

STUDIO MANUAL

for

PIANO

Book One

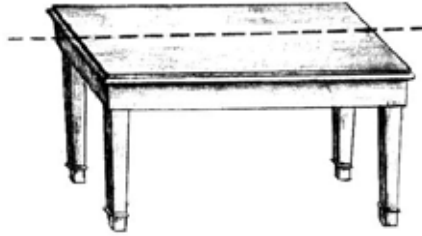


An Integrated Approach
to the
Study of the Piano

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POSTURE

The proper posture at the piano is necessary for the free movement of the hands and fingers. Imagine a line drawn across the middle of the piano bench. Sit on the front half of the bench with the feet flat on the floor. Smaller students must use a stool to support the feet. Keep the back straight and the shoulders relaxed.



The hands should be level as if balancing a glass of water. The fingers should be curved as if holding a ball. In this way, the piano keys will be struck with the tip of the fingers.



A positive attitude toward the posture at the piano will give the piano student a strong beginning. The pursuit of discipline begins here.



MIDDLE C POSITION

The MIDDLE C POSITION will allow for the reading of the upper bass clef notes. This position requires both first fingers (thumbs) placed on middle C at the same time:



Practice the following Middle C position exercises hands alone then hands together. The goal is always accuracy and steadiness.

1.

Exercise 1: A 4-measure exercise in 4/4 time. The treble staff starts with a whole note C4, followed by quarter notes D4, E4, F4, G4, and a whole note F4. The bass staff starts with a whole note C3, followed by quarter notes B2, A2, G2, F2, and a whole note E2. Fingerings are indicated above and below the notes.

2.

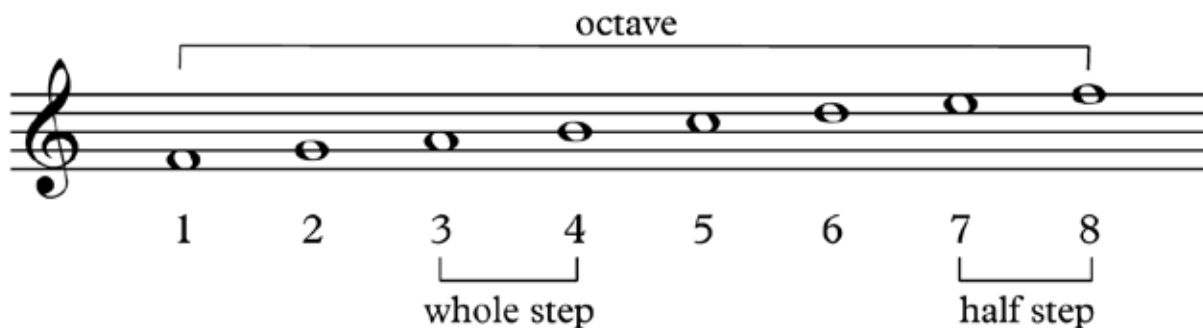
Exercise 2: A 4-measure exercise in 4/4 time. The treble staff has quarter notes C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, and a whole note C4. The bass staff has quarter notes C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, and a whole note C3. Fingerings are indicated above and below the notes.

3.

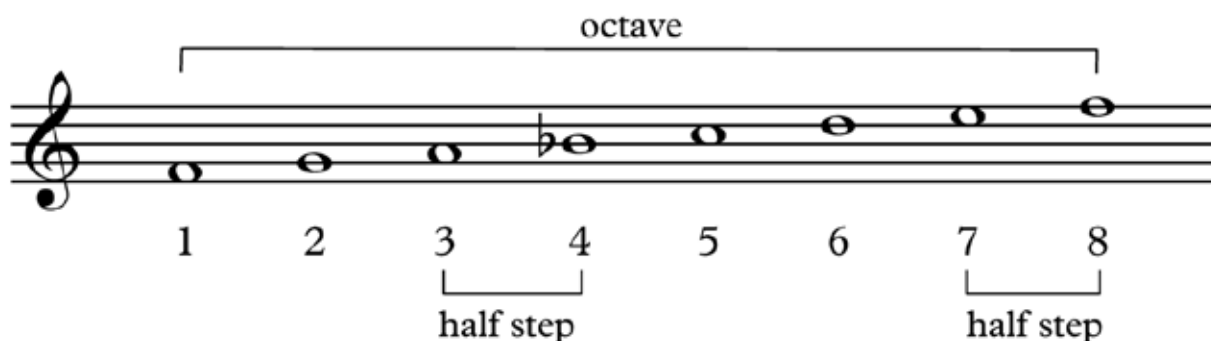
Exercise 3: A 4-measure exercise in 4/4 time. The treble staff has quarter notes C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, quarter notes B4, A4, G4, F4, and a whole note E4. The bass staff has quarter notes C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, quarter notes B2, A2, G2, F2, and a whole note E2. Fingerings are indicated above and below the notes.

THE F MAJOR SCALE

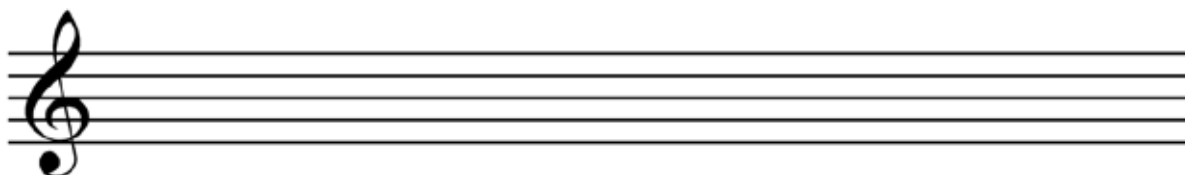
In order for a scale to be *major*, it must be constructed with half steps located between the 3rd and 4th, 7th and 8th scale degrees. In the scale from F to F, there is a half step located between the 7th and 8th scale degrees but not between the 3rd and 4th scale degrees:



The fourth scale degree, the note B, must be lowered to a B \flat in order for a half step to occur between the 3rd and 4th scale degrees:



Draw the F major scale in the treble and bass clefs. Write the scale degrees below and circle the half steps:



MORE READING EXERCISES

In the following two reading exercises, the accompaniment is presented in a variety of styles- block chords, single notes, and double notes. Special attention is to be given to the triads in block form as they are presented in all three positions.

The Marine's Hymn

Allegro Traditional American

The score is written in 2/4 time and consists of four systems of music. The first system (measures 1-5) begins with a melody in the treble clef and block chords in the bass clef. Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 1, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 2, 1, 4. The dynamic is *mf*. The second system (measures 6-13) includes first and second endings. The first ending (measures 6-7) has a dynamic of *f*. The second ending (measures 8-13) has a dynamic of *f*. The third system (measures 14-21) continues the melody and accompaniment with a dynamic of *mf*. The fourth system (measures 22-29) concludes the piece with a dynamic of *f*. The bass clef accompaniment features various rhythmic patterns, including block chords and moving lines.