true-piano-lessons.com presents:

Piano Skills Foundation

Beginner
Level 1
Piano Skills Foundation
Beginner Level 1

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Lesson 1 Practice Guide

Notes On The Piano:
- Practice 3 or 4 different groups of notes, up & down the keyboard
- Say each note as you play it

Peanut Butter Exercise
- Arpeggios: I IV I (say the note names as you play)
- Cadence (Chords): I IV I
  - Rh, Lh, Both
  - 4x, each chord
  - count out loud (2 beats, each chord... half notes)

Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star
- learn by ear & by rote (see video); no sheet music
1. Black Notes (starts on G-flat): Rh, Lh, Both
2. White Notes (starts on C): Rh, Lh, Both

Reading Exercise: “Quarters On Black”
- each line: Rh Lh Both 3P @m72-120
- count out loud
- keep your eyes on the music
Notes On The Piano

Practice saying & playing each group all the way up & down (or down & up) the keyboard.

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Peanut Butter Etude

Graf
Chords (key of C Major):

I Chord →

IV Chord →
Quarters On Black

A Quarter note (\(\frac{1}{4}\)) gets 1 beat.
A Quarter rest (\(\frac{\square}{4}\)) also gets 1 beat.

Assuming the music is in \(\frac{4}{4}\) (or \(\frac{3}{4}\), or \(\frac{2}{4}\)) time—
Lesson 2 Practice Guide

Notes On The Piano:
-Practice 3 or 4 different groups of notes, up & down the keyboard
-Say each note as you play it

Peanut Butter Exercise (m80-120)
-Arpeggios: I IV V V7 I (say the note names as you play)
-Cadence (Chords): I IV I V V7 I
-Rh, Lh, Both
-4x, each chord
-count out loud (2 beats, each chord... half notes)

Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star (m80-120)
-learn by ear & by rote (see video); no sheet music
1. Black Notes (starts on G-flat): Rh, Lh, Both
2. White Notes (starts on C): Rh, Lh, Both

Reading Exercise: “Quarters, Halfs, & Wholes”
-each line: Rh Lh Both 3P @m72-120
-count out loud
-keep your eyes on the music

Reading Exercise: “About Rests”
-each line: Rh Lh Both 3P @m72-120
-count out loud
-keep your eyes on the music
Chords (key of C Major):

V Chord →

G

D

B

V7 Chord →

G

F

B
Quarters, Halfs, & Wholes

Rh: \( \{4 \} \) 2 3 4 3 4 3 4
Lh: \( \{ 4 \} \) 3 4 3 4 3 4

Rh: \{ | \} 2 3 2 3 2 3 3 4
Lh: \{ | \} 2 3 2 3 2 3 4

A Half note (\( \)\)) gets 2 beats.
A Whole note (\( \)\)) gets 4 beats
About Rests

RH \{4\} 2 2 3 3
LH \{4\} 3 3 2 2

(Three different ways to note 4 beats of rest)

Quarter rest (\text{\textbullet}) gets 1 beat.
Half rest (\text{\textbullet\textbullet}) gets 2 beats.
Whole rest (\text{\textbullet\textbullet\textbullet\textbullet}) gets 4 beats.

\(\frac{1}{4} = \text{\textbullet}\)
\(\frac{1}{2} = \text{\textbullet\textbullet}\)
\(1 = \text{\textbullet\textbullet\textbullet\textbullet}\)
Lesson 3 Practice Guide

Notes On The Staff & On The Piano:
- work on the 2 groups in each clef
- play each note with 2nd finger (use only rh for treble clef, lh for bass clef)
- say each note as you play it
- go through each practice sheet until you are familiar with every note

Stepping & Skipping exercise (m66-96)
- Arpeggios: I IV V V7 I (say the note names as you play)
- Cadence (Chords): I IV I V V7 I
  - Rh, Lh, Both
  - 4x, each chord
  - count out loud (2 beats, each chord... half notes)

Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star (m80-120)
- learn by ear & by rote (see video); no sheet music
  1. Black Notes (starts on G-flat): Rh, Lh, Both
  2. White Notes (starts on C): Rh, Lh, Both

Reading Exercise: “Wandering In Four”
- each line: Rh, Lh, Both 3P @m72-120
- count out loud
- keep your eyes on the music

Reading Exercise: “Four Count”
- each line: Rh, Lh, Both 3P @m72-120
- count out loud
- keep your eyes on the music
Treble Clef: Top Line Anchor Note "F"
"Middle-C"

Treble Clef: Bottom Line Anchor Note "E"

5

9

13
Treble Clef: First Leger-line above, Anchor Note "A"
Treble Clef: First Leger-line below, Anchor Note "C"
Lesson 3

"Middle-C"

Treble Clef: 3 Spaces Up Anchor Note "C"
Bass Clef: Bottom Line Anchor Note "G"
Bass Clef: Top Line Anchor Note "A"
"Middle-C"

Bass Clef: First Leger-line Below, Anchor Note "E"
Lesson 3

"Middle-C"

Bass Clef: First Leger-line Above, Anchor Note "C"
Bass Clef: 3 Spaces Down Anchor Note "C"
Stepping & Skipping Etude

Graf
Lesson 3

Wandering In Four

Rh:

Lh:

Rh:

Lh:

Rh:

Lh:

Rh:

Lh:
Lesson 4 Practice Guide

Notes On The Staff & On The Piano:
- work on the 5 groups in each clef
- play each note with 2\textsuperscript{nd} finger (use only rh for treble clef, lh for bass clef)
- say each note as you play it
- go through each practice sheet until you are familiar with every note

Stepping & Skipping exercise (m80-104)
- Arpeggios: I IV V V7 I (say the note names as you play)
- Cadence (Chords): I IV I V V7 I
  - Rh, Lh, Both
  - 4x, each chord
  - count out loud (2 beats, each chord... half notes)

Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star in C - starts on C- (m60-80)
- learn by ear & by rote (see video); if needed, use chord chart (at first)
  1. Melody in the Rh, Chords in the Lh
  2. Melody in the Lh, Chords in the Rh

Reading Exercise: “In Three”
- each line: Rh, Lh, Both 3P @m72-120
- count out loud
- keep your eyes on the music

Reading Exercise: “Copy My Fingers”
- each line: Rh, Lh, Both 3P @m72-120
- count out loud
- keep your eyes on the music
Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

I IV I
Twinkle twinkle little star

V7 I V7 I
How I wonder what you are

I V7 I V7
Up above the world so high

I V7 I V7
Like a diamond in the sky

I IV I
Twinkle twinkle little star

V7 I V7 I
How I wonder what you are
Lesson 4

Copy My Fingers

[Keyboard diagram with finger movements]
Lesson 5 Practice Guide

Notes On The Staff & On The Piano:
- work on the 5 groups in each clef
- play each note with 2nd finger (use only rh for treble clef, lh for bass clef)
- say each note as you play it
- go through each practice sheet until you are familiar with every note

Stepping & Skipping exercise (m96-120)
- Arpeggios: I IV V V7 I (say the note names as you play)
- Cadence (Chords): I IV I V V7 I
  - Rh, Lh, Both
  - 4x, each chord
  - count out loud (2 beats, each chord... half notes)

Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star in C - starts on C - (m72-96)
- learn by ear & by rote (see video); if needed, use chord chart (at first)
  1. Melody in the Rh, Chords in the Lh
  2. Melody in the Lh, Chords in the Rh

Reading Exercise: “Parallel Play”
- each line: Rh, Lh, Both 3P @m60-80
- count out loud
- keep your eyes on the music

Reading Exercise: “Three Or Four?”
- each line: Rh, Lh, Both 3P @m60-80
- count out loud
- keep your eyes on the music
Parallel Play

