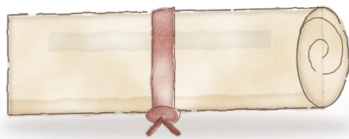


Piano Note Detective

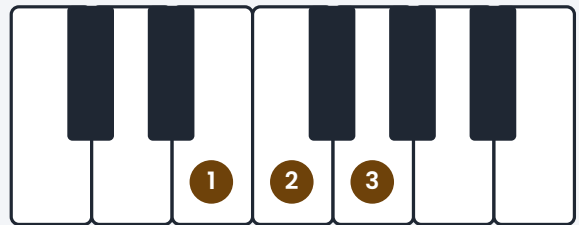
Half Steps & Whole Steps Keyboard Lab

A half step is the very next key, black or white. A whole step skips one. Count keys like a detective, find the two white-key half steps, and open the music cupboard's lock.



IN THIS FREE SAMPLE

- Case 1: next-door keys
- Half step or whole step?
- Count half steps
- Answers with reasons



1 to 2: a half step (no key between). 2 to 3: a whole step (one key between).

- 1 Find both keys
- 2 Count every key
- 3 Half or whole?
- 4 Play and check

Digital download · Print at 100% on US Letter · For beginners who know the black-key groups and sharps and flats ·
Five sittings of about 15 minutes · With a piano or keyboard

How the case file works

Five cases, about 15 minutes each.

For a beginner who knows the groups of two and three black keys and has met sharps and flats. A half step is the distance from one key to the very next key, black or white. A whole step is two half steps: it skips one key. Count every key you land on, not the one you start on.

EACH CASE

The story	Read it aloud together. It says what the detective is looking for.
Learn	The rule for this case, with a picture. Point at it while you read it.
Tasks	Short tasks that use the rule. Each one has a single right answer (except play tasks).
Clue	The last task gives a clue for the final question.

YOU NEED

- A pencil
- A piano or keyboard (or the paper keyboard in this book)
- The step cards at the back (cut out)

GOOD TO KNOW

- Count keys, not white keys: black keys count too.
- E to F and B to C are half steps: there is no black key between them.
- Play both keys after each answer. The ear checks the count.

NOT A METHOD BOOK

Keyboard practice for beginners, not piano lessons. Half and whole steps only: scales and key signatures come in other books.

Case 1: Next-Door Keys

A half step is the very next key, black or white

THE STORY

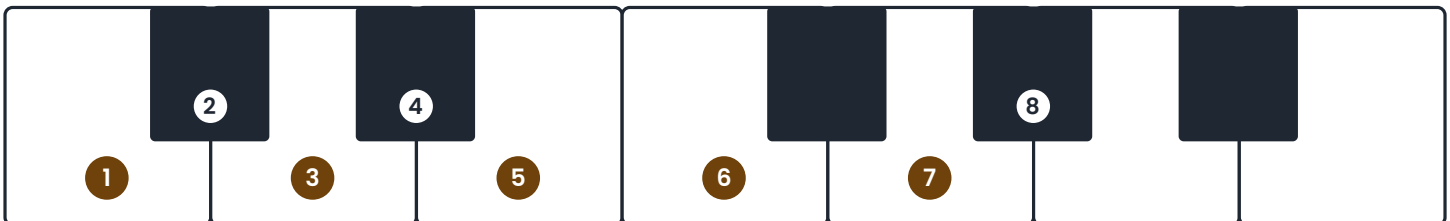
The music cupboard has a new lock with five digits. The teacher left five keyboard puzzles; each one gives a digit of the code.

LEARN

- A half step goes to the very next key, up or down, black or white.
- A whole step skips one key: it is two half steps.
- Count the keys you land on, not the key you start on.



1 Half step or whole step? Circle the answer for each pair of numbered keys.



1 to 2 ☐ half step ☐ whole step

3 to 5 ☐ half step ☐ whole step

6 to 7 ☐ half step ☐ whole step

2 to 3 ☐ half step ☐ whole step

5 to 6 ☐ half step ☐ whole step

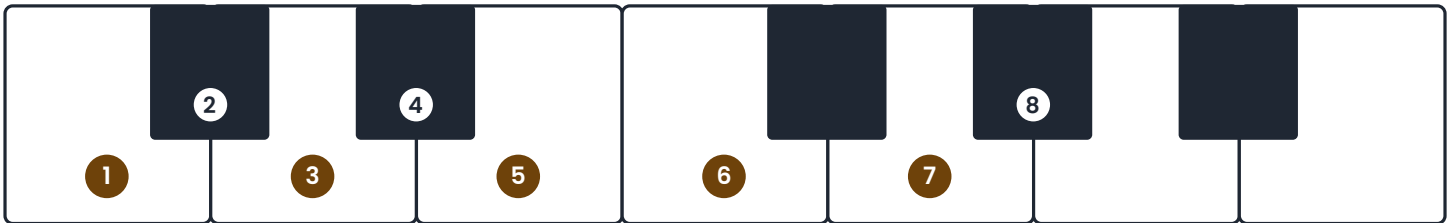
7 to 8 ☐ half step ☐ whole step

Case 1: Next-Door Keys (continued)

2 True or false?

1. Every half step goes from a white key to a black key.
2. A whole step is the same as two half steps.
3. From C sharp to D is a half step.

