

How To Play
Mary Had A Little Lamb
On A Piano Or Keyboard

Robert Howard Kroepel

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Lakeside Studios
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How To Play “Mary Had A Little Lamb”


Art

Art is *performances* by *artists* [people who *create* and/or *perform works of art*] to *provoke thoughts and emotions* in people who are members of *audiences*, and who are often called *art-lovers*.



Music

Music is an *art form* featuring the performance of *organized sounds and silences* performed over time.


In music,





... *notes* are symbols—, etc.—which designate sounds, pitches, or tones,

... and ...



... *rests* are symbols— = , etc.—which designate silence, or no sounds.

Notes are written ...

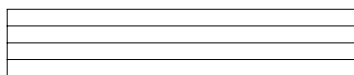
... with a *body* or round part, ,

... with a body and a *stem* [vertical line],  [stem up] or  [stem down],  or ,

... and/or ...

... with a body, a stem and a *flag* , or .

Musical notes and rests are written upon a *staff*, or *set of five lines*.



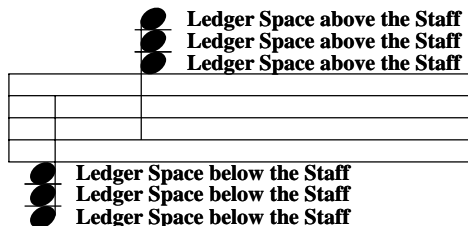
Notes can be written *upon lines*.



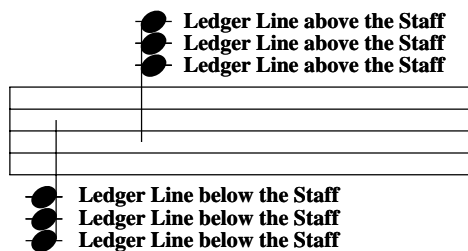
Notes can be written *in spaces* (between lines).



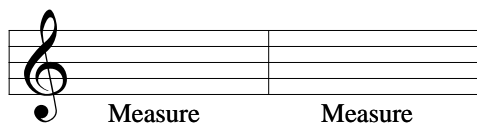
Notes can be written in **ledger spaces** above and below the staff.



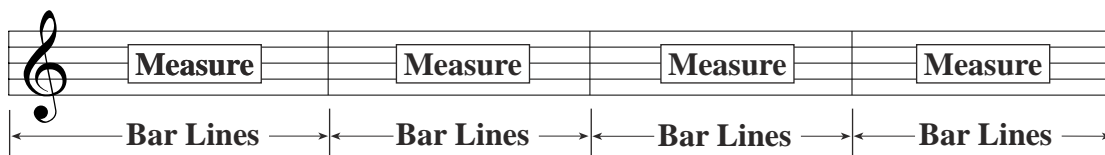
Notes can be written upon **ledger lines** above and below the staff.



A *measure* is a part of a staff between two bar lines.



A *bar line* is a vertical line that divides a staff into measures.



A **double bar line** is a set of two thin bar lines placed between parts of a song. A double bar line designates a separation of two important parts of a song.

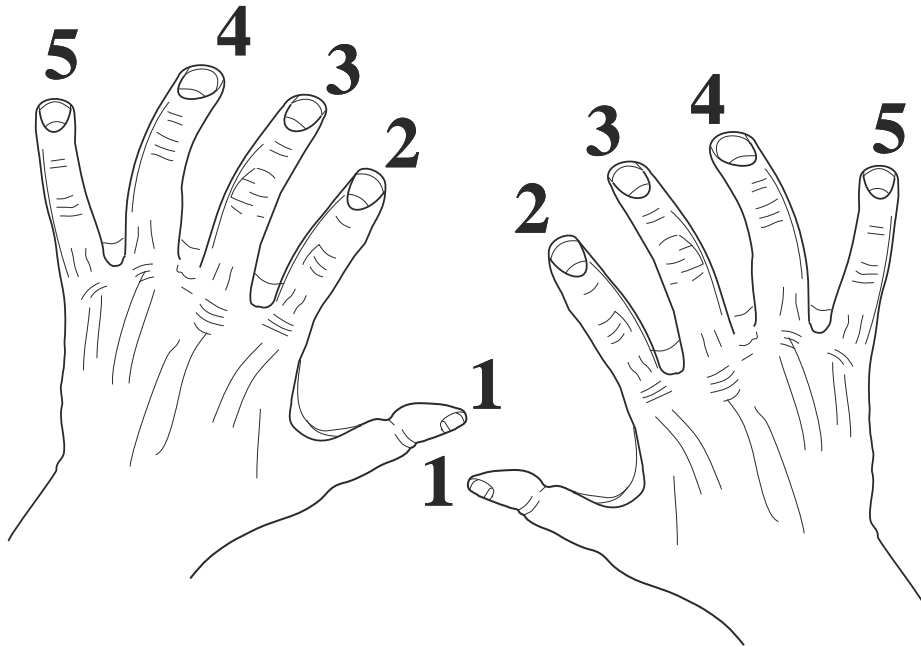
A **final bar line** is a set of two bar lines—a thin bar line and a thick bar line—placed at the end of a staff. A final bar line designates the end of a staff or the end of a song.

