

# CYBER CITY CIRCUITS MINI-TONE KEYBOARD INSTRUCTIONS

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# 1. Overview

The Cyber City Circuits Mini Tone Keyboard is an Arduino compatible music keyboard with 2.5 octaves, a *luxurious* **ATMEGA328PB micro-controller**, a *beautiful* **CH-340G** USB interface, 4 *luminous* **WS2812E** RGB LEDs, a *standard* **on-board speaker**, and a *morphenomenal* **3.5mm jack adapter** so that you can connect it to your **existing sound systems/mixers**. The board is fully compatible with the Arduino IDE if you select 'Arduino Nano' in the 'Board Manager'.

The WS2812E LEDs are the same ones that Adafruit uses for their NeoPixel lights and it uses the Adafruit Neopixel library.

# 2. Using the Arduino IDE

# 2.1. Setting up the Arduino IDE

You may need to download the Arduino IDE from the Arduino website. (<a href="https://www.arduino.cc/">https://www.arduino.cc/</a>)

The version of the firmware on the Micro-Controller is called the 'Arduino Nano'. It comes with the Arduino Board Manager. To set your Arduino IDE to work with this board, change these settings.

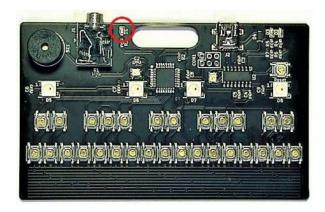
- Tools -> Board -> Arduino Nano
- Tools -> Port -> What Com Port your computer is using for the connection.
  - You may need to check your port number using Windows' Device Manager.

# 2.2. Loading Your First Program

To make sure you have a good connection to your Mini-Tone Keyboard, we need to send a simple program to it to see if it is communicating. The Mini-Tone Keyboard has a light on the upper left side of the board marked 'D1'. One the micro-controller, that light is connected to pin '2'. Let us write a simple script that will be used to turn that light on and off. This will help us make sure we have a good connection to the board.

Open your Arduino IDE and enter in the following, we will go over what all this means more later.

```
1 void setup(){
2  pinMode(2, OUTPUT);
3 }
4 void loop(){
5  digitalWrite(2, HIGH);
6  delay(1000);
7  digitalWrite(2, LOW);
8  delay(1000);
9 }
```



Make sure things like 'digitalWrite' has a capital W in it and 'pinMode' has a capital M in it. When you're pretty sure you have it right, you want to 'push' your new program to the board.

# • Sketch -> Upload

If it worked correctly you will see the lights on the right side of the board blink on and off a bunch and then the light on the left should blink on for one second and then off for one second. If this is not happening, go back and double check your settings and your program.

Downloading the Needed Libraries

While setting up the Mini-Tone Keyboard, we will use two third-party libraries to get the board to work. Libraries are used

# 3. Introduction to Programming

Now that we have the starter kit built, we can write code for it and make it do things! We are going to be using the Arduino IDE software to program the starter kit.

# 3.1. Programming Concepts:

There are several basic concepts that we need to go over first. We won't be going over all of them, but you will be getting a great start. The Arduino uses a type of the C++ programming language. The programs you write for Arduino is called a 'sketch'.

### 3.1.1. Comments

Comments are just that, comments. Comments are ignored by the compiler and do not affect your code at all when used correctly. They are used to make notes and reminders in the code for reference in the future. All good code has a lot of comments in it. There are two types of comments, single line and multiline.

- Single Line Comments Single line comments always start with '//'. For example,
   '//The LED is connected to digital pin 13.'
   This line tells the reader that there is a LED and it is connected to pin 13 and that pin is a digital pin.
- **Multi Line Comments** Multi line comments start with '/\*' and end with '\*/'. They are used when you have a lot of information you want to block off. Example:

```
/*
Blink
Turns an LED on, then off, repeatedly.
*/
```

### 3.1.2. Variables

Variables are used to store values. Here is an example: 'int a = 13;'. Here you will find three parts of this example.

- Variable Type 'int' is used to declare the variable type. 'Int' is used to tell your sketch that the variable is an integer. There are a lot of different variable types, but we will primarily use this type in the beginning. An integer can store any number from -32,768 to 32,767. You can't store any number outside this range as an integer though.
- Variable Name 'a' is the name of the variable. A variable name can be any letter from A to Z, a to z, any number from 0 to 9 and the underscore.

