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## Berklee Keyboard Method

### Lesson 1: Finger Numbering

This lesson is excerpted from an online course. While the navigation links on each page are not active, all of the multimedia interactions are. Have fun!

Check out [Berkleeshares.com](http://berkleeshares.com) for more lessons just like this one.

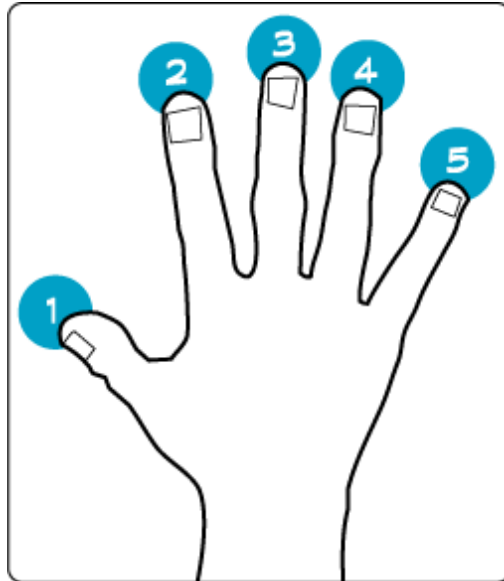


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## Finger Numbering



In keyboard playing, the fingers are numbered starting with the thumb as 1 through to the little finger 5, as shown below.



Put your thumb on middle C and let your other fingers rest on the four keys in succession above it. You will be in one 5-note hand position spanning C through G, as shown below.



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Now, locate these five notes--C through G--by finding them on the [virtual keyboard](#), and then play them on your piano keyboard. Slightly curve each fingertip, and think of striking and grabbing each key with an inward tug towards the center of your hand. Watch this animation to get a feel for the movement.

Your thumb, of course, is hinged differently, so it will strike the key on its side. Again, watch the animation to get a feel for the movement.

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## Finger Numbering



### Exercise 1

Play this melody with your right hand. Keep your fingers lined up on the keys C through G as shown. To hear the exercise played, click the headphones icon to the right.

Musical notation for Exercise 1. The first staff shows a five-note scale: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4. The second staff shows a descending scale: G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The third staff shows a more complex sequence: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.



### Exercise 2

Try this melody in 3/4 that ranges from F through C. Place your thumb on the F above middle C and line up your other fingers on the notes successively above it. You are now ready to play from a hand position that spans F through C as shown. Again, if you would like to hear the exercise played, click the headphones icon to the right.

Musical notation for Exercise 2 in 3/4 time. The first staff shows a five-note scale: F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The second staff shows a descending scale: C5, B4, A4, G4, F4. The third staff shows a more complex sequence: F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4.



### Exercise 3

In this melody, the hand position spans from B through F. Place the thumb on B with the other fingers on the keys successively above it.

Musical notation for Exercise 3. The first staff shows a five-note scale: B3, C4, D4, E4, F4. The second staff shows a descending scale: F4, E4, D4, C4, B3. The third staff shows a more complex sequence: B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3.



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