

HOW TO PLAY PIANO CHORDS

CD included

Book 3
The Rhythm Book

**The fastest and most effective way to learn
popular keyboard accompanying**

Darryl Chute





Piano Chords

Book 3

The Rhythm Book

*All the rhythm patterns you are likely to need for
playing chords in various styles.*

*Fountainhead Music - Sydney Australia
Phone: Sydney Australia (+612) 9398 7375
www.fountainheadmusic.com.au*

Why this book?



Ever wanted to sing your favourite songs and accompany yourself on a keyboard instrument?

Well, this book is the third in a series that will teach you just that!

Pop guitar players have a good time with little or no music theory and now it's the keyboard player's turn.

***Book 1 - Getting Started** gets you up and running with some of the world's most famous tunes.*

***Book 2 - The Chord Book** will teach you all the chords you will ever likely need. From here the huge catalogue of published popular music will be at your fingertips.*

***Book 3 - The Rhythm Book** will help your chord playing sound interesting by teaching you many rhythm patterns in various musical styles such as ballads, swing, reggae, etc.*

Each book has an accompanying CD to make your learning more interesting.

Have fun - and enjoy the journey!

An overview of Books 1 and 2

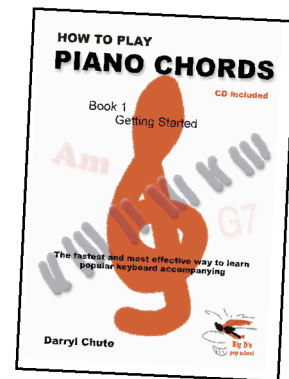
Before attempting the material in this the third book of this series it is recommended you have studied and feel comfortable with

Book 1 - Getting Started

Book 2 - The Chord Book

Below are some of the topics and songs covered.

- What is chord playing all about?
- The black and white pattern
- Where is Middle C
- The names of the keys
- The names of the fingers
- The C chord
- Tuning your instrument
- How to use the CD
- Five ways of playing a C chord
- Five more chords
- Getting used to chord shapes
- White chord jam
- What does that mean?
- The sustain pedal



SONGS

Danny Boy

Hush Little Baby

I Gave My Love A Cherry

Amazing Grace

Banks Of The Ohio

When The Saints Go Marching In

Scarborough Fair

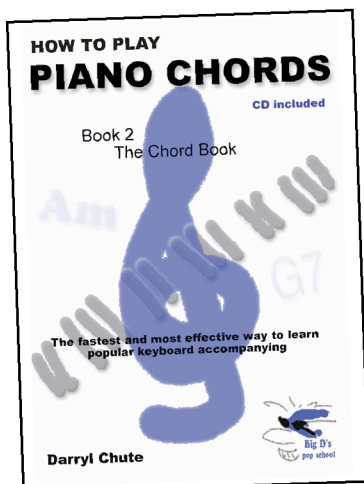
Michael Rowed The Boat Ashore

Drunken Sailor

Frankie And Johnny

Rock My Soul

Having completed *Book 1 - Getting Started* you are probably ready to learn a lot more chords so you can play your favourite songs.



- The White Family
- The Black Thumb Family
- The White Thumb Family
- Orphans
- All the Major Chords
- Minor Chords
- 7 Chords
- Maj7 Chords
- Sus4 Chords
- 6 Chords
- Diminished Chords
- Augmented Chords
- Slash Chords
- Sus2 Chords
- An overview of the rest

Contents

It is obviously not enough to just know all the chord shapes from Book 2. You must also learn how to rhythmically approach the chords in order to make your playing interesting and suitable for the style of song you are performing.

Pop songwriters tend to use either a guitar or a piano to accompany their tunes. Many of the songs you may wish to perform will not even have a piano in the original recorded version. This doesn't really matter, but you will generally find solo piano more suitable to the ballads.

Some of the other styles can sound a little inadequate when piano is the only instrument used, but are quite fine when used in a band situation.

The styles shown in this book are typically found in a lot of pop music. Of course there are different variations or styles emerging all the time, but in general you will find these useful for most of your performances.

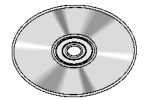
The examples given are merely guides to get you started. I encourage you to create your own rhythm patterns once you have mastered the following pages.