• Variable Value – In the example, the value we are setting 'a' to is '13'.

### 3.1.3. Functions

Functions are a set of instructions that can be anywhere in a sketch. They are used to perform very specific and repetitive tasks. A function has four major components. Here is an example of a small function.

```
int multi(int a, int b){
  return a * b;
}
```

- **Return Type** In this example, 'int' is called the return type. You might find other things in this spot, like void or float (...and we'll go over what those mean later...). If you have a function that is used to send a value from that function to another, then you need to tell your 'sketch' what type of value that will be. In this example, the value being returned in an integer, so we use 'int'.
- Function Name The function name in this example is 'multi'. A function name can be made up of characters from A to Z (lowercase or upper case), numbers from 0-9 and we can use underscores (\_). You cannot use the same function name more than once in your sketch. There are also some internal names (...like tone...) that you cannot use.
- Arguments Inside the parenthesis you can place arguments. These are used to give the
  functions additional information. Even if your function doesn't need an argument, you must put
  parenthesis, just leave them empty. In the example there are two arguments, 'int a' and 'int b'.
  These are two variables that the function uses to do math with. If you don't tell the function
  what numbers to use it won't work correctly.
- Statement The statement is the actions that the function does when it is called. In the example, the statement is '{ return a \* b; }'. A statement will always begin and end with curly brackets. This statement will take the number for 'a' and the number for 'b' and multiply them together. Then, it will 'return' the product of the two to the sketch. Almost everything you do, outside of the basic setups, will take place in a function.

## 3.1.4. Essential Functions

Every sketch will have two functions to start with. These are 'void setup()' and 'void loop()'.

• The 'void setup()' function is an essential part of an Arduino sketch, even if you don't actually use it. It is the first function read by your program and setups your starter kit to run your sketch. Remember, the setup function only runs once and at the beginning.

• The 'void loop()' function is also very essential. It is read after the setup function and will usually contain a very large portion of the operations for the sketch. The function is called loop and it does exactly that – loops. The loop function will run over and over until something tells it to stop. Remember, that the loop function runs over and over again.

### 3.1.5. Statements

Statements come in two flavors. Simple and conditional.

- **Simple Statements** A simple statement is usually a single line and will <u>always</u> end with a semicolon (;). That last part is important. <u>If you have issues with your code, it is most likely a missing semi-colon</u>. An example would be 'digitalWrite(13, HIGH);'.
- **Conditional Statements** Conditional statements comprise of a condition followed by a series of other statements that only run when the condition is met. Let's walk through another example:

```
1 if (a = = 5){
2 digitalWrite(13, HIGH);
3 }
4 else{
5 digitalWrite(13, LOW);
6 }
```

Okay, I know it looks like a lot, but it's pretty simple. Basically when 'a' is equal to 5, then a light will turn on. We will go over it line by line.

Line 1 – This is the conditional statement portion. It reads out as 'if the variable a is equal to 5, then do the following'. You may have noticed that the conditional statement has a double-equals sign (= =) in it. This is different than a single equals sign. The double-equals sign means 'is equal to'. So, the statement after the curly bracket will only execute when 'a' is equal to 5.

Line 2 – This line is a simple statement. digitalWrite is a function name that takes one of the pins of the starter kit and either turns it on or turns it off. When you make a pin 'HIGH' it turns it on, alternatively when you make a pin 'LOW' it turns it off. In this case, it is pin 13 on your starter kit.

Line 3 – This is the closing bracket for the conditional statement we started on line 1.

Line 4 – This is another kind conditional statement. Else is a used with 'if' statements. Basically, when an 'if' condition is not met, then the 'else' statement is executed. So if 'a' is not equal to 5, then the statements after the curly brackets will be executed.

**Line 5** – This is the statement for the 'else' condition. When 'a' is not equal to 5, then we will make the led pin LOW. Remember, this turns the pin off.

Line 6 – This is the closing bracket for the else conditional statement we started on line 4.

# 3.1.6. Math and Logic

The Arduino is capable of basic math.

# 3.1.6.1. Basic Operators

These are used to do super basic math.