Here is a G staff with bar lines, a double bar line, and a final bar line.



Fingering

Fingering is numbering the fingers of your hands and using each finger to play the piano keys.



Your fingers can be numbered starting with your thumbs and counting out to your “pinkies”—your little fingers.

	Thumb	Pointer	Middle	Ring	Pinky
Right Hand:	1	2	3	4	5
Left Hand:	1	2	3	4	5

The numbers for the fingering can be written above, below, or next to the notes in the music. In this book, the fingering numbers are written in front of the notes wherever possible.

Fingering Number:

<i>To the left of the note:</i>	<i>To the right of the note:</i>	<i>Below the note:</i>	<i>Above the note:</i>
1 ●	● 2	● 3	● 4

Fingering numbers help you place your fingers upon the piano keyboard so you can play more easily the notes written in the music you want to play. It is not a good idea to use one finger for a bunch of notes. You have to lift your finger off each piano key in order to play the next key, and that process interrupts the sound of your music. If you use fingerings to play the notes on the piano keys quite often you will find that it is easier for you to play a song.

The Clef Sign

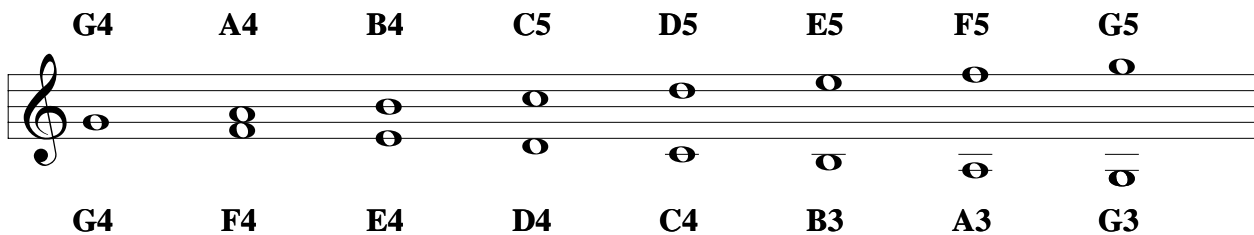
A **clef sign** is a musical symbol which designates where a certain note is located upon a musical staff. This note helps you to read the notes written upon that staff.

The Treble Clef Sign, or G Clef Sign

The **treble clef sign**, often called the **G clef sign**, , designates where the note G4 is located upon the G clef, or treble clef:

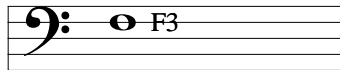


From G4, the higher and lower musical notes could be shown in the lines and spaces of the G clef, and in ledger spaces and on ledger lines above and below the G clef.