Rh (4 1 5 4 5 3 1 2 1 5 4 5 3 2)
Lh (4 1 5 4 5 3 1 2 1 5 4 5 3 2)

Rh (5 1 2 1 3 5 4 5 1 2 3 4 0 5)
Lh (5 1 2 1 3 5 4 5 1 2 3 4 0 5)

Rh (5 1 2 1 3 5 4 5 1 2 3 4 0 5)
Lh (5 1 2 1 3 5 4 5 1 2 3 4 0 5)

Rh (5 1 2 1 3 5 4 5 1 2 3 4 0 5)
Lh (5 1 2 1 3 5 4 5 1 2 3 4 0 5)
Three or Four?

In \( \frac{3}{4} \) time, \( \text{whole rest} \) can be used for a whole measure, even though it is only 3 beats.
Lesson 6 Practice Guide

Notes On The Staff & On The Piano:
- work on the 5 groups in each clef
- play each note with 2nd finger (use only rh for treble clef, lh for bass clef)
- Say each note as you play it
- go through each practice sheet until you are familiar with every note
- start trying to do it with the metronome: m60-104

M & W exercise (m80-96)
- Arpeggios: I IV V V7 I (say the note names as you play)
- Cadence (Chords): I IV I V V7 I
  - Rh, Lh, Both
  - 4x, each chord
  - count out loud (2 beats, each chord... half notes)

Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star in C - starts on C- (m88-120)
- learn by ear & by rote (see video); if needed, use chord chart (at first)
1. Melody in the Rh, Chords in the Lh
2. Melody in the Lh, Chords in the Rh
3. Alberti Bass exercise: play the “alberti” pattern 2x for each of the “Twinkle” chords. Say “Bottom, Top, Middle, Top”. Do it once or twice for each hand, separately.

Reading Exercise: “Parallel Play”
- each line: Rh, Lh, Both 3P @m80-120
- count out loud
- keep your eyes on the music

Reading Exercise: “Three Or Four?”
- each line: Rh, Lh, Both 3P @m80-120
- count out loud
- keep your eyes on the music
Lesson 7 Practice Guide

Notes On The Staff & On The Piano:
- work through practice sheet, “Mixing Groups”
- play each note with 2nd finger (use only rh for treble clef, lh for bass clef)
- say each note as you play it

M & W exercise (m96-120)
- Arpeggios: I IV V V7 I (say the note names as you play)
- Cadence (Chords): I IV I V V7 I
  - Rh, Lh, Both
  - 4x, each chord
  - count out loud (2 beats, each chord... half notes)

Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star in C - starts on C- (m72-96)
- learn by ear & by rote (see video); if needed, use chord chart (at first)
1. Melody in the Rh, “Alberti” pattern in the Lh
   - say “Bottom, Top, Middle, Top”
2. Melody in the Lh, “Alberti” pattern in the Rh
3. - say “Bottom, Top, Middle, Top”

Reading Exercise:
“Stepping Quarters & Halfs, Thumbs Share ‘C’”
- each line: Rh, Lh, Both 3P @m80-120
- count out loud
- keep your eyes on the music

Reading Exercise:
“Stepping Quarters & Halfs, No Sharing”
- each line: Rh, Lh, Both 3P @m80-120
- count out loud
- keep your eyes on the music
Mixing Groups: Treble Clef Top Line & Bottom Line
Mixing Groups: Treble Clef
First Leger Line Above & First Leger Line Below
Mixing Groups: Bass Clef Bottom Line & Top Line
Mixing Groups: Bass Clef
First Leger Line Below & First Leger Line Above
Stepping Quarters & Halfs, Thumbs Share "C"

Graf
Stepping Quarters & Halfs, No Sharing

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Lesson 8 Practice Guide

Notes On The Staff & On The Piano:
- work through practice sheet, “Mixing Groups”
- play each note with 2nd finger (use only rh for treble clef, lh for bass clef)
- Say each note as you play it
- start trying to do it with the written rhythm and metronome: m52-60

