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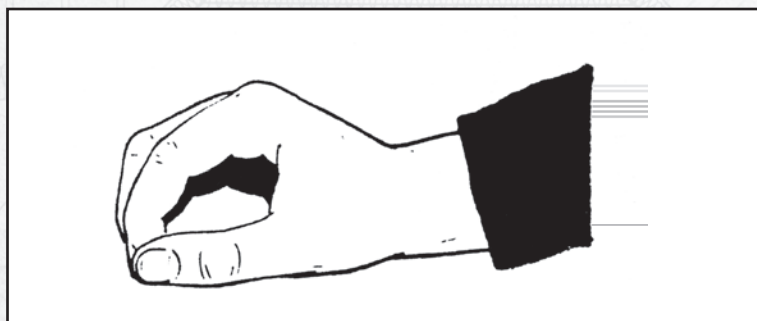
HAND AND FINGER POSITION

DO IT YOURSELF: KEYBOARD

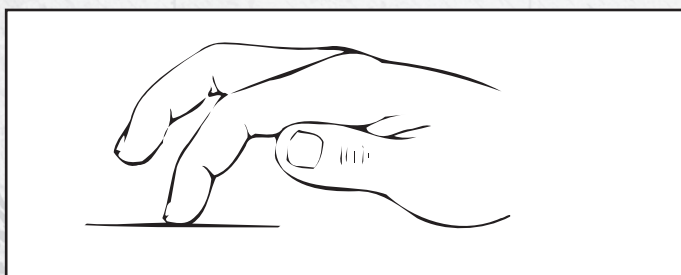
- Curve your fingers. From above, you should see a row of knuckles but no fingernails.
- Curve the thumb slightly inward. No hitchhiker thumbs!



- There should be a hollow spot big enough for a ping-pong ball to fit in your palm.

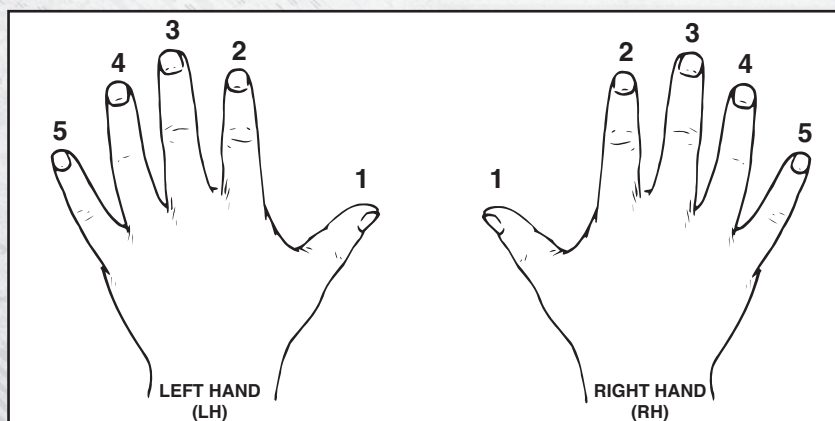


- Fingers are used like levers with the motion coming from the joint that attaches the finger to the hand.
- Push the keys down with the tips of the fingers.
- Keep your fingernails very short!



Fingering

Fingering numbers, which appear as the numbers 1 through 5, show which fingers to use to play. They can be found above or below the music. Each number corresponds to the same finger on either hand, with both thumbs being number 1 and both pinkies being number 5.





TIME SIGNATURES

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At the beginning of every piece of music are numbers called the *time signature*. The time signature tells us how to count the music.

4
4

The top number tells how many beats are in each measure.


A **4** means there are **four** beats in each measure.

The bottom number tells what kind of note gets one beat.

A **4** means a **quarter note**  gets one beat.



RIGHT IN TIME


RH  1 2 3 4 5 5 5 5 3 1

Count: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Notes: C, D, E, F, G, G, G, G, E, C



FOUR BEATS LEFT TO GO

LH  1 2 3 4 3 5 3 2 1 5

Count: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Notes: G, F, E, D, E, C, E, F, G, C



THE WHOLE REST

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Whole Rest



Rest for an entire measure.

A *whole rest* indicates an entire measure of silence.

The following pieces will give you some practice reading music on the grand staff. Notice that while one hand is playing, the other is resting.

Try a big orchestral sound for this melody from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.



ODE TO JOY

Ludwig van Beethoven



FRÈRE JACQUES' (RIGHT AND LEFT)

French Folk Song



HARMONIC 2NDS & 3RDS

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When we play two notes together, we create *harmony*, and the intervals between these notes are called *harmonic intervals*. The 2nds and 3rds you have learned as melodic intervals can also be played as harmonic intervals.

Play these harmonic 2nds and 3rds, and notice that the 2nds have a *dissonant* (clashing) sound and the 3rds have a *consonant* (harmonious, sweet) sound.

Now that you're playing notes together with a single hand, it is even more important to learn each hand separately before putting them together.



SWEET AND SOUR



THE PICKUP

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When one or more notes are played before the first full measure at the beginning of a piece, it is called a *pickup*. The pickup measure is an *incomplete measure*. Frequently, when a piece begins with a pickup, the last measure will also

be incomplete so that the rhythmic values of the two combined equal one full measure.

Practice the C major chord with the right hand before playing "When the Saints Go Marching In."



C MAJOR CHORD WARM-UP (RIGHT HAND)



"When the Saints Go Marching In" is an American spiritual commonly played by New Orleans Dixieland jazz bands. It will sound great played with a brass sound.



WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN

American Spiritual

Pickup Measure

Count: 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 (etc.)

(Shift hand up)

(Shift back)

Count: 1 2 3 4 1