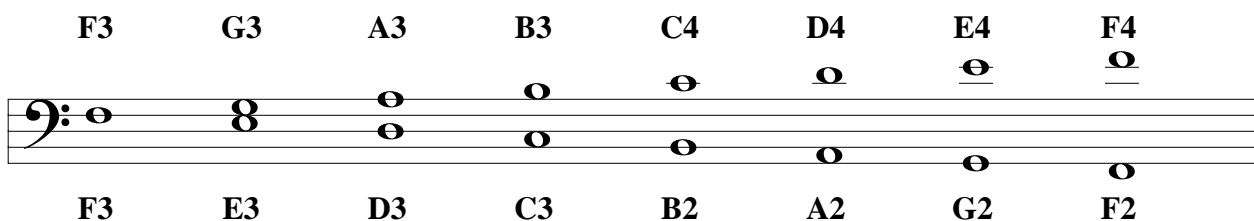


The Bass Clef Sign, or F Clef Sign

The **F clef sign**, or **bass clef sign**, , designates where the note F3 is located upon the F or bass clef:



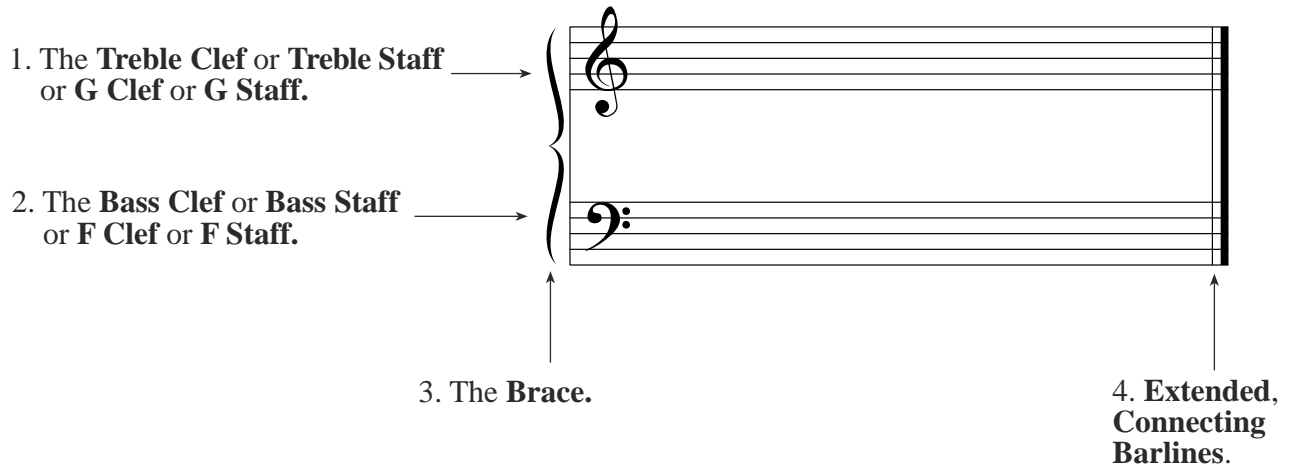
From F3 the higher and lower musical notes could be shown in the lines and spaces of the F clef, and in ledger spaces and on ledger lines above and below the F clef.



The Grand Staff

Keyboard music is often written on *the grand staff*.

The *grand staff* consists of the following elements:

