

Lesson 2 Contents

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They are not necessary for your success.

Overview of Lesson Two

Before you start Lesson 2, make sure you understand **EVERYTHING** about Lesson 1. Your chances of success are very high if you take your time and move to the next lesson only when you are very comfortable with what you have learned so far. Remember, if you were taking lessons from a live teacher, your lessons are given only once a week.

So, give yourself the time you need to succeed!

Your goal in Lesson Two is to learn basic concepts by playing several short songs without the confusion of reading music just yet.

In Lesson 2 you will learn basic rhythm, key names, eye-hand coordination and symbol recognition.

Have fun!! Keep in mind that you are teaching yourself and you do not have a teacher to watch you, so you need to be especially obedient and exact in doing the things I recommend that you do.

Eye-Hand Coordination

Place your RIGHT hand in Middle C position, remember your thumb should be on the Middle C .

The song on the next page will show finger numbers, except for the C, which you already know to play with the #1 finger, your thumb.

Find and play each key WITHOUT looking at the piano and WITHOUT looking at your fingers.

Your EYES will remain on the music.

Your HAND and FINGERS will stay in position.

Play the piano key that matches the finger number that you see on the music.

Eye-Hand Coordination: Making your hand and fingers obey what your eyes see on the music.

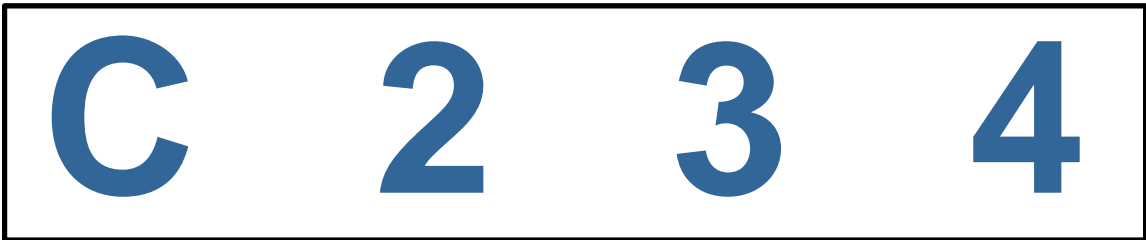
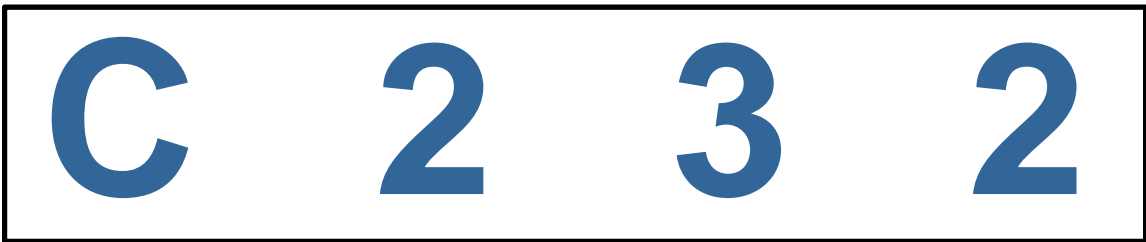
It is important that you learn this skill well.

If you practiced Lesson One, you should already know how to keep your hand and fingers in C position.

“My First Song”

Do not look at your hands while you play.

Do not stop or pause while you are playing.



Rhythm

We wouldn't have music without rhythm. Rhythm is what makes each song unique and enjoyable.

To establish good rhythm skills, you need to learn how to say the beats while you are playing.

When you play the next song, you will say the name of the letter or number you are playing and follow it by saying the word one-thousand. Say it like you are counting seconds on a clock:

“One-One thousand, Two-One thousand,
Three-One thousand, Four-One thousand.

We will replace One, Two, Three, Four, with the name of the key you are playing. You will see what I mean when you look at and read the rhythm of the next song.

Make sure your fingers are ready to play when you say it's beat.. DO NOT let your counting get out of rhythm. You need to make your fingers follow the rhythm of your voice.

Read rhythm of the entire song out loud.

When you say 1000, say the full word:

“One-thousand” very clearly.

Highlight all the “3-1000”, “C-1000”, etc....

I will refer to these as “say n play” beats.