This table shows the difference math operators:			
Operator	Action		
+	Addition		
-	Subtraction		
*	Multiplication		
/	Division		
=	Set Value		

These should all pretty straight forward. The one thing to remember is that the microcontroller can only do basic math, so it doesn't always know how to handle division. When dividing two integers, the controller will only return an integer. For example, 7 / 4 would normally give your 1.75, but because it will only return an integer it will give you 1 instead, but if one of the numbers is a float type (decimal number) is will give you a more accurate number. So, if you tried 7.0 / 4 then it will give you 1.75, which is a float instead of an integer.

# 3.1.6.2. Compound Operators

These are basically shorthand for math. You can use them to make statements shorter and more concise.

This is the full list of compound operators			
Operator	Action		
++	Increment by 1		
	Decrement by 1		
+=	Compound addition		
-=	Compound subtraction		
* =	Compound multiplication		
/=	Compound division		

Here is an example: 'X = X + 1' - In this example we take whatever value is stored in the 'X' variable and we're just going to add 1 to it. So, if 'X' was 7, after this it will be 8. Instead of writing that, we could just write 'X + +'.

Now we understand how '++' and '--' work, let's talk about how to increment by more than 1. If we use 'X = X + 4', just like before it will add whatever value is stored in X and add 4 to it. We could also use 'X + 4' and it will do the same thing.

# 3.1.6.3. Comparison Operators

Comparison operators are used to compare two different values. We used one of these earlier when we were talking about if statements. The '==' is a comparison operator.

This is a list of comparison operators:			
Operator	Action		
==	Is equal to		
! =	Is not equal to		
<	Less than		
>	Greater than		
<=	Less than or equal to		
>=	Greater than or equal to		

These work just like they sound like. You will mostly uses these in conditional statements, like:

In this example, when a is greater than or equal to 20 the pin 13 will turn on.

# 3.1.6.4. Boolean Operators

Boolean operators, sometimes called logic operators, are used to test different conditions in if statements. These will return either TRUE or FALSE.

There are three different Boolean operators.				
Operator	Symbols	Action		
AND	&&	True only if both conditions are true		
OR	11	True if either condition is true		
NOT	!	True if neither condition is true		

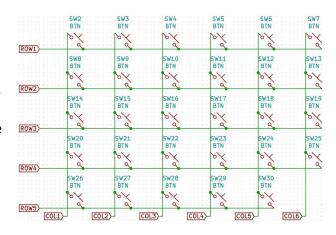
The words AND, OR, and NOT aren't written into the code, but instead you will use symbols. Here is an example:

Here the statement, 'digitalWrite(13, HIGH);' is only executed when both 'x' is equal to 14 AND y is greater than or equal to 50.

# 4. Learning More About Your Mini-Tone Keyboard

### 4.1. Button Matrixes

The Mini-Tone Keyboard is laid out in a button matrix. Normally we would need to use a single pin for each button, meaning we would need to use 29 digital pins to control the buttons, but by using a matrix we are able to use all 29 buttons with only 11 pins on our micro-controller. To do this, we need to place the buttons in a grid pattern, segmenting the buttons into individual rows and columns. With them broken down in that way, we can just check each row for a button being pressed, then move to the next row, etc.



Normally when we use a button we check the button state with a 'digitalRead()' function. We see if it is LOW or HIGH and then have the boards act accordingly, but in a matrix we can activate one row at a time then check each column of that row. I know this sounds a little complicated, but luckily someone wrote a library called 'Keypad' to do all the work for you.

Each of the row and columns are connected to pins on the micro-controller. When we write software using those buttons, we will need to know what pins those are connected to.

# 4.2. The Tone Function

The Arduino IDE has a function built-in called 'tone'. The 'tone' function generates a square wave of the specified frequency (and 50% duty cycle) on specific pin. The pin can be connected to a piezo buzzer or other speaker to play tones and only one tone can be generated at a time. We use this tone function to play music on the Mini-Tone Keyboard. The 'tone' function takes three arguments. Arguments are used to pass different settings and information to the function. The arguments for the 'tone' function are (1) speaker pin, (2) note to play, (3) duration of the note.

# 4.3. The RGB Lights

The Mini-Tone Keyboard has four (4) WS-2812E LEDs on it. These LEDs are very popular with people because they are very easy to use. While programming your Mini-Tone Keyboard, we will be using a library from a company named Adafruit. They write all kinds of Arduino software and we will be using the Adafruit Neopixel library to interact with these lights.

