

Know Your Little-Finger Keys

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If you find your little fingers all tangled up while trying to play a difficult passage, meet your frustration head on by taking the time to become acquainted with your little-finger levers. All the lower-joint little-finger keys are duplicated except for the low A-flat/G-sharp which is also the middle register E-flat/D-sharp. Therefore, in order to avoid little-key entanglement, one must always look ahead and determine whether the left or right little finger should be used to begin the passage. Base your decision on where the unduplicated key is situated in the passage. The basic rule is: **Always Alternate your little fingers whenever possible to avoid sliding or jumping between two keys on the same side.**

Get Acquainted Exercises

Finger the notes in the rhythm indicated. Tie or slur all the notes. Do not let an interruption in the sound occur. If you hear a different note other than the one indicated, you are on the wrong little-finger lever.

R = Right hand

L = Left hand

L-R = Move from left hand to right hand

Exercise 1: Treble clef, common time (C). Notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. Rhythm: quarter notes. Fingering: L R L R L R L R. Repeat sign.

Exercise 2: Treble clef, common time (C). Notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. Rhythm: quarter notes. Fingering: L R L R L R L R. Repeat sign.

Exercise 3: Treble clef, common time (C). Notes: B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2. Rhythm: quarter notes. Fingering: L R L R L R L R. Repeat sign.

Exercise 4: Treble clef, 2/4 time. Notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. Rhythm: quarter notes. Fingering: R L R L R L. Repeat sign.

Exercise 5: Treble clef, 2/4 time. Notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. Rhythm: quarter notes. Fingering: R L R L R L. Repeat sign.

Exercise 6: Treble clef, 2/4 time. Notes: B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2. Rhythm: quarter notes. Fingering: R L R L R L. Repeat sign.

Exercise 7: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Notes: B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2. Rhythm: quarter, eighth, eighth. Fingering: L - R. Repeat sign.

Exercise 8: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. Rhythm: quarter, eighth, eighth. Fingering: R - L. Repeat sign.

Exercise 9: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. Rhythm: quarter, eighth, eighth. Fingering: L - R. Repeat sign.

(Based on Floyd Low's Little Finger Key Studies, Kjos Publisher)