3 “3-1000”	C “C-1000”	3 “3-1000”	C “C-1000”
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3 “3-1000”	3 “3-1000”	5 “5-1000”	5 “5-1000”
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

4 “4-1000”	2 “2-1000”	4 “4-1000”	2 “2-1000”
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3 “3-1000”	5 “5-1000”	C “C-1000”	C “C-1000”
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Understanding Symbols

Everything you see on your music means something. Do not EVER pass over an unfamiliar mark or symbol without understanding what it is telling you.

The following song has a symbol that looks like a dash. The dash (-) is telling you to hold the previous note for an additional beat.

When you say the beats of the next song,, you will see where and how to “say” the beat of the dash.

The dash is a beat that you say while still holding the previous note. It actually gives the previous note 2 beats.

Highlight the “say n play” beats.

C “C-1000”	3 “3-1000”	C “C-1000”	3 “3-1000”
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2 “2-1000”	2 “2-1000”	5 “5-1000”	- “HOLD-1000”
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2 “2-1000”	5 “5-1000”	2 “2-1000”	5 “5-1000”
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

3 “3-1000”	2 “2-1000”	C “C-1000”	- “HOLD-1000”
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	-------------------------

Did you say “HOLD-One Thousand” when you got to the dash? It receives the exact same amount of time that each of the other beats receive, so make sure you hold it long enough to say the entire HOLD-1000.

Remember to say the beats as you play.
Make sure your fingers are moving to the rhythm
of your voice.
Highlight the “say n play” beats.

3 “3-1000”	- “HOLD-1000”	3 “3-1000”	- “HOLD-1000”
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5 “5-1000”	3 “3-1000”	C “C-1000”	- “HOLD-1000”
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	-------------------------

5 “5-1000”	- “HOLD-1000”	5 “5-1000”	- “HOLD-1000”
----------------------	-------------------------	----------------------	-------------------------

3 “3-1000”	2 “2-1000”	C “C-1000”	- “HOLD-1000”
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	-------------------------

Did you keep your eyes on the music?

Note Names

You didn't think you were going to keep reading numbers forever did you? We will gradually eliminate the numbers and replace them with letters.

The next song has eliminated the number 5 and replaced it with a G.

Every time you see the letter G, you will play your #5 finger because G is the REAL name of the key your #5 finger rests on.

There is another new symbol on the next song page.





It is called the Treble Clef.

You will see it at the beginning of each line.

The Treble Clef tells you to use your right hand.

Circle the G's and highlight the "say n play" beats.

(Treble Clef) (G= Finger #5)

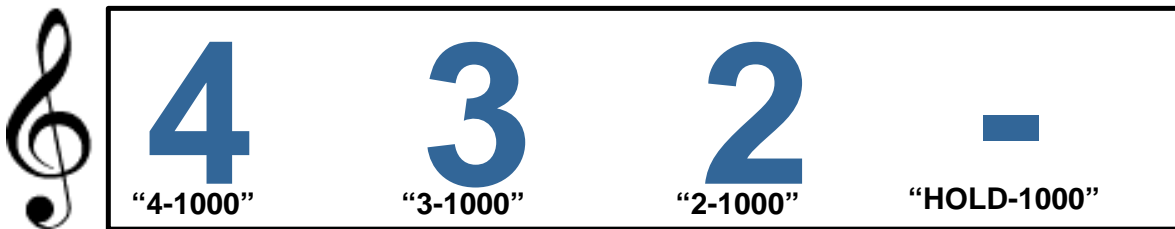
	3 "3-1000"	G "G-1000"	2 "2-1000"	G "G-1000"
	C "C-1000"	G "G-1000"	2 "2-1000"	- "HOLD-1000"
	G "G-1000"	3 "3-1000"	4 "4-1000"	2 "2-1000"
	3 "3-1000"	G "G-1000"	C "C-1000"	- "HOLD-1000"

Remember to say each beat out loud.

Highlight the “say n play” beats.



A musical staff with a treble clef. The staff contains four beats: a blue number 3, a blue number 4, a blue letter G, and a blue number 3. Below each beat is a label in quotes: "3-1000", "4-1000", "G-1000", and "3-1000".