# 5. Introduction to Libraries and Headers

# 5.1. Libraries

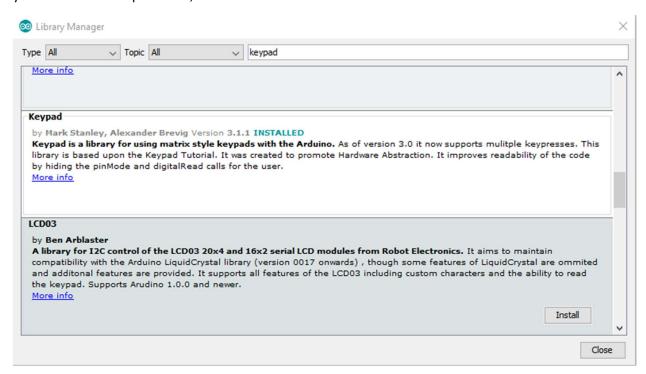
A library is basically a small file or group of files that make it easier to share functionality among different programs. For example, we will need to use a very complex process to use the button matrix. Instead of writing a new process every time we want to use a button matrix we could just use a library. That way we only need to get it working once and then we can easily take that functionality to other projects.

# 5.1.1. Using the Library Manager

To open the Arduino Library Manager, within the Arduino IDE click the 'Tools' button in the top menu. From there click 'Manage Libraries...'. This is where we will go to install new libraries to your Arduino IDE. We need two libraries.

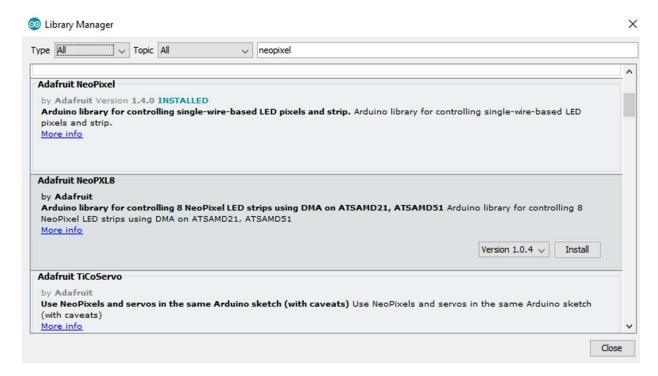
# 5.1.1.1. Installing the Keypad Library

The first library we need to install is the 'keypad' library. There are many different 'keypad' libraries available, but they are all different and if you install the wrong one your program may not work correctly. On the top of the Library Manager window there is a search bar. Type 'keypad' into the search bar and then scroll down to find the library named 'Keypad' by Mark Stanley and Alexander Brevig. Once you find it, click install. The version available may be different than what you see in the example below, but the latest version will work fine.



# 5.1.1.2. Installing the Adafruit Neopixel Library

The next library we will need is the 'Adafruit Neopixel' library. In the search bar of the Library Manager, type in 'neopixel'. Scroll down to find the 'Adafruit Neopixel' library by Adafruit and click install.



# 5.2. Header Files

When programming with the Mini-Tone Keyboard, we will be creating a header file named 'pitches.h'. This file will be used to store the note values for the keyboard. Essentially, all it will be is a lookup table for the keyboard to reference when trying to play notes. Writing things like this in a header file will help you keep your code better organized and will make it easier to use the same variables in other pojects. The header file 'pitches.h' will need to be in the same folder as your main keyboard program.

# 6. Let's Start Writing Code!

Open the Arduino IDE and click the 'File' menu in the top bar and then click 'New'. Next, go ahead and click the 'File' menu again and click 'Save'. A new window will open asking you what you would like to name your program. Name your program 'Keyboard'. Now you have your program saved and we need to add our header file. On the right of your Arduino IDE screen, you will see a little button with a down button arrow. Click on that button and then click on 'New Tab'. Then on the bottom of the Arduino IDE it will ask you for a name for your new file. We need to name that file 'pitches.h', all lowercase.



# 6.1. Setting Up Your Header File

As you read before, the 'pitches.h' header file is a way to store the note values. Near the top of your Arduino IDE you will see two tabs. One is named 'Keyboard' and one is named 'pitches.h'. You will need to add the following lines to the 'pitches.h' file. Go ahead and add them into there now.

```
#define C4
           262
#define CS4 277
#define D4 294
#define DS4 311
#define E4 330
#define F4 349
#define FS4 370
#define G4 392
#define GS4 415
#define A4 440
#define AS4 466
#define B4 494
#define C5 523
#define CS5 554
#define D5 587
#define DS5 622
#define E5 659
#define F5 698
#define FS5 740
#define G5 784
#define GS5 831
#define A5 880
#define AS5 932
#define B5 988
#define C6 1047
#define CS6 1109
#define D6 1175
#define DS6 1245
#define E6 1319
```

Great! Now you can reference these variables easily from within your main program.