- 1** Introduction
- 6** Power Ballad #1
- 8** Power Ballad #2
- 10** Soft Ballad #1
- 12** Soft Ballad #2
- 14** Pop #1
- 16** Pop #2
- 18** Country - 2/2
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Power Ballad #1

CD - Track 2



The piano is well suited to the **power ballad** style. These songs are generally fairly slow and need to be played with a some firmness. Some of the more famous songs in the **power ballad** repertoire are:

- Hey Jude* by The Beatles
- The Rose* by Bette Midler
- Everything I Do* by Bryan Adams

When playing the CD place your fingers on a C chord during the warm up period and practise without sounding the keys. When the drums enter begin playing out loud.

Make sure your fingers go deep into the keys to get the full tone of the piano but don't make it sound too harsh.

Use CD Track 1 to tune your keyboard to A 440.



Middle C
|

Right hand

Left hand

1

Both hands play together on count 1, then while you left hand remains down your right hand plays again on beats 2, 3 and 4.

Right Hand

Left Hand

PLAY 4 TIMES

2

The only difference here is your left thumb lifts on the 4th beat and plays again on the + at the end of the bar.

Right Hand

Left Hand



Left thumb only

PLAY 4 TIMES

3

This time your left thumb plays on the + after beats 2, 3 and 4.

Right Hand

Left Hand

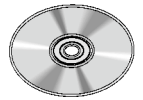


Left thumb

PLAY 4 TIMES

Power Ballad #2

CD - Track 3



Here are three more rhythm patterns that could be used for **power ballads**.

Notice that the chords are different this time.

①

Both hands play together on count 1. Your left thumb (L1) only plays on the + after beats 2 and 4.

Right Hand

Left Hand

Left thumb

Left thumb

PLAY 4 TIMES

2

Here your left thumb (L1) does not play on the first beat, or the + after beat 3.

Right Hand

Left Hand

C $\overline{\Theta}$
L5 only

Left thumb

PLAY 4 TIMES

3

This is the same as the previous pattern but this time your left thumb (L1) plays on all the "+"s.

Right Hand

Left Hand

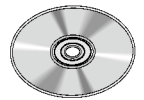
C $\overline{\Theta}$
L5 only

Left thumb

PLAY 4 TIMES

Soft Ballad #1

CD - Track 4



Many beautiful songs sound good accompanied on piano. These three rhythms are typically used for **soft ballads**. Try to play them smoothly (*legato*). Some of the more famous songs in the **soft ballad** repertoire are:

I Honestly Love You by Olivia Newton-John

If by Bread

My Heart Will Go On by Celine Dion

The soft ballad patterns below are sometimes called broken chords (*arpeggios*).

Only one finger plays at a time beginning from L5 and progressing higher until you reach R5. Keep your fingers down after you have played each note.

①

Right Hand

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Left Hand

C F Dm G

PLAY 4 TIMES

2

This popular pattern is the same as the first pattern except you go back down again.

Right Hand

Left Hand

PLAY 4 TIMES

3

This is exactly the same as the pattern above except the last note goes back to G.

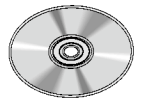
Right Hand

Left Hand

PLAY 4 TIMES

Soft Ballad #2

CD - Track 5



Here are three more rhythm patterns that you may find useful for playing **soft ballads**.

①

This pattern has two fingers playing at the same time on the + after beat 2. Don't play on count 3.
* These notes are **tied** to the previous notes.

Right Hand

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Left Hand

C Am F Dm

PLAY 4 TIMES

2

This pattern begins with your left hand playing together followed by the broken chord in your right hand. The whole pattern is played twice each bar.

Right Hand

Left Hand

C Am F Dm

PLAY 4 TIMES

3

Make sure your right hand plays the correct notes for this pattern. The last note goes back up to a G.

Right Hand

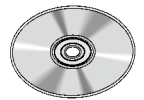
Left Hand

C Am F Dm

PLAY 4 TIMES

Pop #2

CD - Track 7



Here are three more patterns for **pop** songs. These are somewhat more difficult and will need extra practice. Listen to the CD tracks before you attempt to play them.

①

Right Hand

Left Hand

PLAY 4 TIMES

2

This is exactly the same except you begin with both hands at the same time.