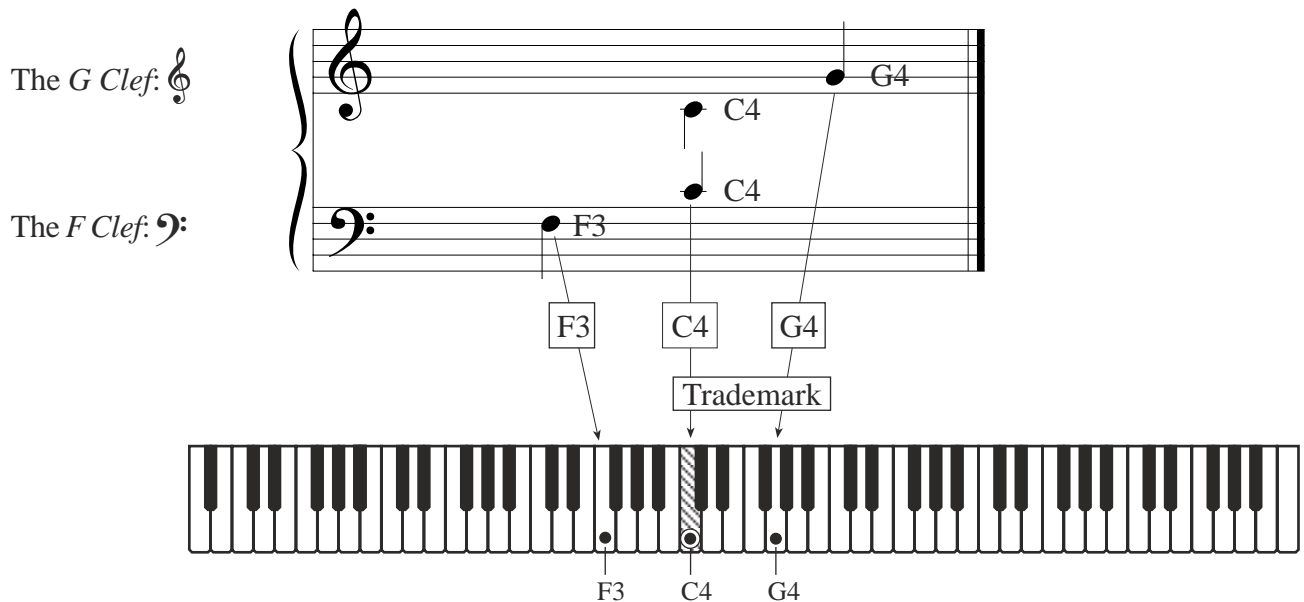


The *G clef sign*  (*treble clef sign*) which tells you —

- 1. that you are reading the treble or G staff;
- 2. the note G₄ is located on the second line;
- 3. that the note C₄ is located on the first ledger line below the G staff.

The *F clef sign*  (*bass clef sign*) which tells you —


- 1. that you are reading the bass or F staff;
- 2. that the note F₃ is located on the fourth line;
- 3. that the note C₄ is located on the first ledger line above the F staff.

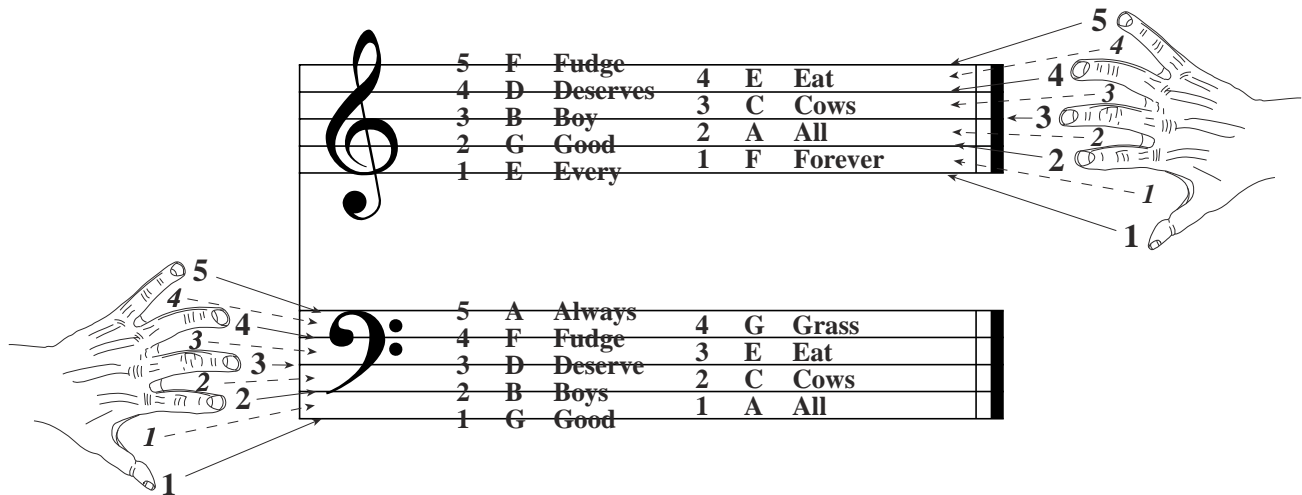


Whenver you begin to read music, always look at the left end of the music to see which staff you are reading—the G/treble staff or the F/bass staff. **Right Staff = Right Notes!!**

Musical Mnemonic Devices, or Memory Aids


A *mnemonic* (“neh-mon-ick”) *device* is a *memory aid*, a verbal idea to help you learn the written notes of piano or keyboard music so you can learn to play those notes upon a piano or a keyboard.