3rds Etude: fingers 1 & 3; 2 & 4; 3 & 5 (m80-120)
- Arpeggios: I IV V V7 I (say the note names as you play)
- Cadence (Chords): I IV I V V7 I
  - Rh, Lh, Both
  - 2x, each chord (count out loud, 2 beats each chord... half notes)

- Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star in C - starts on C- (m80-120)
  1. Melody in the Rh, “Alberti” pattern in the Lh
  2. Melody in the Lh, “Alberti” pattern in the Rh

Tune:
“Oh When The Saints Go Marching In”
- try to learn by rote, using video. (If necessary, consult the music.)
- learn to play in C, F, & G.
- m104-120

Reading Exercise:
“Top Line, Bottom Line”
- each line: Rh, Lh, Both 3P @m80-120
- count out loud
- keep your eyes on the music

Reading Exercise:
“Bottom Line, Top Line”
- each line: Rh, Lh, Both 3P @m80-120
- count out loud
- keep your eyes on the music
When The Saints Go Marching In
(Key of C)

Oh when the saints go marching in, oh when the

Saints go marching in, oh Lord I

Want to be in that number, when the

Saints go marching in
When The Saints Go Marching In
(Key of F)

Oh when the saints go marching in, oh when the saints go marching in, oh Lord I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in
When The Saints Go Marching In

(Key of G)

Oh when the saints go marching in,
oh when the saints go marching in,
oh Lord I want to be in that number,
when the saints go marching in.
Top Line, Bottom Line

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Bottom Line, Top Line

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Lesson 9 Practice Guide

Notes On The Staff & On The Piano:
- work through practice sheets, “Mixing Clefs”
- play each note with 2nd finger (use only rh for treble clef, lh for bass clef)
- Say each note as you play it

4ths Etude: fingers 1 & 4; 2 & 5 (m80-120)
- Arpeggios: I IV V V7 I (say the note names as you play)
- Cadence (Chords): I IV I V V7 I
  - Rh, Lh, Both
  - 2x, each chord (count out loud, 2 beats each chord... half notes)
- Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star in C - starts on C - (m80-120)
  1. Melody in the Rh, “Alberti” pattern in the Lh
  2. Melody in the Lh, “Alberti” pattern in the Rh

Tune:
“Oh When The Saints Go Marching In”
- try to learn by rote, using video. (If necessary, consult the music.)
- learn to play in C, F, & G.
- m104-120

Reading Exercise:
“Thumbs Apart I”
- each line: Rh, Lh, Both 3P @m80-120
- count out loud
- keep your eyes on the music

Reading Exercise:
“Thumbs Apart II”
- each line: Rh, Lh, Both 3P @m80-120
- count out loud
- keep your eyes on the music
"Middle-C"

Mixing Clefs:
Top Line Treble & Bottom Line Bass
Lesson 9

"Middle-C"

Mixing Clefs: Outer Leger Lines

5

9

13
Lesson 9

“Middle-C”

Mixing Clefs:
Inner Leger Lines
“Middle-C”

Mixing Clefs:
3 Spaces Up, 3 Spaces Down
Mixing Clefs:
All Groups

[Music notation image]
4ths Etude

Graf
Thumbs Apart I

Graf

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Thumbs Apart II

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Lesson 10 Practice Guide

Notes On The Staff & On The Piano:
- work through practice sheets, “Mixing Clefs”
- play each note with 2nd finger (use only rh for treble clef, lh for bass clef)
- Say each note as you play it
- try the written rhythm using metronome: m48-60

5ths Etude: fingers 1 & 5 (m80-120)
- Arpeggios: I IV V V7 I (say the note names as you play)
- Cadence (Chords): I IV I V V7 I
  - Rh, Lh, Both
  - 2x, each chord (count out loud, 2 beats each chord... half notes)
- Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star in C -starts on C- (m80-120)
  1. Melody in the Rh, “Alberti” pattern in the Lh
  2. Melody in the Lh, “Alberti” pattern in the Rh