Musical notation for exercise 2. The top staff is a grand staff with a treble clef and a common time signature. It contains three measures: a whole note chord of C4, E4, G4; a whole note chord of C4, E4, G4; and a quarter rest followed by a half note chord of C4, E4, G4. The bottom staff is a grand staff with a bass clef and a common time signature. It contains three measures: a whole note chord of C2, E2, G2; a quarter rest followed by a half note chord of C2, E2, G2; and a whole note chord of C2, E2, G2. Between the staves, there are four numbered circles (1, 2, 3, 4) with plus signs between them, indicating fingerings. The text "Left thumb" is written above the bottom staff, with lines connecting it to the notes in the second and fourth measures.

Fingered musical notation for exercise 2. It shows four measures of music with fingerings indicated by numbers 1, 2, 3, 4. The first two measures are marked with a 'C' time signature, and the last two with an 'F' time signature. The notation includes chords and individual notes with fingerings.

PLAY 4 TIMES

3

This is your most difficult pattern so far. It is the same as the last one but with two notes added in the left hand at the end.

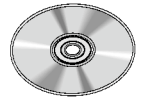
Musical notation for exercise 3. The top staff is a grand staff with a treble clef and a common time signature. It contains three measures: a whole note chord of C4, E4, G4; a whole note chord of C4, E4, G4; and a quarter rest followed by a half note chord of C4, E4, G4. The bottom staff is a grand staff with a bass clef and a common time signature. It contains three measures: a whole note chord of C2, E2, G2; a quarter rest followed by a half note chord of C2, E2, G2; and a whole note chord of C2, E2, G2. Between the staves, there are four numbered circles (1, 2, 3, 4) with plus signs between them, indicating fingerings. The text "Left thumb" is written above the bottom staff, with lines connecting it to the notes in the second and fourth measures.

Fingered musical notation for exercise 3. It shows four measures of music with fingerings indicated by numbers 1, 2, 3, 4. The first two measures are marked with a 'C' time signature, and the last two with an 'F' time signature. The notation includes chords and individual notes with fingerings.

PLAY 4 TIMES

Country

CD - Track 8



This style is commonly found in fast country songs or songs with a $2/2$ time signature.

Some famous songs that use this rhythm are:

Bad Moon Rising by Creedence Clearwater

On The Road Again by Willie Nelson

Baby Face by Al Jolson

Take extra care with patterns ② and ③

They have L2 (your left forefinger) on a G.

①

The left hand alternates with the right hand.

PLAY 4 TIMES

2

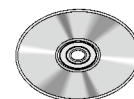
This time your left forefinger (L2) is used to play a G. When you go to the F chord L2 plays a C, and then a D when you play the G chord.

3

This is exactly the same except your right hand plays quavers on the + after count 1.

Reggae #1

CD - Track 9



Now for some rhythms that originated in the Caribbean called **reggae**.

Because the right hand is on the off beat (+) all the time these can take a while to get use to. As always, practise slowly until you feel up to playing along with the CD.

Some famous reggae songs are:

Red Red Wine by UB40

The Tide Is High by Blondie

Down Under by Men At Work

①

Musical notation for reggae rhythm. The top staff shows a bass clef with a common time signature (C). The rhythm is indicated by a sequence of notes and rests: a quarter note on the first beat, a quarter rest on the second beat, a quarter note on the third beat, a quarter rest on the fourth beat, a quarter note on the fifth beat, a quarter rest on the sixth beat, a quarter note on the seventh beat, and a quarter rest on the eighth beat. The bottom staff shows a bass clef with a common time signature (C). The rhythm is indicated by a sequence of notes and rests: a quarter note on the first beat, a quarter rest on the second beat, a quarter note on the third beat, a quarter rest on the fourth beat, a quarter note on the fifth beat, a quarter rest on the sixth beat, a quarter note on the seventh beat, and a quarter rest on the eighth beat. A large bracket on the left side of the notation indicates that the two staves are to be played together.

Musical notation for reggae rhythm. The notation shows a sequence of four measures, each with a bass clef and a common time signature (C). The first measure is labeled 'C' and the second measure is labeled 'Dm'. The notation shows a sequence of notes and rests: a quarter note on the first beat, a quarter rest on the second beat, a quarter note on the third beat, a quarter rest on the fourth beat, a quarter note on the fifth beat, a quarter rest on the sixth beat, a quarter note on the seventh beat, and a quarter rest on the eighth beat. The notation is repeated four times, with the first and last measures marked with double bar lines and repeat dots.

