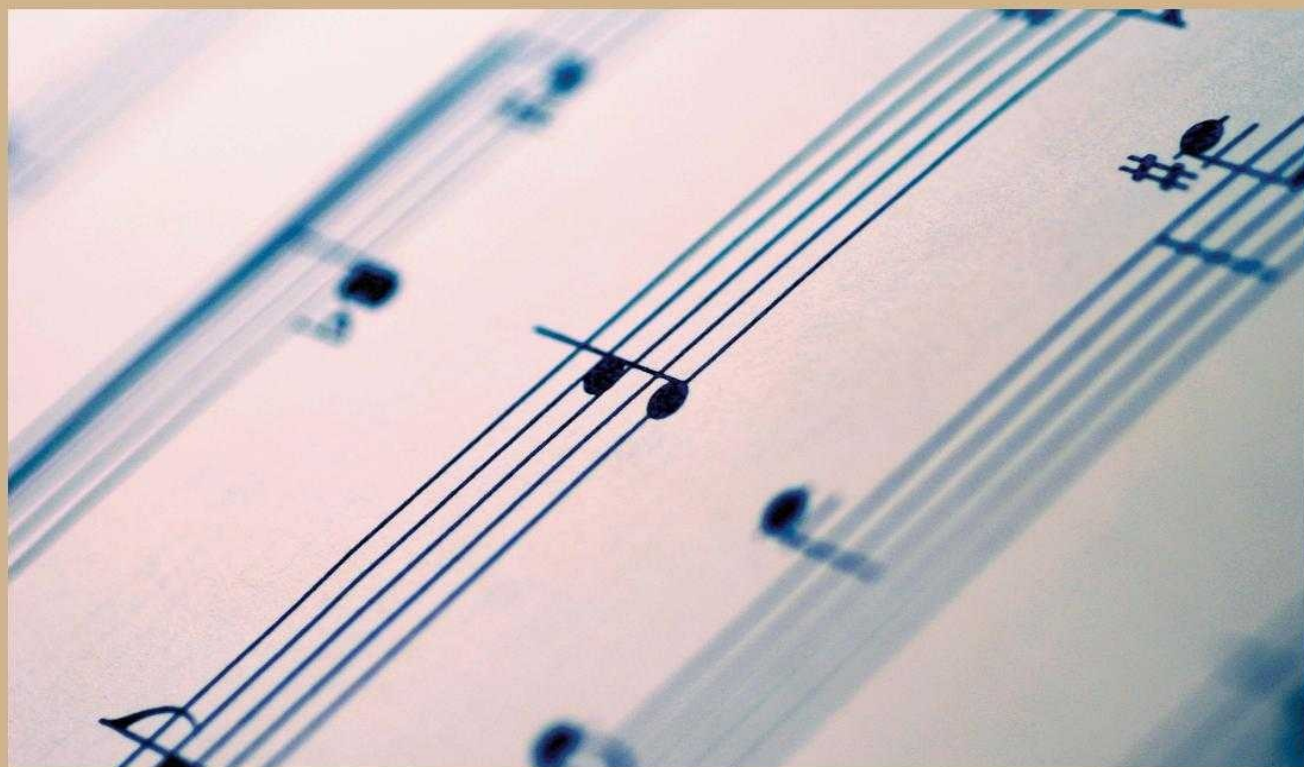


SHARON ROHI PAUL



Piano Basics

Playing Piano Made Simple

Piano Basics

Playing Piano Made Simple



T.Sharon Rohi Paul
Ryan International School

Kundallahalli, Bangalore, India

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to my loving dad *Paul.T.Sudhakar*, loving mom *Rani.T.Paul* and my dear sister *Anna Nissi Paul*



And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. Mark 12:30 (KJV)

This book Piano Basics is written to teach children the fundamentals of Piano, it is written in a simple and lucid way where children can easily understand the basic concepts of Piano.

Teachers and parents can use this book to introduce Piano to their students / children.

This book gives the basic understanding of Piano and the knowledge of Scales and Chords, the exercises for practice in this book will develop the correct playing technique "Fingering"

The Piano Quiz will reinforce the rudiments of music learnt in the lessons

I hope you will enjoy learning / playing / teaching Piano.

Happy Learning!!

Sharon Rohi Paul



I Sharon and my sister Anna

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1	Let's get familiar with Piano
2	Fun with Scales
3	Understanding Chords

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*I thank my loving dad **Paul.T.Sudhakar**, my loving mom **Rani.T. Paul** and loving sister **Anna Nissi Paul** for their unstinted support and encouragement for writing this book*

My special thanks to my dad who has designed the template for this book and guided me in the whole process

I also want to thank my teachers and friends of Ryan International School for all their encouragement and support

I thank one and all who have directly or indirectly extended their support to me in this endeavor.

I invite readers to offer their constructive criticism and suggestions to me as their valuable feedback which will facilitate improvement of the quality of the book and of my writing skills

Sharon Rohi Paul



Graduating to 1st Standard

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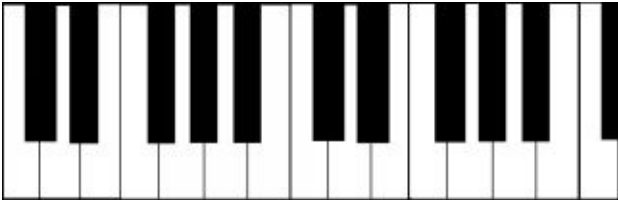
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1 LET'S GET FAMILIAR WITH PIANO





Sure Anna, in this lesson I will teach you about the piano and its keys.



Look Anna, there are keys on the piano, can you notice white keys and black keys in the above picture.