3 How many half steps from key 1 to key 3?



1. From key 1 to key 3:

half steps

CLUE 1

The first digit of the code is your answer to task 3.

Clue:

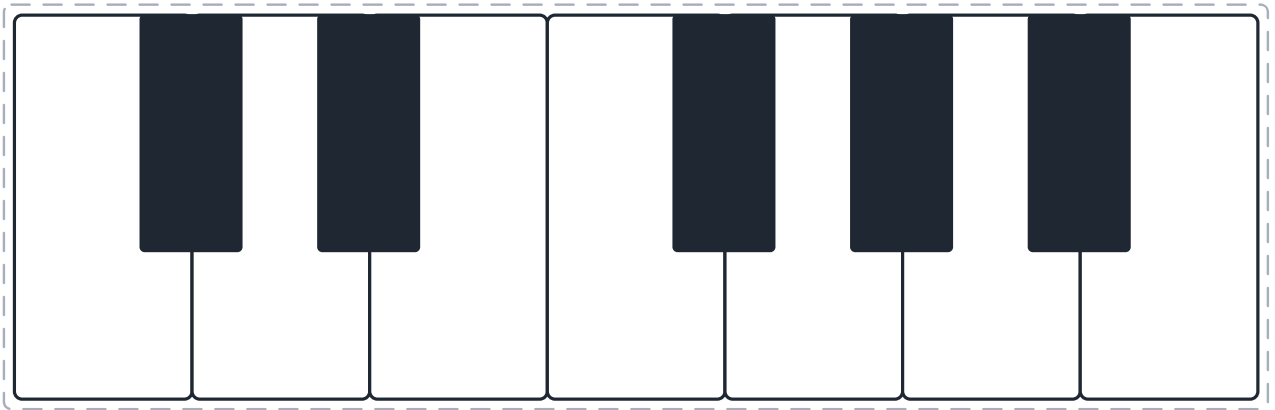
Copy it onto the answer line of the final question.



Paper keyboard

Cut out the rows and tape them in order, low to high. White keys are about as wide as a real piano's.

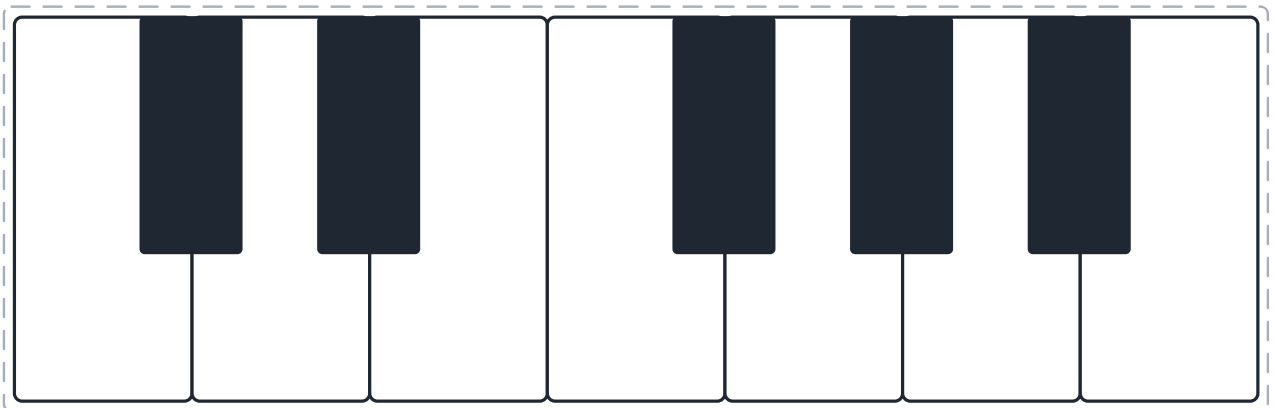
Low



Middle



High



Only Middle C is labeled: finding the other keys is the detective's job. Tape the rows edge to edge (low on the left) to make one long keyboard.

Case 1 answers

Every answer comes with its reason. Read the reasons aloud: they teach.

CASE 1 · NEXT-DOOR KEYS

Task 1

PND33-C1-T1

1 half step · 2 half step · 3 whole step · 4 half step · 5 whole step · 6 half step

Key 1 to key 2: the very next key, black or white, with no key between = 1 half step. Key 2 to key 3: the very next key, black or white, with no key between = 1 half step. Key 3 to key 5: one key in between = 2 half steps. Key 5 to key 6: the very next key, black or white, with no key between = 1 half step. Key 6 to key 7: one key in between = 2 half steps. Key 7 to key 8: the very next key, black or white, with no key between = 1 half step.

Task 2

PND33-C1-T2

1 false · 2 true · 3 true

E to F and B to C are half steps between two white keys. A whole step skips exactly one key: two half steps. D is the very next key after C sharp.

Task 3

PND33-C1-T3

1 2

From key 1 to key 3, count every key, black and white: 2 half steps.

Clue 1

2 (the answer to item 1 of task 3)

THE FULL CASE FILE

The full Half Steps & Whole Steps Keyboard Lab has four more cases: E-F and B-C, whole steps, longer distances and step maps, with 24 step cards, a notebook, the final question, hints and a certificate.