PLAY 4 TIMES

The right hand plays only on the "+" s (the offbeats).

2

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

PLAY 4 TIMES

3

Here your left forefinger (L2) plays a G on the C chord, and A on the Dm chord.

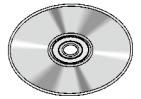
1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Left forefinger

PLAY 4 TIMES

Reggae #2

CD - Track 10



Here are three more **reggae** rhythms for you to try. This time semiquavers are featured in the right hand.

1

PLAY 4 TIMES

The left forefinger (L2) plays a C when you go to the F chord.

2

1 + a 2 + 3 + 4 +

G
Left forefinger

PLAY 4 TIMES

3

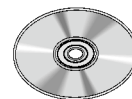
1 + a 2 + 3 + a 4 +

G
Left forefinger

PLAY 4 TIMES

Twelve-Eight #1

CD - Track 11



There are songs which use a 12/8 time signature (twelve quaver beats to the bar). The easiest way to count these is in 4 groups of three.

(1 a a, 2 a a, 3 a a, 4 a a)

Some famous songs that use these patterns are:

Can't Help Falling In Love by Elvis Presley

Unchained Melody by The Righteous Bros

What A Wonderful World by Louis Armstrong

Here you play on all the beats.
Put a little accent on the highest C (>)

①

12/8

E G C G E E G C G E

1 + + 2 + + 3 + + 4 + +

12/8

C G

C Am F G

PLAY 4 TIMES

2

This time the left hand is broken up into separate notes.

Musical notation for exercise 2, showing two staves in bass clef with 12/8 time signature. The top staff has notes E, G, E, E, G, E with fingerings R1, C, G, E, R1, C. The bottom staff has notes L1, L5, L1, L5 with fingerings 1, +, +, 2, +, +, 3, +, +, 4, +, +.

Musical notation for exercise 2, showing a sequence of chords: C, Am, F, G.

PLAY 4 TIMES

3

This one will need some careful listening and slow practice. For neatness the left thumb (L1) has been written in the right hand part.

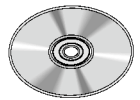
Musical notation for exercise 3, showing two staves in bass clef with 12/8 time signature. The top staff has notes E, G, G, E, E, G, E with fingerings L1, C, G, E, L1, C, G, E. The bottom staff has notes L1, L5, L1, L5 with fingerings 1, +, a, +, 2, +, +, 3, +, a, +, 4, +, +.

Musical notation for exercise 3, showing a sequence of chords: C, Am, F, G.

PLAY 4 TIMES

Twelve-Eight #2

CD - Track 12



Here are three more 12/8 rhythm patterns for you to try. Extra attention should be given to the left hand in ③.

①

Put an accent (>) on the first of each group.

1 + + 2 + + 3 + + 4 + +

C F G F

PLAY 4 TIMES

2

This time the right hand doesn't play on the first or third beat.

1 + + 2 + + 3 + + 4 + +

PLAY 4 TIMES

3

Here the left hand is more complicated. Practise it separately.

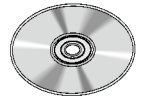
1 + + 2 + + 3 + + 4 + +

C L5, E L3, G L1, E L3

PLAY 4 TIMES

Waltz

CD - Track 13



Songs that have only three beats per bar are said to be in **waltz** time.

Some famous songs that use these rhythms are:

Annie's Song by John Denver

Mull of Kintyre by Paul McCartney

Somewhere My Love from the film *Dr Zhivago*.

①

PLAY 4 TIMES

2

Musical notation for exercise 2. The right hand is in 3/4 time, playing a sequence of notes: E (R1), G (R2), C (R5), G (R2), E (R1). The left hand is in 3/4 time, playing a sequence of notes: C (L5), L1, C. Fingerings are indicated by circled numbers 1, 2, 3 and plus signs (+).

Chord progression for exercise 2: C, Dm, G, C. The progression is repeated four times, indicated by the text "PLAY 4 TIMES".

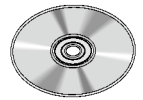
3

Musical notation for exercise 3. The right hand is in 3/4 time, playing a sequence of notes: E (R1), G (R2), C (R5), G (R2). The left hand is in 3/4 time, playing a sequence of notes: C (L5), L1, C. Fingerings are indicated by circled numbers 1, 2, 3 and plus signs (+).