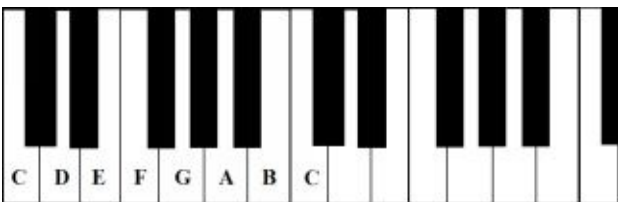
White Keys are called as naturals since they sound a natural () note when pressed, see the picture below



there are 7 naturals (white keys) on the piano they are

C-D-E-F-G-A-B

The combination of 8 keys will make one octave C-D-E-F-G-A-B-C



*You can try
pressing these
white keys on the
piano*

You can see the octave in the above picture

Black Keys are called Sharps (#) or Flats (b)

There are 5 sharps or flats on the piano

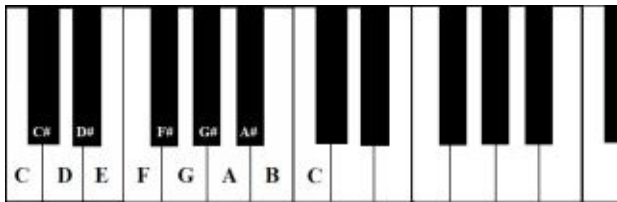
Sharp(#) : A sharp makes a note one step higher in pitch

Flat (b): A flat makes a note one step lower in pitch

You can try pressing these black keys on the piano

The black keys are in the groups of two and three

The black key next to the key (white key) C is C sharp represented as (C#)

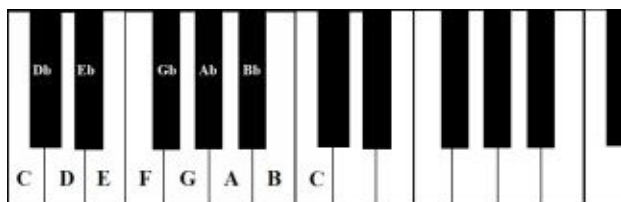


Fun Facts

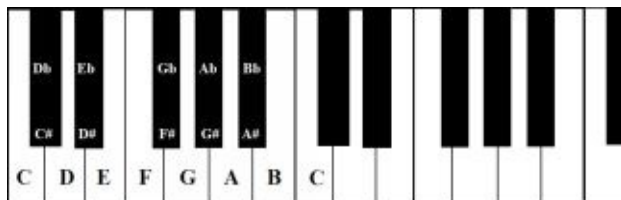
Do you know a standard piano has 88 keys, of which 36 are black keys and 52 are white keys

You can see in the above picture sharps C#-D#-F#-G#-A# it is important to note that E and B has no sharps, these sharps makes a note one step higher in pitch

The flats are represented as (b) for example Bb



Anna, in the above picture can you notice flats Db-Eb-Gb-Ab-Bb it is important to note that C and F has no flats, these flats makes a note one step lower in pitch.



In the above picture can you notice sharps and flats

Sharps: C#-D#-F#-G#-A#

Flats: Db-Eb-Gb-Ab-Bb

Middle C

Anna, I will teach you to identify middle C on the piano

Normally people will mistake that middle C is at the center of the piano but it is not so

On a standard piano where there are 88 keys you can easily locate middle C by counting C's from the left hand side, the 4th C is the middle C, do remember to that you should position your body exactly near middle C.



Look Anna in the above picture you can find 88 keys, from left hand side count C's the 4th C is the middle C.

There are piano's or electronic keyboards with 76, 69, 41 key in such piano's the middle C is the 3rd C.



In the above picture there are 8 C's which means there are 8 octaves. On a standard piano (88 keys), the first note starts with A and the last note ends with C.

Exercises to practice

Below given are some exercises for you to practice

- a) There are seven naturals (white keys) on the piano, identify and press C-D-E-F-G-A-B**
- b) The combination of eight keys will make one octave, identify and press C-D-E-F-G-A-B-C**
- c) There are five sharps or flats (black keys) on the piano, identify and press C#-D#-F#-G#-A# or Db-Eb-Gb-Ab-Bb**
- d) To identify middle C, from the left hand side count and press the C's, the 4th C is the middle C**
- e) Identify and press all the C's on the piano**

Piano Quiz

You will have fun in taking the piano quiz

1. How many colours of keys are present on the piano?

☐ 1 colour ☐ 2 colours ☐ 3 colours ☐ 4 colours

2. What colours of keys are present on the piano?

☐ white keys ☐ black keys ☐ white and black keys

3. The white keys on the piano are called as?

☐ sharps ☐ naturals ☐ flats ☐ sharps and flats

4. The black keys on the piano are called as?

☐ sharps ☐ naturals ☐ flats ☐ sharps and flats

5. The black keys are in the groups of ?

☐ 2 & 3

☐ 3 & 3

☐ 2 & 2

☐ 2 & 4

6. How many keys a standard piano has?

☐ 69

☐ 76

☐ 41

☐ 88

7. How many C's do you find on the standard piano?

☐ 2

☐ 8

☐ 7

☐ 4

8. How many octaves do you find on the standard piano?

☐ 2

☐ 8

☐ 7

☐ 4

9. The standard piano starts with which (key) note?

☐ C

☐ D

☐ A

☐ G

10. The standard piano ends with which (key) note?

☐ C

☐ D

☐ A

☐ G

**I hope now you are familiar with piano, let us learn about scales in the next lesson,
Happy Learning! Good Bye!!**

2 FUN WITH SCALES



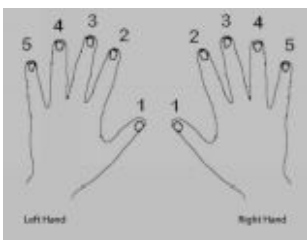
In this lesson before I teach you about piano scales it is good to understand about fingering.

What is fingering? Sharon

Fingering refers to placing the fingers and the position of hands on the piano, it is the technique used to play the piano.

It is important to understand fingering because it forms the foundation for the development of good playing technique.

Now let us number the fingers of the left hand and right hand.



Look Anna, in the above picture we number our fingers as 1-2-3-4-5 for both of our hands, for e.g. thumb =1, index finger =2, middle finger =3, ring finger =4, little finger =5. Remember Anna, I will be using numbers to represent fingers.