Tune:
“You Are My Sunshine”
- try to learn by rote, using video. (If necessary, consult the music.)
- learn to play in C, F, & G.
- m104-120

Reading Exercise:
“A Melody Shared”
- each line: Rh, Lh, Both 3P @ m80-120
- count out loud
- keep your eyes on the music

Reading Exercise:
“Another Melody Shared”
- each line: Rh, Lh, Both 3P @ m80-120
- count out loud
- keep your eyes on the music
5ths Etude

Graf
You Are My Sunshine
(Key of C)

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine,
you make me happy when skies are gray,
you'll never know dear how much I love you,
please don't take my sunshine away.
You Are My Sunshine
(Key of F)

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine,
you make me happy when skies are gray.
you'll never know dear how much I love you,
please don't take my sunshine away.
You Are My Sunshine
(Key of G)

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine,

you make me happy when skies are gray,

you'll never know dear how much I love you,

please don't take my sunshine away.
A Melody Shared

Graf

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Another Melody Shared

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Lesson 11 Practice Guide

Notes On The Staff & On The Piano:
- work through practice sheets, “Mixing Clefs”
- play each note with 2nd finger (use only rh for treble clef, lh for bass clef)
- Say each note as you play it
- try the written rhythm using metronome: m48-60

6ths Etude: fingers 1 & 5 (m80-120)
- Arpeggios: I IV V V7 I (say the note names as you play)
- Cadence (Chords): I IV I V V7 I
  - Rh, Lh, Both
  - 2x, each chord (count out loud, 2 beats each chord… half notes)
- Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star in C - starts on C- (m80-120)
  1. Melody in the Rh, “Alberti” pattern in the Lh
  2. Melody in the Lh, “Alberti” pattern in the Rh

Tune:
“You Are My Sunshine”
- try to learn by rote, using video. (If necessary, consult the music.)
- learn to play in C, F, & G.
- m104-120

Reading Exercise:
“In Three”
- each line: Rh, Lh, Both 3P @m80-120
- count out loud
- keep your eyes on the music

Reading Exercise:
“In Three Again”
- each line: Rh, Lh, Both 3P @m80-120
- count out loud
- keep your eyes on the music
In Three

Graf

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In Three Again
Lesson 12 Practice Guide

Notes On The Staff & On The Piano:
- work through practice sheets, “Mixing Clefs”
- play each note with 2nd finger (use only rh for treble clef, lh for bass clef)
- Say each note as you play it
- try the written rhythm using metronome: m48-60

Interval Fun: (80-120)
- Arpeggios: I IV V V7 I (say the note names as you play)
- Cadence (Chords): I IV I V V7 I
  - Rh, Lh, Both
  - 2x, each chord (count out loud, 2 beats each chord... half notes)
- Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star in C -starts on C- (m80-120)
  1. Melody in the Rh, “Alberti” pattern in the Lh
  2. Melody in the Lh, “Alberti” pattern in the Rh

Tune:
“Down In The Valley”
- try to learn by rote, using video. (If necessary, consult the music.)
- learn to play in C, F, & G.
- m104-120

Reading Exercise:
“Moving Along”
- each line: Rh, Lh, Both 3P @m80-120
- count out loud
- keep your eyes on the music

Reading Exercise:
“Moving Further Along”
- each line: Rh, Lh, Both 3P @m80-120
- count out loud
- keep your eyes on the music
Down In The Valley
(Key of F)

Down in the valley,
valley so low,

hang your head
over,

hear the wind blow,

hear the wind blow
dear

hear the wind blow,

hang your head
over,

hear the wind blow.
Down In The Valley
(Key of C)

Down in the valley, valley so low.

Hang your head over, hear the wind blow.

Hear the wind blow dear, hear the wind blow.

Hang your head over, hear the wind blow.
Moving Along

Graf

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Moving Further Along

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Congratulations!
You have completed Beginner Level 1.

Now, proceed to Beginner Level 2