Here are the traditional musical mnemonic devices/memory aids for the treble clef, or G clef, the staff with this symbol: , and the bass clef, or F clef, the musical staff with this symbol: .



You can read music by remembering and using the musical mnemonic devices/memory aids.

1. Identify which clef, or staff, the music is written upon.

Melodies are most often right hand parts and are most often written upon the G clef, or treble clef, which is designated by the treble or G clef sign, which is a stylized, or fancy, capital G: .

Harmonies, or accompaniments, are most often left hand parts and are most often written upon the bass clef, or F clef, which is designated by the bass or F clef sign, which is a stylized, or fancy, capital F: .

2. Use the musical mnemonic device/memory aid for the clef or staff upon which the music is written.

You can use your hands for remembering the musical mnemonic devices/memory aids.

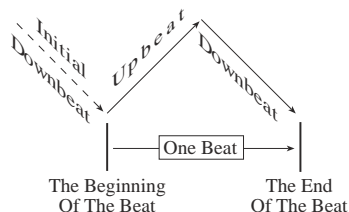
Use your right hand for the treble or G clef, as shown in the diagram.

Use your left hand for the bass or F clef, as shown in the diagram.

The Beat

In music, rhythm is defined and measured by means of the *beat*.

A *beat* is a *duration in time*:



The Count

The *count* in music is the *listing of the beats in a measure*.

The count can be written to show the relationships of notes and rests to each other:

Count: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Mary Had A Little Lamb

Here is an example of music written for the song, “Mary Had A Little Lamb”:

Chords: E3-G3 G2 E3-G3 C3 E3-G3 D3 F3-G3 G2 F3-G3 C3 G2

Bass: C3 G2 C3 G2 D3 G2 F3-G3 C3 C3-E3-G3

NOTE: This is the version of “Mary” you can learn to play on page 14.

Musical Letter-Numbers

Music can be organized by assigning *letter-numbers* to each written note, such as C4, G4, F3, etc.

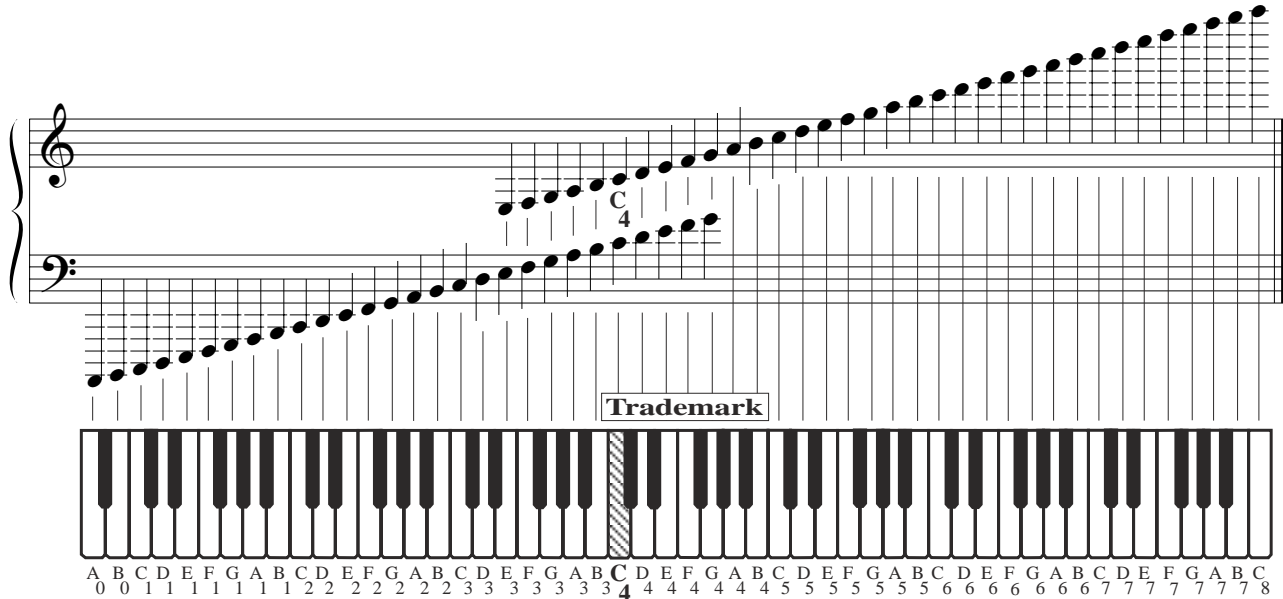
The assignment of musical letter-numbers to musical notes can be described by *keyboard diagrams*.