Anna, now let us learn about Piano Scales

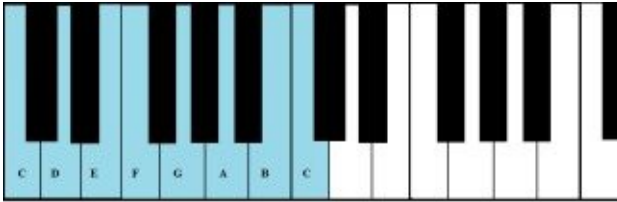
Piano Scale is a collection of notes which are related, please note that there are two types of scales a) Major Scales b) Minor Scales, first let us learn to play major scales

Major Scales

The major scales are very commonly used and they are fundamental in understanding the keys, below you will learn to play major scales

C Major Scale

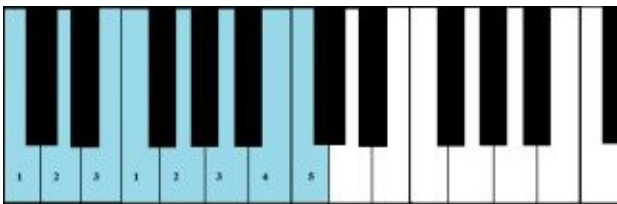
The C Major scale has the following notes



Look Anna, can you read the above notes

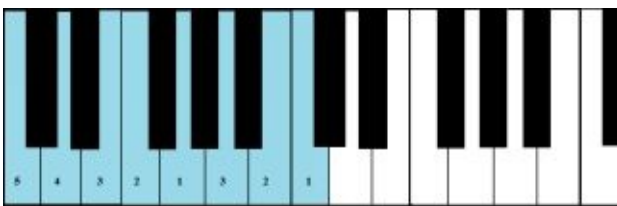
The combination C-D-E-F-G-A-B-C notes will make C major scale

Right Hand: You can play these notes with your right hand fingers 1-2-3-1-2-3-4-5



Try it yourself on the piano and you will enjoy

Left Hand: You can play these notes with your left hand fingers 5-4-3-2-1-3-2-1

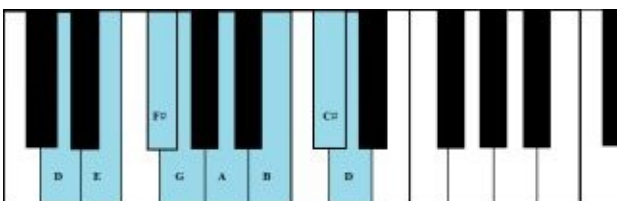


Instructions for practice

- a) Play C major scale with your right hand**
- b) Play C major scale with your left hand**
- c) Play C major scale with both right and left hand simultaneously**

D Major Scale

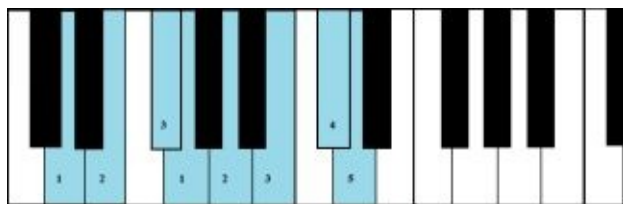
The D Major scale has the following notes



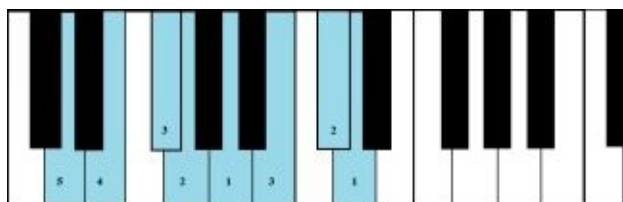
Look Anna, can you read the above notes

The combination D-E-F#-G-A-B-C#-D notes will make D major scale

Right Hand: You can play these notes with your right hand fingers 1-2-3-1-2-3-4-5



Left Hand: You can play these notes with your left hand fingers 5-4-3-2-1-3-2-1

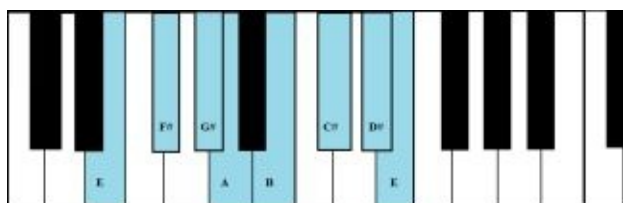


Instructions for practice

- a) Play D major scale with your right hand**
- b) Play D major scale with your left hand**
- c) Play D major scale with both right and left hand simultaneously**

E Major Scale

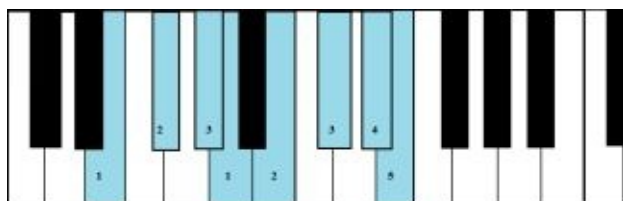
The E Major scale has the following notes



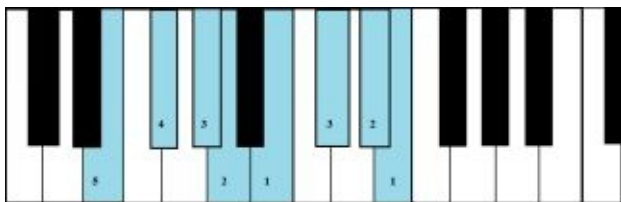
Look Anna, can you read the above notes

The combination E-F#-G#-A-B-C#-D#-E notes will make E major scale

Right Hand: You can play these notes with your right hand fingers 1-2-3-1-2-3-4-5



Left Hand: You can play these notes with your left hand fingers 5-4-3-2-1-3-2-1

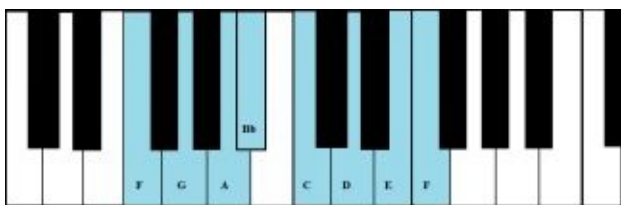


Instructions for practice

- Play E major scale with your right hand
- Play E major scale with your left hand
- Play E major scale with both right and left hand simultaneously