Chord progression for exercise 3: C, Dm, G, C. The progression is repeated four times, indicated by the text "PLAY 4 TIMES".

Swing #1

CD - Track 14



Swing rhythms can look complicated but if you listen to the CD they are not as difficult as you might think.

Some famous tunes that use these patterns are:

Hound Dog by Elvis Presley

Moon Dance by Van Morrison

How Sweet It Is by James Taylor

Both hands play simultaneously. Listen carefully to the track before attempting to play.

①

PLAY 4 TIMES

2

PLAY 4 TIMES

3

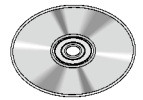
L5 only

Left thumb

PLAY 4 TIMES

Swing #2

CD - Track 15



Here are three more **swing** rhythms to master.

1

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

L5 only

Left thumb

C Dm Em Dm

PLAY 4 TIMES

2

Musical notation for exercise 2, showing bass clef staves with chords and fingerings. The notation includes a treble clef staff with a brace on the left, and a bass clef staff below it. The treble clef staff contains a sequence of chords: a dotted quarter note chord, a quarter note chord, a dotted quarter note chord, a quarter note chord, a dotted quarter note chord, and a quarter note chord. The bass clef staff contains a sequence of notes: a dotted quarter note, a quarter note, a dotted quarter note, a quarter note, a dotted quarter note, and a quarter note. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 in circles, and plus signs (+) in circles. A label "L5 only" is placed below the first note of the bass clef staff, and "Left thumb" is placed below the first note of the treble clef staff.

Musical notation for exercise 2, showing bass clef staves with chords and fingerings. The notation includes a treble clef staff with a brace on the left, and a bass clef staff below it. The treble clef staff contains a sequence of chords: a dotted quarter note chord, a quarter note chord, a dotted quarter note chord, and a quarter note chord. The bass clef staff contains a sequence of notes: a dotted quarter note, a quarter note, a dotted quarter note, and a quarter note. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 in circles, and plus signs (+) in circles. A label "L5 only" is placed below the first note of the bass clef staff, and "Left thumb" is placed below the first note of the treble clef staff.

PLAY 4 TIMES

3

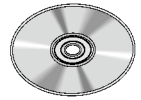
Musical notation for exercise 3, showing bass clef staves with chords and fingerings. The notation includes a treble clef staff with a brace on the left, and a bass clef staff below it. The treble clef staff contains a sequence of chords: a dotted quarter note chord, a quarter note chord, a dotted quarter note chord, a quarter note chord, a dotted quarter note chord, and a quarter note chord. The bass clef staff contains a sequence of notes: a dotted quarter note, a quarter note, a dotted quarter note, a quarter note, a dotted quarter note, and a quarter note. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 in circles, and plus signs (+) in circles. A label "Left thumb only" is placed below the first note of the bass clef staff.

Musical notation for exercise 3, showing bass clef staves with chords and fingerings. The notation includes a treble clef staff with a brace on the left, and a bass clef staff below it. The treble clef staff contains a sequence of chords: a dotted quarter note chord, a quarter note chord, a dotted quarter note chord, and a quarter note chord. The bass clef staff contains a sequence of notes: a dotted quarter note, a quarter note, a dotted quarter note, and a quarter note. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 in circles, and plus signs (+) in circles. A label "Left thumb only" is placed below the first note of the bass clef staff.

PLAY 4 TIMES

Shuffle

CD - Track 16



These patterns are commonly known as **shuffle** rhythms.

Some famous shuffle songs are:

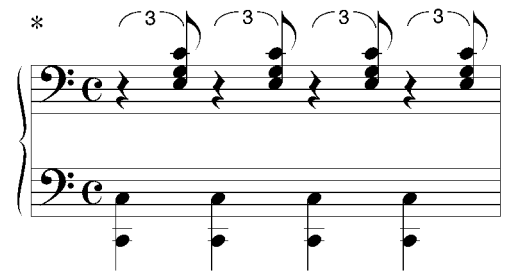
That'll Be The Day by Buddy Holly

All Shook Up by Elvis Presley

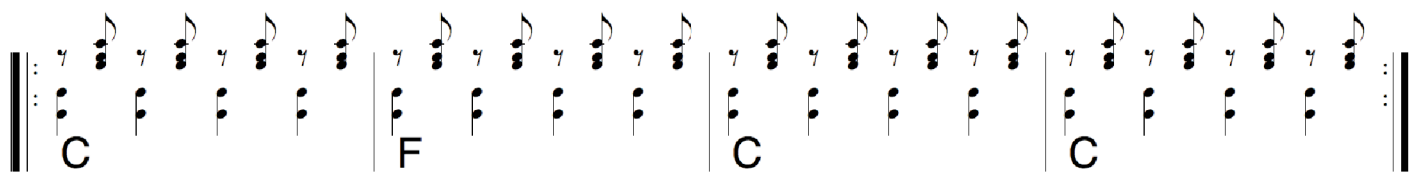
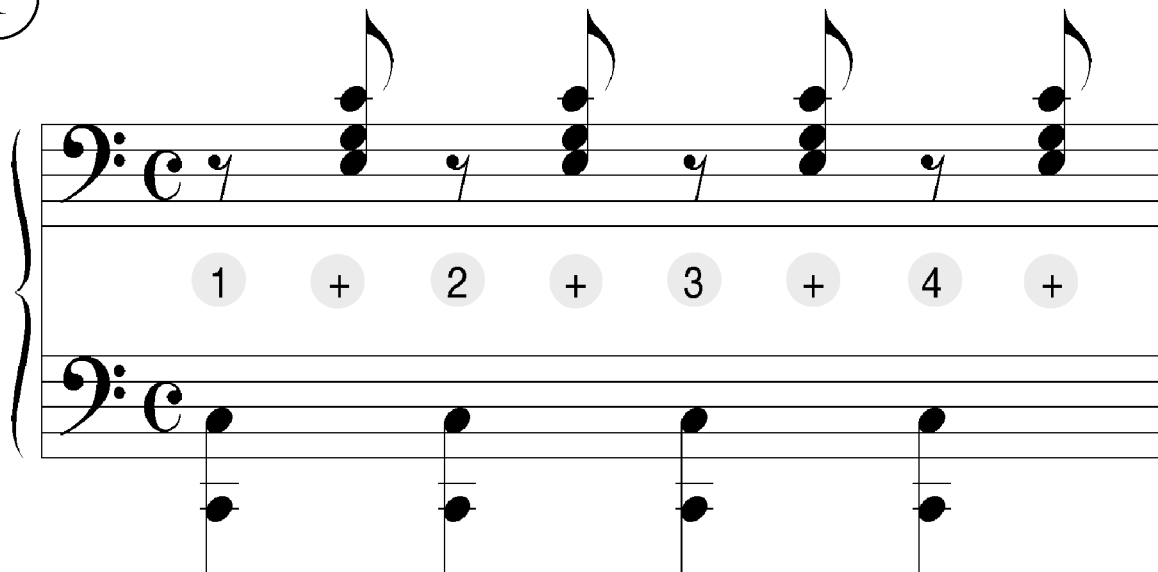
All You Need Is Love by The Beatles

The second and third patterns require the left hand to play different notes.

* To be technically correct ① would normally be notated like this.



①



Practise the left hand on its own before attempting both hands together.

2

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

C L5 E L3 G L2 A L1

C F C C

PLAY 4 TIMES

3

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

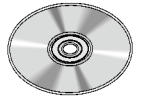
C L5 E L3 G L2 E L3

C F C C

PLAY 4 TIMES

Swing Waltz

CD - Track 17



Here are some more **waltz** patterns but this time they have a **swing** feel to them.

Some famous songs that would use these rhythms are:

The Last Waltz by Engelbert Humperdinck

Lucille by Kenny Rogers

①

1 + 2 + 3 + a

Left thumb

C Dm F G

PLAY 4 TIMES

2

1 + 2 + a 3 + a

p.

C Dm F G

PLAY 4 TIMES

3

1 + a 2 + a 3 + a

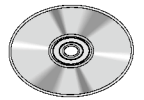
p.

C Dm F G

PLAY 4 TIMES

Rock and Roll

CD - Track 18



Rock and roll rhythms sound great on piano but can also be very tiring to play.

Try these patterns with songs such as:

Johnny B. Goode by Chuck Berry

Great Balls Of Fire by Jerry Lee Lewis

Long Tall Sally by Little Richard.