A musical staff with a treble clef. The staff contains four beats: a blue number 4, a blue number 3, a blue number 2, and a blue horizontal line. Below each beat is a label in quotes: "4-1000", "3-1000", "2-1000", and "HOLD-1000".



A musical staff with a treble clef. The staff contains four beats: a blue letter G, a blue letter G, a blue letter G, and a blue number 3. Below each beat is a label in quotes: "G-1000", "G-1000", "G-1000", and "3-1000".



A musical staff with a treble clef. The staff contains four beats: a blue number 4, a blue number 2, a blue letter C, and a blue horizontal line. Below each beat is a label in quotes: "4-1000", "2-1000", "C-1000", and "HOLD-1000".

Are you keeping your eyes on the music?

Are your fingers following the rhythm of your voice?

Quarter Rest

The new symbol on the following song is called a QUARTER REST.

A quarter rest represents one beat. It is a silent beat. You will not hold the previous note during the rest.

The dash and the quarter rest each receive one beat.

The difference between the dash and the quarter rest is that the dash is a held previous note and the quarter rest is total silence, except for your voice saying the beat.

The Dash is not an official music symbol.

The Quarter Rest is an official music symbol.

Circle the quarter rests. Write “Rest-1000” underneath them. Circle the hold at the end and write “Hold-1000” underneath it.



Did you say the beats throughout the entire song?
G-1000, Rest-1000, G-1000, Rest-1000, etc?

Listen to the difference between the quarter rest and the hold. They are both silent, however, the hold is holding the sound of the previous note while you are saying “HOLD 1000”.

The quarter rest is total silence. You should not be holding the previous note when saying “REST-1000”.



Write “R-1000” and “H-1000” underneath the rests and holds.

This song replaces #3 with E.

Circle the E's.

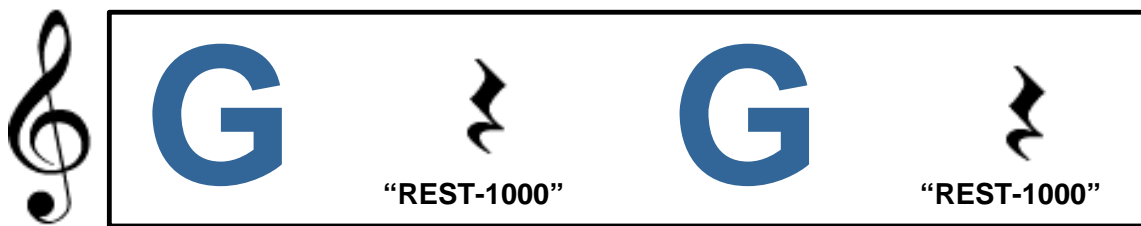
Remember to say all the beats as you play.

Keep your eyes on the music as you play.

(E = Finger #3)



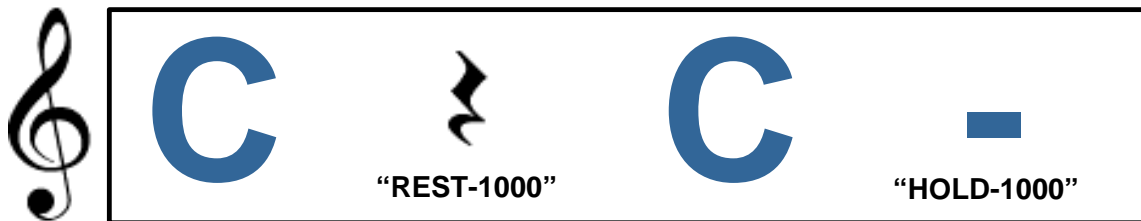
A musical staff with a treble clef. The notes are C, 2, E, and 4. An arrow points from the text "(E = Finger #3)" to the E note.



A musical staff with a treble clef. The notes are G, a rest symbol labeled "REST-1000", G, and another rest symbol labeled "REST-1000".



A musical staff with a treble clef. The notes are G, 4, E, and E.



A musical staff with a treble clef. The notes are C, a rest symbol labeled "REST-1000", C, and a hold symbol labeled "HOLD-1000".

The two shaded boxes you see are called MEASURES.

(See measures #1 and #4.)

Measures divide and organize music.

Play and say all the beats of the song.

Keep your eyes on the music.