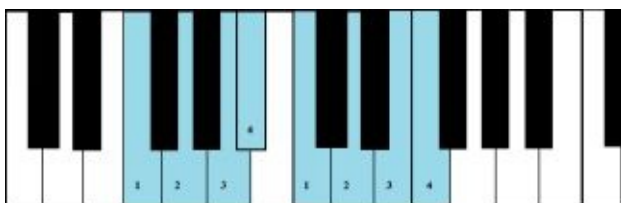
F Major Scale

The F Major scale has the following notes

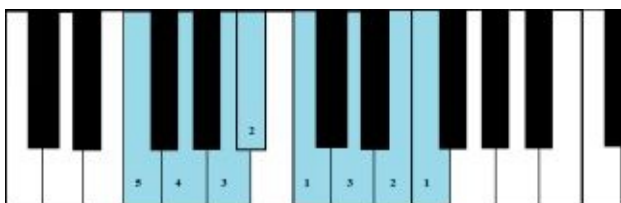


Look Anna, can you read the above notes, the combination F-G-A-Bb-C-D-E-F notes will make E major scale

Right Hand: You can play these notes with your right hand fingers 1-2-3-4-1-2-3-4



Left Hand: You can play these notes with your left hand fingers 5-4-3-2-1-3-2-1



Instructions for practice

- Play F major scale with your right hand
- Play F major scale with your left hand

c) Play F major scale with both right and left hand simultaneously

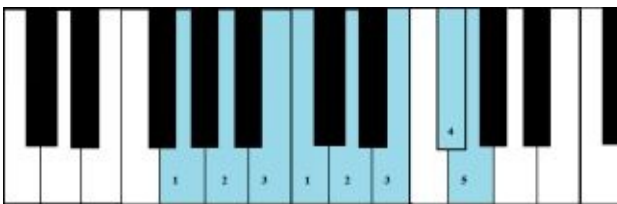
G Major Scale

The G Major scale has the following notes

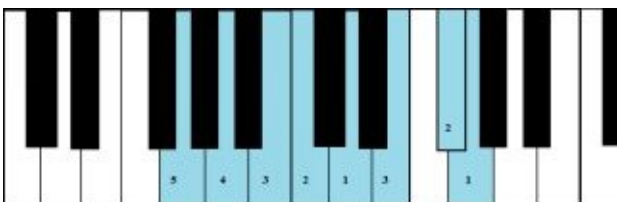


Look Anna, can you read the above notes, the combination G-A-B-C-D-E-F#-G notes will make E major scale

Right Hand: You can play these notes with your right hand fingers 1-2-3-1-2-3-4-5



Left Hand: You can play these notes with your left hand fingers 5-4-3-2-1-3-2-1



Instructions for practice

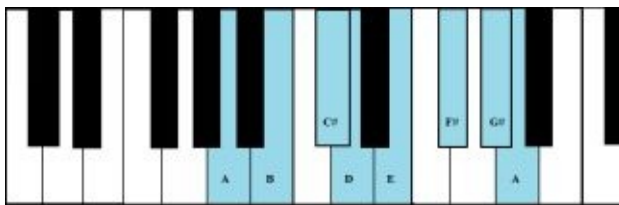
a) Play G major scale with your right hand

b) Play G major scale with your left hand

c) Play G major scale with both right and left hand simultaneously

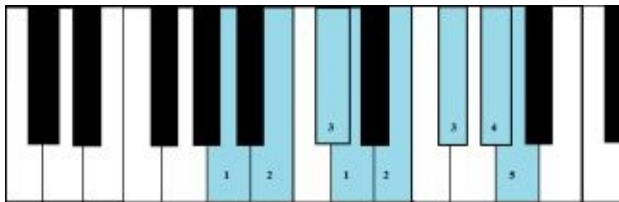
A Major Scale

The A Major scale has the following notes

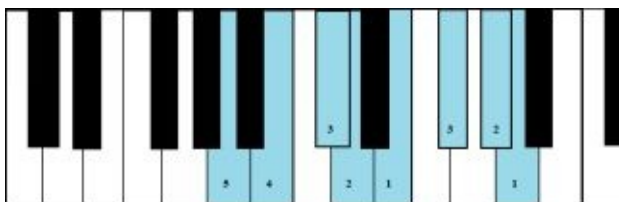


Look Anna, can you read the above notes, the combination A-B-C#-D-E-F#-G#-A notes will make A major scale

Right Hand: You can play these notes with your right hand fingers 1-2-3-1-2-3-4-5



Left Hand: You can play these notes with your left hand fingers 5-4-3-2-1-3-2-1

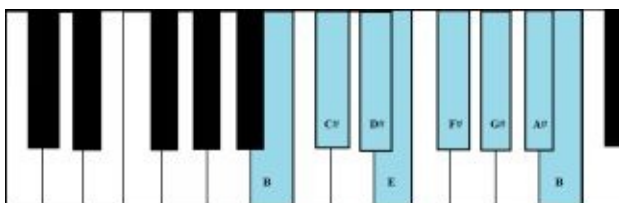


Instructions for practice

- a) Play A major scale with your right hand**
- b) Play A major scale with your left hand**
- c) Play A major scale with both right and left hand simultaneously**

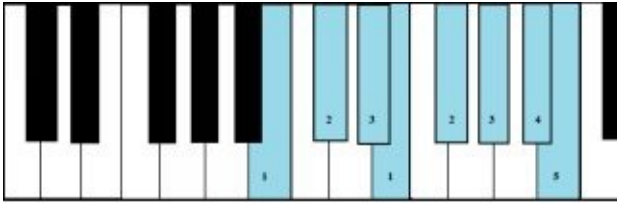
B Major Scale

The A Major scale has the following notes

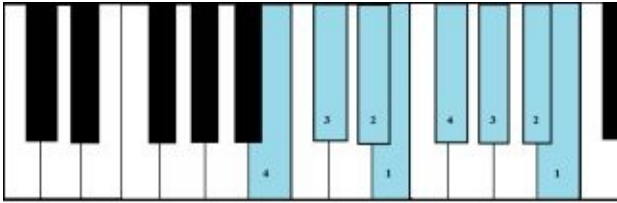


Look Anna, can you read the above notes, the combination B-C#-D#-E-F#-G#-A#=B notes will make B major scale

Right Hand: You can play these notes with your right hand fingers 1-2-3-1-2-3-4-5