①

PLAY 4 TIMES

2

Exercise 2 consists of two staves in bass clef with a common time signature. The upper staff contains four pairs of chords, each pair consisting of two notes. The lower staff contains a sequence of notes: a dotted quarter note, a dotted quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. Above the upper staff, there are four pairs of circles containing the numbers 1 and 2, 3 and 4, with a plus sign between them, indicating fingerings for the chords.

A sequence of chords and notes for exercise 2. It starts with a C chord, followed by a C chord, then an F chord, and finally a G chord. Each chord is followed by a sequence of notes: a dotted quarter note, a dotted quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. The sequence is enclosed in a double bar line.

PLAY 4 TIMES

3

The left hand will need separate practice.

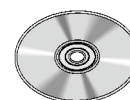
Exercise 3 consists of two staves in bass clef with a common time signature. The upper staff contains four pairs of chords, each pair consisting of two notes. The lower staff contains a sequence of notes: a dotted quarter note, a dotted quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. Above the upper staff, there are four pairs of circles containing the numbers 1 and 2, 3 and 4, with a plus sign between them, indicating fingerings for the chords. Below the lower staff, there are four notes: C (L5), E (L3), G (L2), and A (L1).

A sequence of chords and notes for exercise 3. It starts with a C chord, followed by a C chord, then an F chord, and finally a G chord. Each chord is followed by a sequence of notes: a dotted quarter note, a dotted quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. The sequence is enclosed in a double bar line.

PLAY 4 TIMES

Bounce

CD - Track 19



This style relies heavily on your left hand thumb (L1) alternating with the right hand for a "bouncy" swing rhythm. Listen carefully before attempting to play it.

Some famous songs that use this rhythm are:

Penny Lane by The Beatles

Short People by Randy Newman

New York, New York by Frank Sinatra

1

PLAY 4 TIMES

2

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Left thumb

C

C Em F G

PLAY 4 TIMES

3

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Left thumb

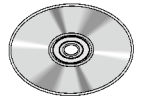
C

C Em F G

PLAY 4 TIMES

Funk #1

CD - Track 20



These **funk** patterns could be applied to songs
such as:

I Feel The Earth by Carole King

I Feel Good by James Brown.

①

PLAY 4 TIMES

2

Musical notation for exercise 2. The top staff is in bass clef with a common time signature (C). It contains a whole rest followed by a dotted quarter note chord (G2, B1) and another whole rest followed by a dotted quarter note chord (G2, B1). The bottom staff is also in bass clef with a common time signature. It contains a dotted quarter note G1, a dotted quarter note G1, a whole rest, a dotted quarter note G1, a dotted quarter note G1, a whole rest, a dotted quarter note G1, and a dotted quarter note G1. Below the staves, a sequence of numbers and plus signs is shown: 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +.

Fingerings and chord diagrams for exercise 2. The first measure shows a C chord with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4. The second measure shows a C chord with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4. The third measure shows an F chord with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4. The fourth measure shows an F chord with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4. The instruction "PLAY 4 TIMES" is written below the diagrams.

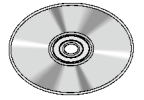
3

Musical notation for exercise 3. The top staff is in bass clef with a common time signature (C). It contains a whole rest followed by a dotted quarter note chord (G2, B1) and another whole rest followed by a dotted quarter note chord (G2, B1). The bottom staff is also in bass clef with a common time signature. It contains a dotted quarter note G1, a dotted quarter note G1, a whole rest, a dotted quarter note G1, a dotted quarter note G1, a whole rest, a dotted quarter note G1, and a dotted quarter note G1. Below the staves, a sequence of numbers and plus signs is shown: 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +.

Fingerings and chord diagrams for exercise 3. The first measure shows a C chord with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4. The second measure shows a C chord with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4. The third measure shows an F chord with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4. The fourth measure shows an F chord with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4. The instruction "PLAY 4 TIMES" is written below the diagrams.

Funk #2

CD - Track 21



Here are three more **funk** rhythms. The last one is a real challenge.

1

1 + 2 + a 3 + 4 +

L5 only

L1

L1

L1

C C F F

PLAY 4 TIMES

2

1 + 2 + a 3 + 4 +

L5 L1

PLAY 4 TIMES

3

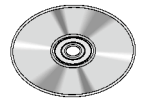
1 + 2 + a 3 a + a 4 +

L5 L1

PLAY 4 TIMES

Pop Ballad

CD - Track 22



These rhythms may be used for songs such as:

Yesterday by The Beatles

Love Is All Around by The Troggs

①

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

C G Am F

PLAY 4 TIMES

2

Extra care with the right hand is needed for this pattern.