# 6.2. Playing Mary Had A Little Lamb

Now we are going to create a simple and basic program to play a song on your Mini-Tone Keyboard. Mary Had A Little Lamb is a super simple song and is a great way to learn to use the tone function. Let's set it up step-by-step. You may remember that earlier we mentioned two essential functions. These essential functions must be in every Arduino program for it to operate correctly. They are named 'setup()' and 'loop()'.

In the space before the 'setup()' function we will need to add a few lines of code.

The first line will tell the program to use the 'pitches.h' header file that we just made.

```
#include "pitches.h"
```

After that we need to tell the Arduino IDE what pin our speaker is on. To do this we will create a variable named 'speaker' and make that equal to the pin that the speaker is connected to on the micro-controller.

```
int speaker = 3;
The notes we use for Mary Had A Little Lamb are:
'B5, A5, G5, A5, B5, B5, B5, A5, A5, A5, B5, B5, B5'
```

To play a note we will use the 'tone' function followed by the 'delay' function. We have to use the delay function so that the notes that we play with the 'tone' function don't blend together. Go ahead and type in the following 'tone' and 'delay' functions into your 'loop()' function.

```
tone (speaker, B5, 250);
delay(500);
tone(speaker, A5, 250);
delay(500);
tone (speaker, G5, 250);
delay(500);
tone (speaker, A5, 250);
delay(500);
tone(speaker, B5, 250);
delay(500);
tone (speaker, B5, 250);
delay(500);
tone (speaker, B5, 250);
delay(500);
tone (speaker, A5, 250);
delay(500);
tone (speaker, A5, 250);
delay(500);
tone (speaker, A5, 250);
delay(500);
tone (speaker, B5, 250);
delay(500);
tone(speaker, B5, 250);
delay(500);
tone (speaker, B5, 250);
delay(500);
```

and then upload your sketch. If everything worked, you should hear that magical square-tone lullaby of the Mary Had A Little Lamb on your Mini-Tone Keyboard.

Note: You will probably want to disconnect the board from the USB so the music will stop. You can plug it back in later when you are ready to push your new code.

# 6.3. Introducing Variables into the Code

That was very tedious wasn't it? What if you wanted to make the delays last a little longer or make them shorter? You would have to change every single instance of delay in your code and that can be exhausting if you do it enough. This is where variables can come in real

handy. In the area before the 'setup()' function, add a variable named 'wait' and make it equal to 300.

```
int wait = 300;
```

Now we want to change every 'delay' function to use this new 'wait' variable. To do this, we are going to use the find and replace tool in the Arduino IDE. Click on the 'Edit' menu in the menu bar and then click on 'Find...'. A new window will pop up with two fields in it. Put 'delay(500);' into the 'Find:' field and then put 'delay(wait);' into the 'Replace with:' field. Then click the 'Replace All' button. Then, like magic, all the 'delay' functions have changed.

Go ahead and upload the sketch to your Mini-Tone Keyboard. You should hear the same notes being played as before, but the space between the notes is a lot shorter and the music should sound faster. Good job!

# 6.4. Creating a Function to Make Your Code Cleaner

Okay, the program is starting to get a little easier to work with, but it is still very tedious to use. This is where creating your own functions can make it a lot easier to work with your code.

In this exercise we are going to create a function called 'playNote'. We want to be able to play a note and turn the light 'D1' on when a note is playing. Before we can use the light 'D1' we have to ass a couple of lines to our code. First, we have to assign the light to a pin number. In the area before the 'setup()' function, add the following line:

```
int led = 2;
```

Then, we need to tell our Arduino IDE that we need to make this light an OUTPUT. Inside the 'setup()' function add the following line:

```
pinMode(led, OUTPUT);
```

Now, we can starting using the light 'D1' with our code!