Left Hand: You can play these notes with your left hand fingers 4-3-2-1-4-3-2-1



Instructions for practice

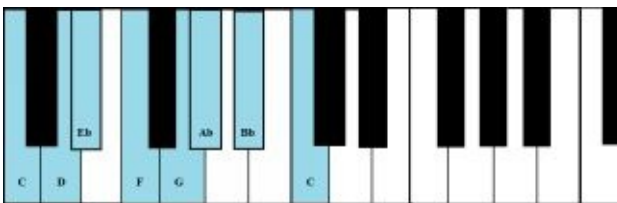
- a) Play B major scale with your right hand
- b) Play B major scale with your left hand
- c) Play B major scale with both right and left hand simultaneously

Minor Scales

Minor scales has the same notes relative to major scales

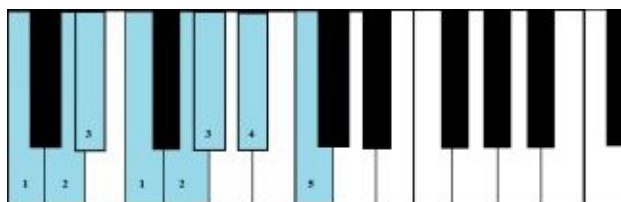
C Minor Scale

The C Minor scale has the following notes

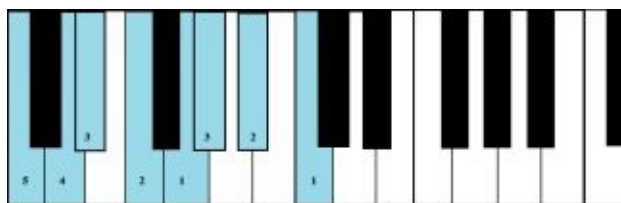


Look Anna, can you read the above notes, the combination C-D-Eb-F-G-Ab-Bb-C notes will make C minor scale

Right Hand: You can play these notes with your right hand fingers 1-2-3-1-2-3-4-5



Left Hand: You can play these notes with your left hand fingers 5-4-3-2-1-3-2-1

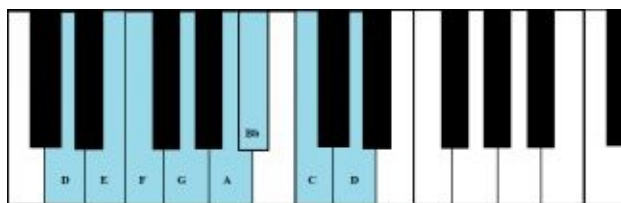


Instructions for practice

- a) Play C minor scale with your right hand
- b) Play C minor scale with your left hand
- c) Play C minor scale with both right and left hand simultaneously

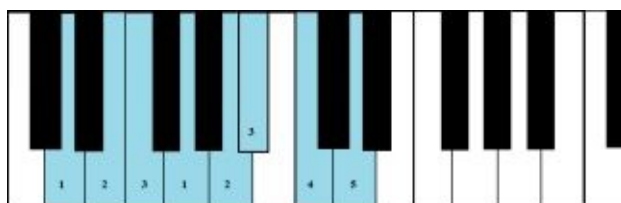
D Minor Scale

The D Minor scale has the following notes

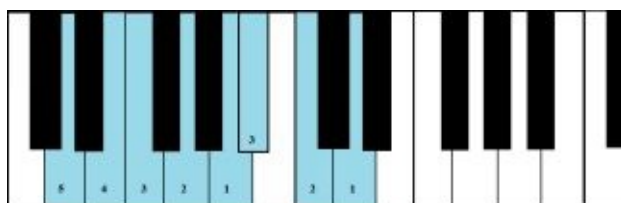


Look Anna, can you read the above notes, the combination D-E-F-G-A-Bb-C-D notes will make D minor scale

Right Hand: You can play these notes with your right hand fingers 1-2-3-1-2-3-4-5



Left Hand: You can play these notes with your left hand fingers 5-4-3-2-1-3-2-1

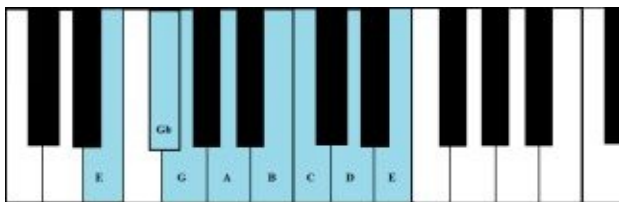


Instructions for practice

- a) Play D minor scale with your right hand
- b) Play D minor scale with your left hand
- c) Play D minor scale with both right and left hand simultaneously

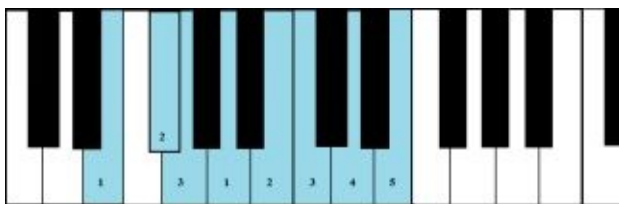
E Minor Scale

The E Minor scale has the following notes

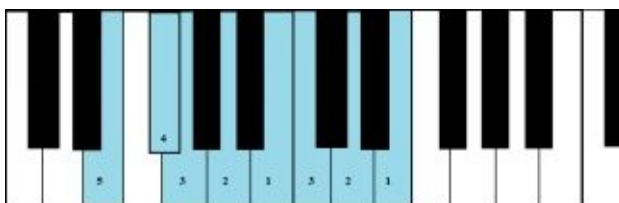


Look Anna, can you read the above notes, the combination E-F-Gb-G-A-B-C-D-E notes will make E minor scale

Right Hand: You can play these notes with your right hand fingers 1-2-3-1-2-3-4-5



Left Hand: You can play these notes with your left hand fingers 5-4-3-2-1-3-2-1

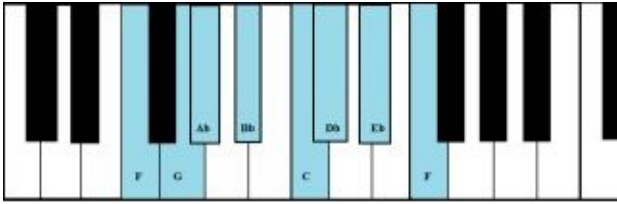


Instructions for practice

- a) Play E minor scale with your right hand
- b) Play E minor scale with your left hand
- c) Play E minor scale with both right and left hand simultaneously

