

## Using a Keyboard 102 Three Note Patterns

**Learn to be more confident and fluent playing your first three notes and more practised relating sound and touch**

You need a keyboard and pen(cil)

1. At the end of Using a Keyboard 101, you learned that keyboard players use numbers to tell them which digit to use. The thumb is 1, and the next two fingers are 2 and 3

2. Here are three finger patterns to practise\*, using your three notes. Make all the notes the same length until you get to the last. That sounds good if you make it longer to finish off the “tune”. The fingerings are put into boxes to make them easier to follow.

**a.**

1 2 3 2	1 2 3 2	1 3 2 3	1 3 1
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**b.**

3 2 1 2	3 2 1 2	3 1 2 1	3 2 1
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**c.**

1 1 1 1	2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3	2 3 1
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3. After all this, you should be developing quite a strong link between the sound of the notes and your fingers. You can play the starts of some other tunes with these notes and you should be able to work them out. If you don't know how the tunes go, try a friend or the internet. The words tell you how far you can go.

<i>Three blind mice, three blind mice</i>	Start on 3
<i>Au clair de la lune mon ami Pierrot</i>	Start on 1
<i>Ten green bottles hanging on the wall</i>	Start on 1
<i>Merrily we roll along, roll along</i>	Start on 3

4. Here are three brand new tunes. Each needs to be completed. Play the beginnings and hear how you want them to end – using the familiar three notes. Write in your added notes.

3 1 3 1	3 1 2	3 1 3 1	
1 1 3 3	2 2 3 2		
2 2 3 2			

5. If you've spent enough time on this activity, you should be able to “hear” in your head the note each finger makes when you tap the table or your knee with it. That's what the kinaesthetic connection is. It's really helpful to have this skill when you are reading music or working out how a tune goes.

\* At the risk of being rather pompous, practice is what it's all about. If you want to make progress in anything, you have to repeat the things you find difficult until they are automatic. You are creating new connections in your brain which hold a sequence of movements rather than just one – like being able to write a whole word rather than having to make each letter as a separate move.