Keyboard Diagrams

A Keyboard Diagram [a picture of musical notes and a keyboard] shows the relationship of written notes and the keys of a keyboard.

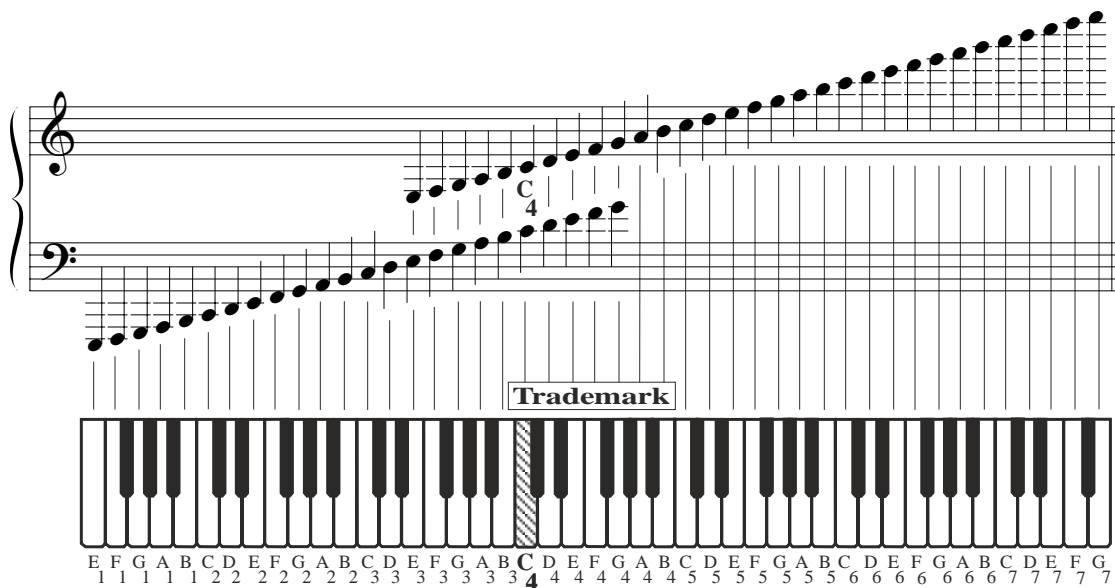
The 88-Key Keyboard Diagram

The 88-Key Keyboard Diagram shows the relationship of written musical notes to the keys of a keyboard which has 88 keys.