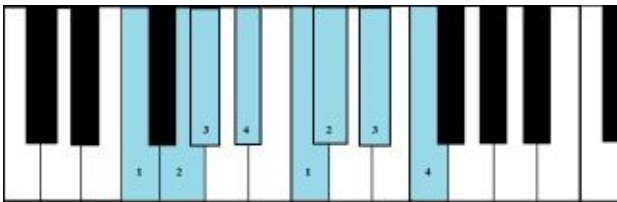
F Minor Scale

The F Minor scale has the following notes

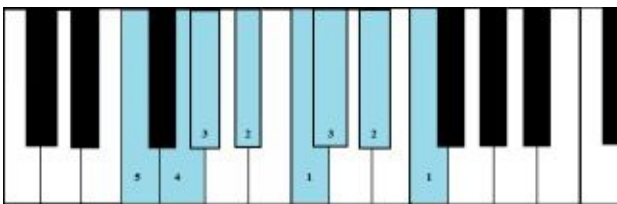


Look Anna, can you read the above notes, the combination F-G-A \flat -B \flat -C-D \flat -E \flat -F notes will make F minor scale

Right Hand: You can play these notes with your right hand fingers 1-2-3-4-1-2-3-4



Left Hand: You can play these notes with your left hand fingers 5-4-3-2-1-3-2-1

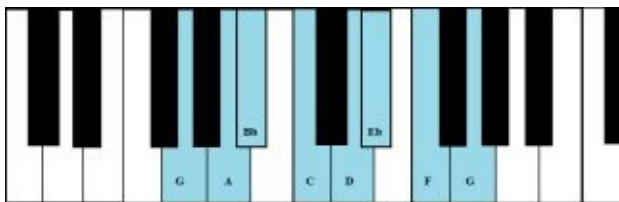


Instructions for practice

- Play F minor scale with your right hand
- Play F minor scale with your left hand
- Play F minor scale with both right and left hand simultaneously

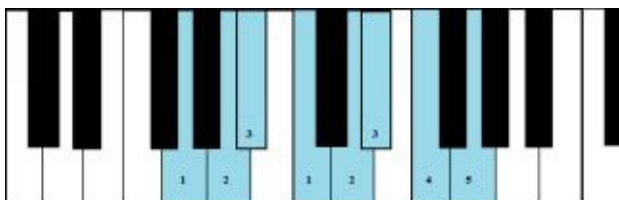
G Minor Scale

The G Minor scale has the following notes

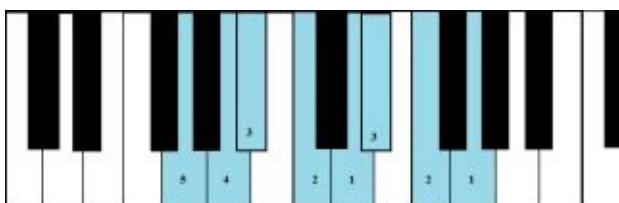


Look Anna, can you read the above notes, the combination G-A-Bb-C-D-Eb-F-G notes will make G minor scale

Right Hand: You can play these notes with your right hand fingers 1-2-3-1-2-3-4-5



Left Hand: You can play these notes with your left hand fingers 5-4-3-2-1-3-2-1

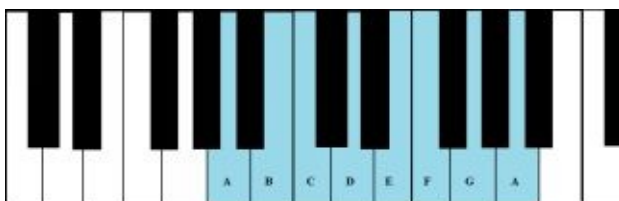


Instructions for practice

- a) Play G minor scale with your right hand**
- b) Play G minor scale with your left hand**
- c) Play G minor scale with both right and left hand simultaneously**

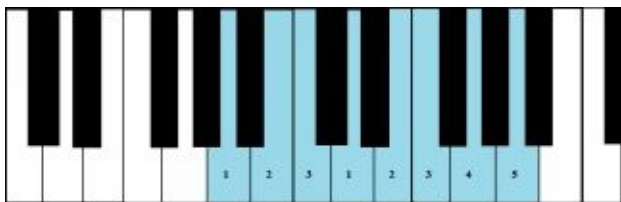
A Minor Scale

The A Minor scale has the following notes

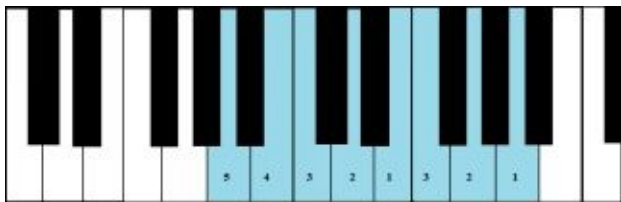


Look Anna, can you read the above notes, the combination A-B-C-D-E-F-G-A notes will make A minor scale

Right Hand: You can play these notes with your right hand fingers 1-2-3-1-2-3-4-5



Left Hand: You can play these notes with your left hand fingers 5-4-3-2-1-3-2-1

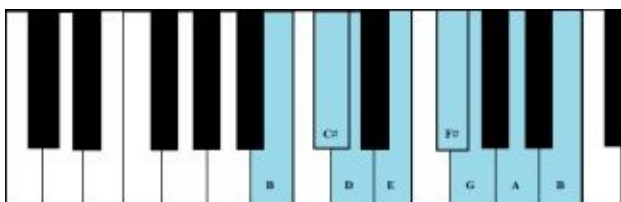


Instructions for practice

- a) Play A minor scale with your right hand
- b) Play A minor scale with your left hand
- c) Play A minor scale with both right and left hand simultaneously

