

## Using a Keyboard 106 Frère Jacques

**You'll learn how to play the last bit of "Frère Jacques", all of "Hot Cross Buns" and how to play an octave on the keyboard**

You need a real keyboard

You should have done Musithinks up to 104 before tackling this.

1. At last you're going to complete playing the whole of "Frère Jacques", the "*ding dang dong*" bit. In Musithink 104 you learned that the "*ding*" and "*dong*" are note 1, while the note for "*dang*" is low 5.

You are going to have to move your hand again, to the left this time.

You are also going to have to find the note on the keyboard. It is low 5, an octave below 5. 5 was the note you played for "*vous*". Find that note on the keyboard and note its position.

Is it: the white note to the left of three black notes

the white note that is the leftmost of the two between the three black notes

the white note that is the rightmost of the two between the three black notes

Now find the note in the same position an octave down.

2. Now you know which note you are aiming for.

The bit before, "*son-nez les ma-ti-nes*" ends with your thumb on note 1. Play that. Shift your hand to the left so you can put finger 4 on that note. You'll find that as you can scrunch your hand up, you don't have to move your wrist far. Once finger no. 4 is on note no.1 it is easy to reach note low 5 with your thumb. And then, of course, you press note 1 again with finger 4.

Practise the shift - thumb on note 1, finger 4 on note 1, thumb on note 1, finger 4 on note 1 until it is easy to do by feel.

3. Now you can play the whole tune. You have to shift your hand twice and stretch your thumb. Practise playing the tune looking at the keys and your hand as little as possible.

4. You can apply what you've learned to play "Hot Cross Buns". That starts with an octave jump from high 5 to low 5 then goes to note 1. Unless you have a very small hand you can span an octave – back to advantage of having our stretchy thumb joints. Put your little finger on note 5 and your thumb on low 5. Practise alternating them, keeping your hand as still as possible.

While your hand is spread out over the octave, look at note 1. Which of your fingers is in the best position to play that? It's likely to be your middle finger, but you could use your index finger if you'd rather.

5. The rest of the tune uses just notes 1 – 5, and your finger numbers will be the same as the note numbers. There are only 4 different patterns in the tune. Here they are:

<b>5</b> <b>1</b> <b>2/3</b>	<b>5 4 3 2 1 2 3 4 3 3 3 3 3 2</b>	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>
5    low 5    1	5 4 3 2 1 2 3 4 3 3 3 3 3 2	1 2 3 4 5
<i>hot    cross    buns</i>	<i>one a pen-ny two a pen-ny if you have no daugh-ters</i>	<i>give them to your sons</i>

(Fingerings at the top in bold, note numbers underneath)

Work out how to play the whole tune. One pattern comes 4 times, one pattern comes twice and the other patterns only come once each.