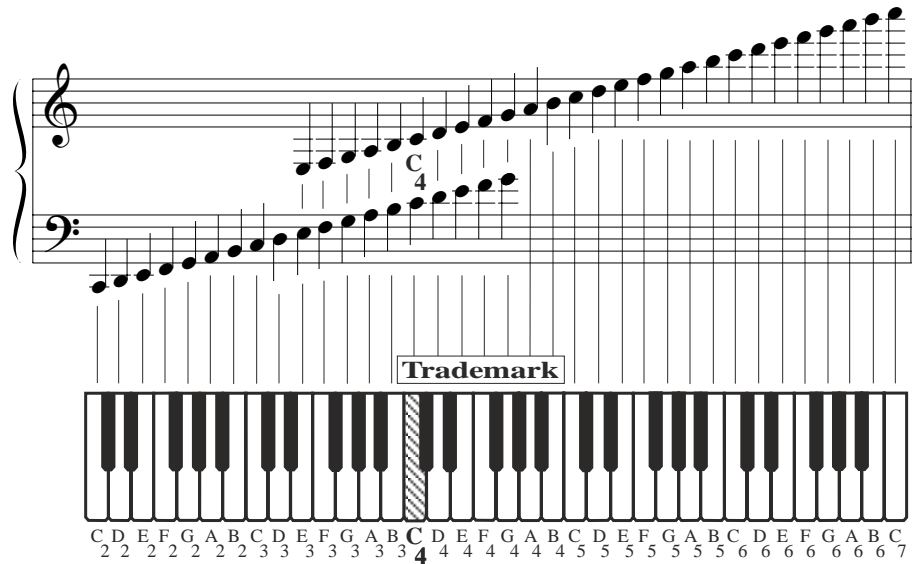
The 76-Key Keyboard Diagram

The 76-Key Keyboard Diagram shows the relationship of written musical notes to the keys of a keyboard which has 76 keys.



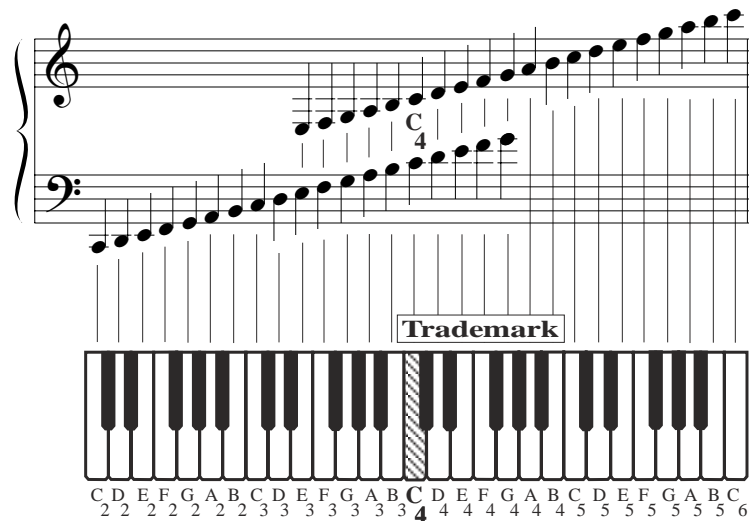
The 61-Key Keyboard Diagram

The 61-Key Keyboard Diagram shows the relationship of written musical notes to the keys of a keyboard which has 61 keys.



The 49-Key Keyboard Diagram

The 49-Key Keyboard Diagram shows the relationship of written musical notes to the keys of a keyboard which has 49 keys.



Find the Keyboard Diagram which has the same number of keys as your keyboard.

Find the location on your keyboard of the note C4. It will be located close to the Trademark, which is the name of the manufacturer of the keyboard.

Melody

In music, a *melody* is a *series of notes* [*melody notes*] which is the *tune* and is the part of a song which you could sing, hum, whistle, or play with your right hand [**R.H.**] on the keys of a keyboard.

Here is the melody for “Mary Had A Little Lamb”:

Mary Had A Little Lamb: Melody

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of eight measures. The melody notes are indicated by letter-numbers (e.g., E4, D4) under the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord progressions are indicated by boxed numbers and letters above the staff.

Measure 1: Chord C. Count: 1 2 3 4. Notes: E4, D4, C4, D4. Lyrics: 1. Ma - ry had a lit - tle lamb, 2. Ev - 'ry - where that Ma - ry went.

Measure 2: Chord G7. Count: 1 2 3 4. Notes: E4, E4, E4, D4. Lyrics: Lit - tle lamb, Ma - ry went.

Measure 3: Chord C. Count: 1 2 3 4. Notes: D4, D4, D4, E4. Lyrics: Lit - tle lamb!

Measure 4: Chord C. Count: 1 2 3 4. Notes: E4, G4, G4, E4. Lyrics: Ma - ry went,

Measure 5: Chord C. Count: 1 2 3 4. Notes: E4, D4, C4, D4. Lyrics: Ma - ry had a lit - tle lamb, its fleece was white as snow!

Measure 6: Chord G7. Count: 1 2 3 4. Notes: E4, E4, E4, E4. Lyrics: Ev - 'ry - where that Ma - ry went the lamb was sure to go.

Measure 7: Chord C. Count: 1 2 3 4. Notes: C4, E4, D4, C4. Lyrics: go.