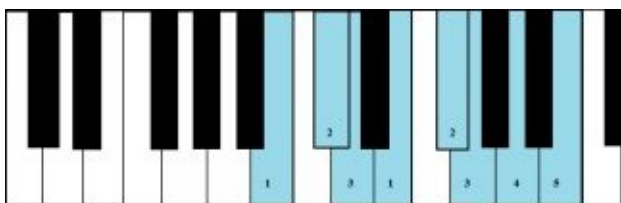
B Minor Scale

The B Minor scale has the following notes

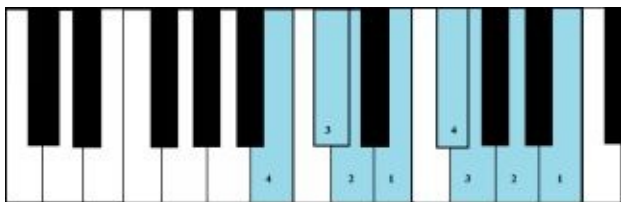


Look Anna, can you read the above notes, the combination B-C#-D-E-F#-G-A-B notes will make B minor scale

Right Hand: You can play these notes with your right hand fingers 1-2-3-1-2-3-4-5



Left Hand: You can play these notes with your left hand fingers 4-3-2-1-4-3-2-1



Instructions for practice

- a) Play B minor scale with your right hand**
- b) Play B minor scale with your left hand**
- c) Play B minor scale with both right and left hand simultaneously**

I hope now you are familiar with piano scales, let us learn about chords in the next lesson, Happy Learning! Good Bye!!

3 UNDERSTANDING CHORDS





In this lesson I will teach you how to play chords

A chord is a group of notes played at the same time, these notes sound together. We can also say chord is two or more notes played together, for example you can play C and E note together which will make a chord.

A chord has three symbols a) Root b) Quality c) Extra Stuff

Root is the fundamental note of the chord to which the other notes are related.

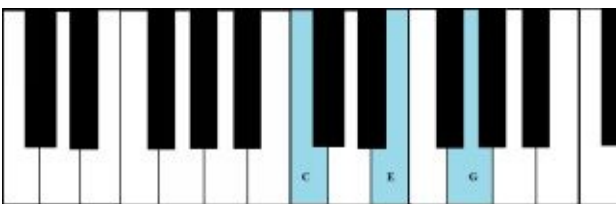
Quality is the third note of the root

Extra Stuff is the third note of quality note and seventh note of the root note.

In C major chord C note is the root, E note is the quality and G note is the extra stuff

Types of Chords: Similar to scales chords are major chords, minor chords in this lesson we will discuss about major, minor and seventh chords

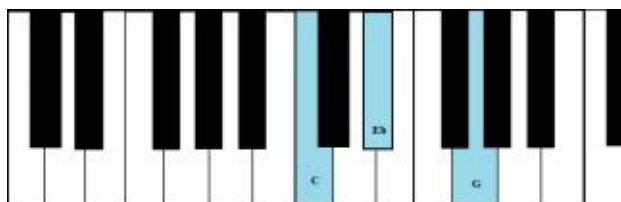
C Major Chord



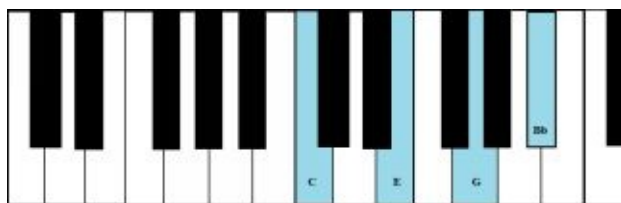
The C major chord has C-E-G notes playing together

In C major chord C note is the root, E note is the quality and G note is the extra stuff