(The “D” in measure#6 is your #2 finger)

Measure 1 (shaded): G E C E
Measure 2: G H-1000 H-1000 H-1000

Measure 3: 4 2 4 2
Measure 4 (shaded): E H-1000 H-1000 H-1000

Measure 5: G E C E
Measure 6: D H-1000 H-1000 H-1000

Measure 7: 4 2 4 2
Measure 8: C H-1000 H-1000 H-1000

Note: In measure #6, use your #2 finger on “D”.

This song replaces #2 with D.
Circle the D's.
Don't forget to say each beat.

(D = Finger #2)

E D C D E E E E

D D D E G G

E D C D E E E E

D D E D C - - -

This song replaces #4 with F.
Circle the F's.
Don't forget to say each beat.

(F = Finger #4)

Line 1: **C F C F** | **D** - - -
H-1000 H-1000 H-1000

Line 2: **E E F D** | **C** - - -

Line 3: **C F C F** | **D** - - -

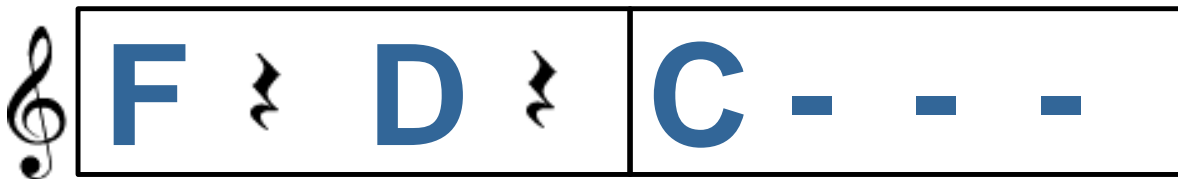
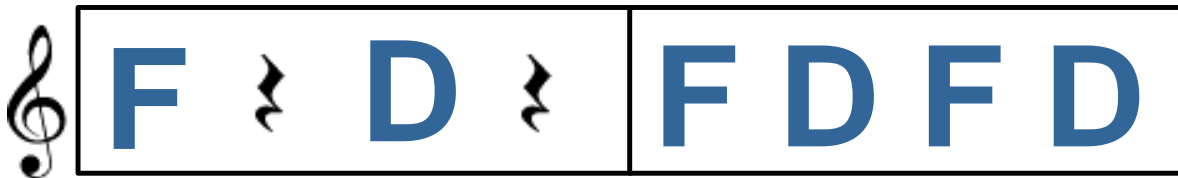
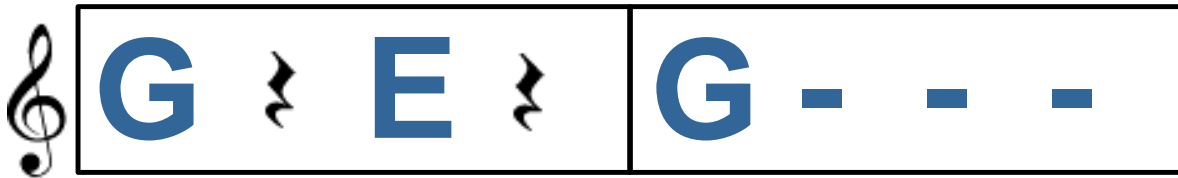
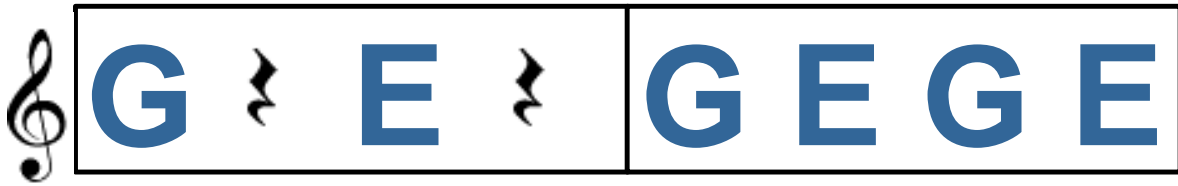
Line 4: **E E F C** | **F** - - -
H-1000 H-1000 H-1000

Beethoven's Ode to Joy



By now you should be very comfortable with looking at the music and not at your hands. Your fingers should be following the rhythm of your voice as you say the beats.

Last Minute Dance



Congratulations! You have completed Lesson 2!