The *names* of the *melody notes* are written as *letter-numbers* under the melody notes: E4 - D4 - C4 - E4 - E4 - E4, etc.

Use a keyboard diagram to locate the white keys which have the same letter-numbers as the melody note letter-numbers.

Play the melody notes for “Mary” with your right hand [**R.H.**] on the keyboard’s keys.

Harmony

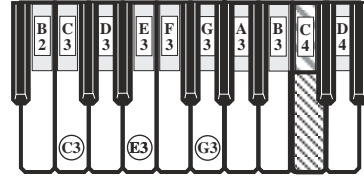
In music, *harmony* is the group of notes which are most often written below the melody, which are played with the left hand [L.H.] on a keyboard, and which function as an *accompaniment* or musical background or support for the melody.

A *chord* is a group of notes [chord-tones] which provides the harmony for a melody.

Chord symbols, the letters and numbers designating the chords, are most often written above the G clef.

Here is a C chord:

Play the C chord:

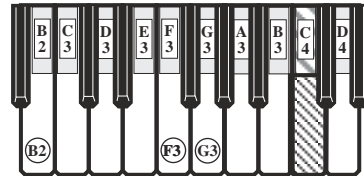


NOTE: Play stacked chord-tones such as C3-E3-G3 for the C chord and B2-F3-G3 for the G7 chord *simultaneously*—at the same time.

Notice the chord symbol of a C chord: **C**

Here is a G7 chord:

Play the G7 chord:



Notice the chord symbol for a G7 chord: **G7**

NOTE: Play the C and G7 chords with your *left hand*: Play the C chord then the G7 chord repeatedly until you can play them smoothly.

Here is “Mary” written with the melody [*melody notes*, the upper notes] and the chords for the accompaniment which provides the harmony [*harmony notes*, the lower notes] which supports the melody:

Mary Had A Little Lamb: Melody and Chord Accompaniment

Play the melody with your right hand [R.H.]; play the chord accompaniment with your left hand [L.H.].

Rhythm: Accompaniment Rhythm Pattern

In music, *rhythm* is (1) the *time-values* or *durations* of *notes and rests* and (2) the pattern, called a *rhythm pattern*, of a *sequence of notes*.

An *accompaniment rhythm pattern* is a *sequence of chord-tones* [notes written under the melody with their stems up] and *bass notes* [notes written under the chord-tones with their stems down] which provides the *harmony* for a *melody*. A common piano accompaniment rhythm pattern is the *stride style*.

Follow the count and the sequence of bass notes and chords for the stride style accompaniment shown below:

Count:	1	2	3	4	
	4	⌘	Chord	⌘	Chord
	4	Bass	⌘	Bass	⌘

Notice how the quarter rests (⌘) tell you when not to play a bass note or a chord in the sequence.

The “**Bass**” is the lowest note of any chord, and is written stem down.

The “**Chord**” is the upper note, or notes, of a chord, and is written stem up.

Play “Mary” with the melody and the stride style accompaniment rhythm pattern:

Mary Had A Little Lamb: Melody and Stride Style Accompaniment

1 C **2** C **3** G7 **4** C

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

R.H. E4 D4 C4 D4 E4 E4 E4 E4 D4 D4 D4 D4 E4 G4 G4

1. Ma - ry had a lit - tle lamb, Lit - tle lamb, Lit - tle lamb!

2. Ev - 'ry - where that Ma - ry went, Ma - ry went, Ma - ry went,

L.H. Chords: E3-G3 G2 E3-G3 C3 E3-G3 G2 E3-G3 D3 F3-G3 G2 F3-G3 C3 E3-G3 E3-G3

Bass: C3 G2 C3 G2 D3 G2 C3 G2

5 C **6** C **7** G7 **8** C

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

R.H. E4 D4 C4 D4 E4 E4 E4 E4 D4 D4 E4 D4 1-6 C4

Ma - ry had a lit - tle lamb, its fleece was white as snow!

Ev - 'ry - where that Ma - ry went the lamb was sure to go.

L.H. Chords: E3-G3 G2 E3-G3 C3 E3-G3 G2 E3-G3 D3 F3-G3 G2 F3-G3 C3 E3-G3

Bass: C3 G2 C3 G2 D3 G2 C3 G2