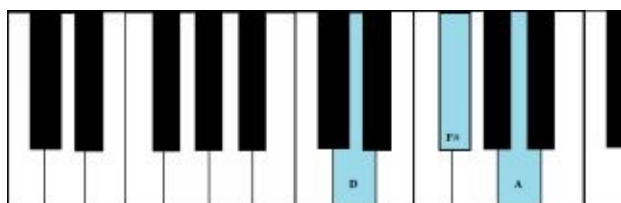
C Minor Chord



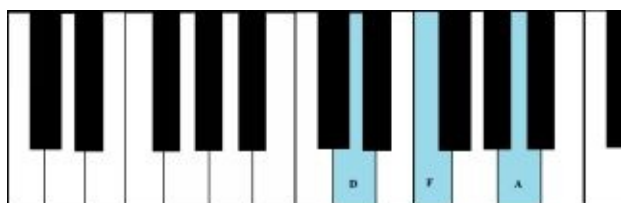
C 7 Chord



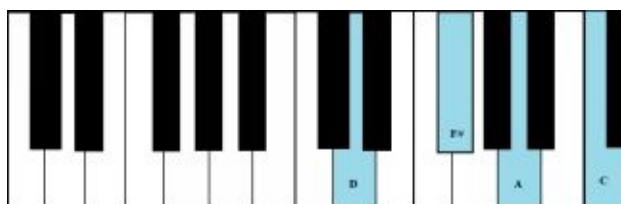
D Major Chord



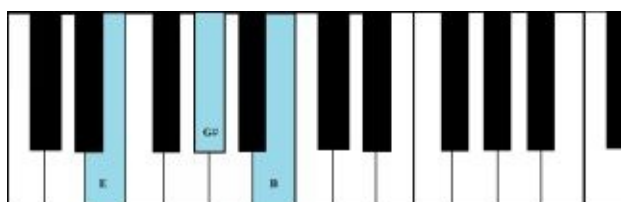
D Minor Chord



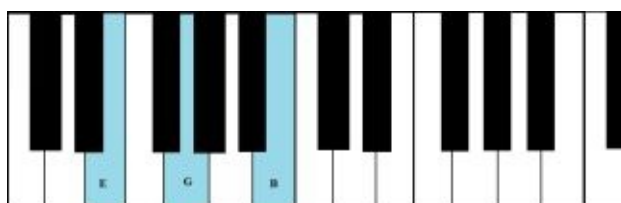
D 7 Chord



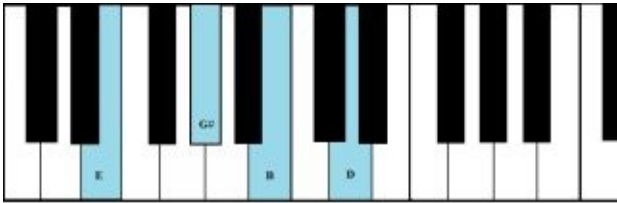
E Major Chord



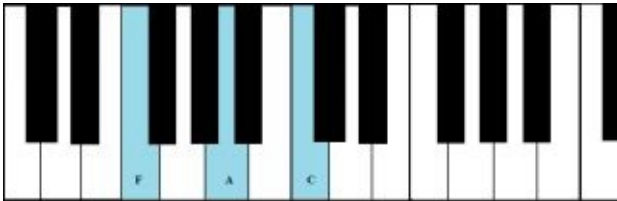
E Minor Chord



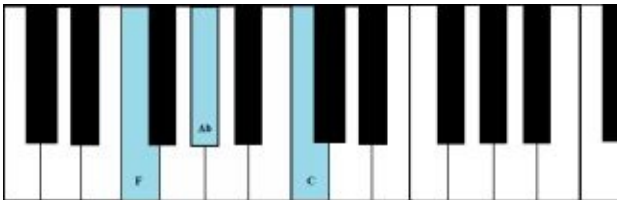
E 7 Chord



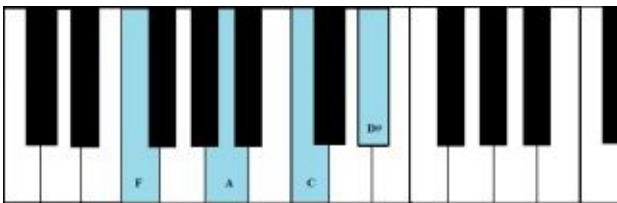
F Major Chord



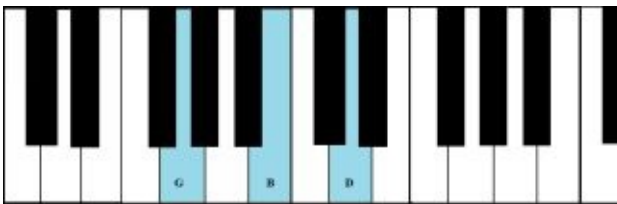
F Minor Chord



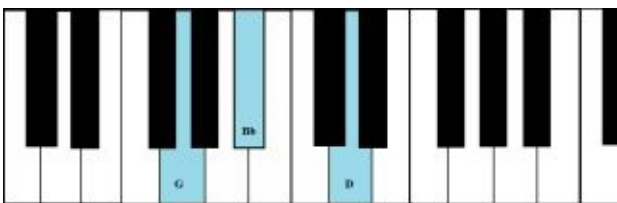
F 7 Chord



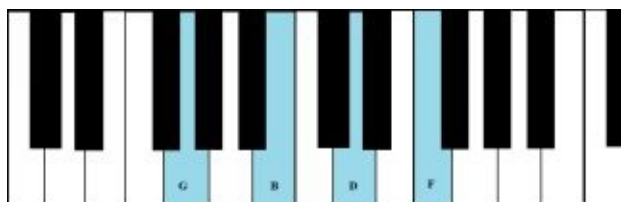
G Major Chord



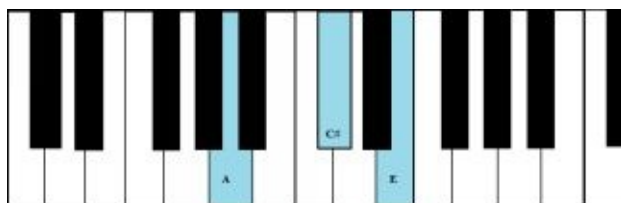
G Minor Chord



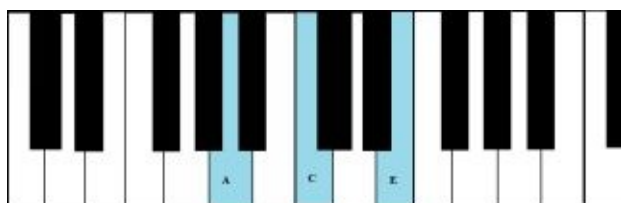
G 7 Chord



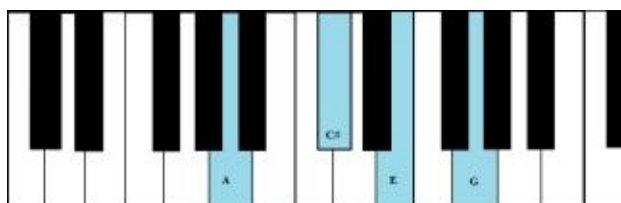
A Major Chord



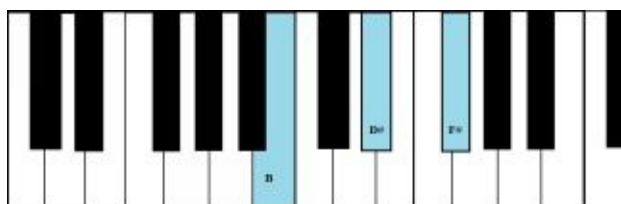
A Minor Chord



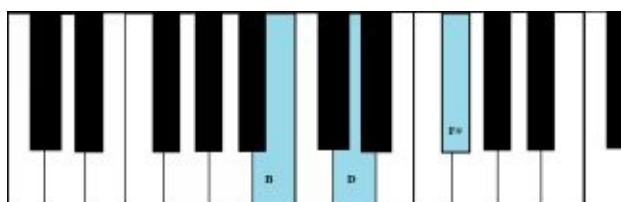
A 7 Chord



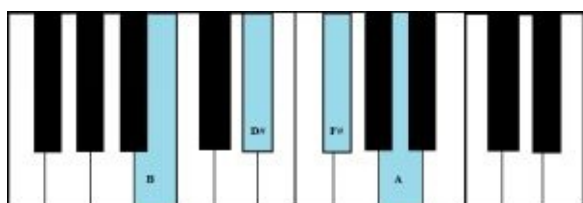
B Major Chord



B Minor Chord



B 7 Chord



So Anna, I hope you enjoyed playing chords, I will teach you more about piano in my next volume, Happy Learning! Good Bye!!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Hi my name is Sharon Rohi Paul. I am in 4th std studying in Ryan International School, Kundanahlli, Bangalore, I love my mom, dad, sister, Jesus and my teachers; I love to listen music, read books, read Bible, Pray and play Piano. I help my parents in domestic work and in ministry. I live with my loving sister Anna Nissi Paul and my loving parents Rani Paul and Paul Sudhakar.