes, disregarding timing

1. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.

Danny Boy

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

2 Play with correct timing

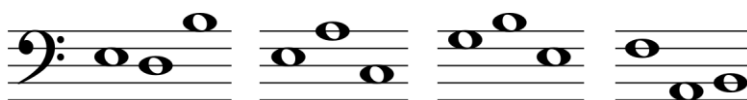
1. Start very slowly. Find a speed at which you can play with correct timing.
2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

Tip: You should regard fingering in printed music as a suggestion, not a command that has to be obeyed. If you find a fingering that works better for you, feel free to use it.

Exercise 8: Bass A to lower B

1 Name the printed notes

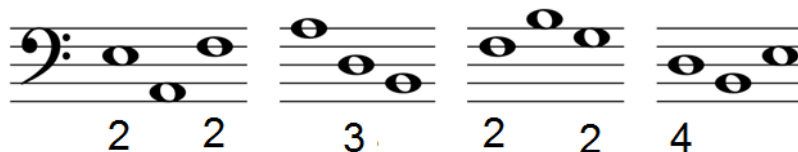
1. **Point** to the printed notes below and **call out** their names. Don't play them yet:



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do the whole line of 12 accurately and easily.

2 Play from printed music

1. **Call out** the names of these notes, and **play** them on your keyboard with your left hand:



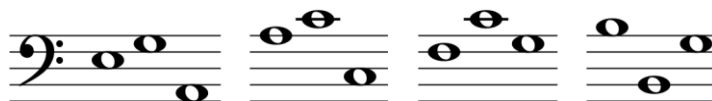
2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do the whole line of 12 accurately and easily.

Exercise 9:

Bass A to middle C

1 Name the printed notes

1. **Point** to the printed notes below and **call out** their names. Don't play them yet:



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do the whole line of 12 accurately and easily.

2 Play from printed music

1. **Call out** the names of these notes, and **play** them on your keyboard with your left hand:



2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do the whole line of 12 accurately and easily.

Tune 2:

Folk tune, for your left hand

Hmm . . . I remember this song well from my school days, but I don't recall its name. If you know it, please send me a message via the Contact page on my website, www.dempstermusic.com.

1 Play the notes, disregarding timing

1. Apply Know-Before-You-Go for Two Hands.

Folk song

The image shows two staves of musical notation in bass clef, 4/4 time. The first staff contains 10 notes with fingerings: 1, 1, 2, 3, 2. The second staff contains 10 notes with fingerings: 4, 2, 3. The notes are: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3.

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

2 Play with correct timing

1. Start very slowly. Find a speed at which you can play with correct timing.
2. **Repeat** as needed until you can do it accurately and easily.

What's next?

In the very first lesson in **Book 2** (Lesson 0), we explored the meaning of 'harmony'.

Now that you've learned to read and play so many notes with both hands, we can begin to explore harmony in more depth.

To find Lesson 10, click the green box:

Go on to your next lesson



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