3

Two or more chords per bar

All the patterns in this book were taught using only one chord per bar; but what happens when you are playing a song with two or more chords per bar?

If there are two chords per bar just play the **first half of the rhythm pattern** for each of the chords.

The image shows a musical staff with four bars. Each bar contains a melody line and a bass line. The chords are C, F, Dm, G, and C. The rhythm pattern is 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +. The third bar is highlighted with a grey circle.

For bars where there are more than two chords it may be best not to play a rhythm at all - just play the chords as *block* chords.

The image shows a musical staff with four bars. Each bar contains a melody line and a bass line. The chords are C, F, Dm, F, G, and C. The rhythm pattern is 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +. The third bar is highlighted with a grey circle.

What are time signatures?

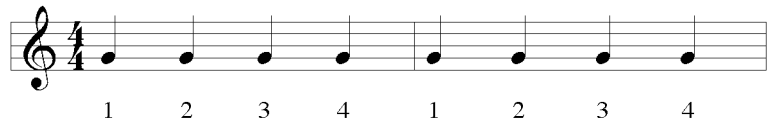
When you hear a piece of music most of the time it will have four beats in the bar. It is then said to have a time signature of $\frac{4}{4}$

The time signature is shown on the music staff after the clef and key signature.

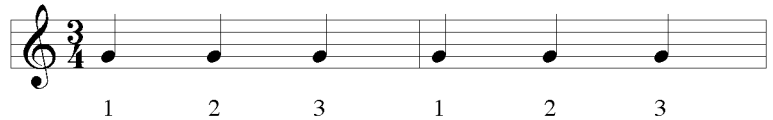


The time signature consists of two numbers - one above the other. The top number tells you how many beats are counted or felt per bar (measure). The bottom number tells you what kind of beat - ie. crotchet, quaver, etc.

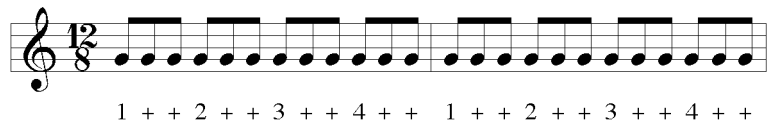
$\frac{4}{4} = \text{crotchet}$ = 4 crotchet beats per bar



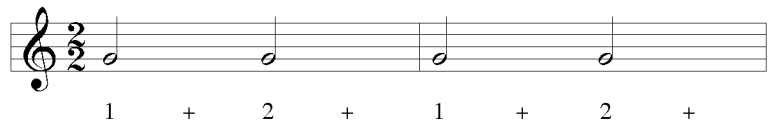
$\frac{3}{4} = \text{crotchet}$ = 3 crotchet beats per bar



$\frac{12}{8} = \text{quaver}$ = 12 quaver beats per bar



$\frac{2}{2} = \text{minim}$ = 2 minim beats per bar



Because 4/4 is by far the most common time signature (particularly in popular music) it is sometimes known as common time and is represented by C

2/2 is sometimes called cut common time C

In conclusion

Now that you have a good overall knowledge of how to play piano chords for accompanying your singing; you may wish to extend your skills through other books in this series.

Book 4 - The Key Book with its accompanying CD teaches you all about the basic keys and scales of popular music. You will learn to put songs into the correct key for your voice.

About the author

Darryl Chute runs a recording studio and music school in Sydney, Australia.

His whole life has been music. After gaining the Diploma in Music Education, he spent seven years teaching classroom music in secondary schools. Darryl is a prolific composer, songwriter and arranger with a full length musical to his credit.

The **Big D's Pop School** series has been developed over many years of practical experience accompanying singers, producing recordings, playing in bands, writing songs and teaching students the piano.

Darryl welcomes comments on his method and may be contacted at -

Fountainhead Music,
Dolphin House,
26 Judge St,
Randwick,
N.S.W., 2031, Australia

Phone or fax: Sydney, Australia
(+612) 9398 7375

Email: darrylchute@bigpond.com
Website: www.fountainheadmusic.com.au