Now to add the function to our code. So far all of the code has been within the 'setup()' and 'loop()' functions. To create a new function, you need to add them AFTER the 'loop()' function. We want our 'playNote' function to do a few things. We want it to play a note, we want to be able to tell the code how long the note will be, and then how long to rest before playing the next note. So, we will need to add those three arguments into the function. Then once the function is called, we want the light 'D1' to turn on, play the note, when the note is done playing we want the light 'D1' to turn off, then we want it the function to wait to play the next note. Add the following lines of code in the area AFTER the 'loop()' function.

```
void playNote(int note, int duration, int rest) {
  digitalWrite(led, HIGH);
  tone(speaker, note, duration);
  digitalWrite(led, LOW);
  delay(rest);
}
```

# 7. Appendix – Code References

```
7.1. Example – 2.2 – Blink
void setup(){
  pinMode(2, OUTPUT);
void loop(){
  digitalWrite(2, HIGH);
 delay(1000);
 digitalWrite(2, LOW);
delay(1000);
  7.2. Example – 6.1 – Setting Up Your Header File
#define C4
            262
#define CS4 277
#define D4 294
#define DS4 311
#define E4 330
#define F4 349
#define FS4 370
#define G4 392
#define GS4 415
#define A4 440
#define AS4 466
#define B4 494
#define C5 523
#define CS5 554
#define D5 587
#define DS5 622
#define E5 659
#define F5 698
#define FS5 740
#define G5 784
#define GS5 831
#define A5 880
#define AS5 932
#define B5 988
#define C6 1047
#define CS6 1109
#define D6 1175
#define DS6 1245
#define E6 1319
  7.3. Example 6.2 – Playing Mary Had A Little Lamb
#include "pitches.h"
```

int speaker = 3;

```
void setup() {
  // put your setup code here, to run once:
void loop() {
  tone (speaker, B5, 250);
  delay(500);
  tone (speaker, A5, 250);
  delay(500);
  tone (speaker, G5, 250);
  delay(500);
  tone (speaker, A5, 250);
  delay(500);
  tone(speaker, B5, 250);
  delay(500);
  tone(speaker, B5, 250);
  delay(500);
  tone(speaker, B5, 250);
  delay(500);
  tone(speaker, A5, 250);
  delay(500);
  tone(speaker, A5, 250);
  delay(500);
  tone(speaker, A5, 250);
  delay(500);
  tone(speaker, B5, 250);
  delay(500);
  tone(speaker, B5, 250);
  delay(500);
  tone (speaker, B5, 250);
  delay(500);
}
  7.4. Example – 6.3 – Introducing Variables into the Code
#include "pitches.h"
int speaker = 3;
int wait = 300;
void setup() {
  // put your setup code here, to run once:
}
void loop() {
  tone (speaker, B5, 250);
  delay(wait);
  tone (speaker, A5, 250);
  delay(wait);
  tone (speaker, G5, 250);
```

```
delay(wait);
  tone (speaker, A5, 250);
  delay(wait);
  tone (speaker, B5, 250);
  delay(wait);
  tone (speaker, B5, 250);
  delay(wait);
  tone (speaker, B5, 250);
  delay(wait);
  tone (speaker, A5, 250);
  delay(wait);
  tone(speaker, A5, 250);
  delay(wait);
  tone (speaker, A5, 250);
  delay(wait);
  tone (speaker, B5, 250);
  delay(wait);
  tone(speaker, B5, 250);
  delay(wait);
  tone(speaker, B5, 250);
  delay(wait);
}
  7.5. Example – 6.4 – Creating a Function to Make Your Code Cleaner
#include "pitches.h"
int speaker = 3;
int led = 2;
int wait = 500;
void setup() {
  pinMode(led, OUTPUT);
}
void loop() {
  playNote(B5, 250, 300);
  playNote(A5, 250, 300);
  playNote(G5, 250, 300);
  playNote(A5, 250, 300);
  playNote(B5, 250, 300);
  playNote(B5, 250, 300);
  playNote(B5, 250, 300);
  playNote(A5, 250, 300);
  playNote(A5, 250, 300);
  playNote(A5, 250, 300);
  playNote(B5, 250, 300);
  playNote(B5, 250, 300);
  playNote(B5, 250, 300);
}
```

```
void playNote(int note, int duration, int rest) {
  digitalWrite(led, HIGH);
  tone(speaker, note, duration);
  digitalWrite(led, LOW);
  delay(rest);
}
```