



SUPER **BASICS**

CHEATSHEET



Any questions?

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COUNT YOUR FINGERS

This lesson supplement follows on from the 'Count Your Fingers' video lesson in the *Super Basics* mini-course.

Each of the fingers on your hands are allocated a number from 1-5 starting with the thumb as 1, up to the little finger as 5. Using these numbers you can begin to learn some songs.

Have A Go at some more finger combinations! The next few pages give you directions for going through these combos. There are three parts to the first 3 exercises, and then a fourth part to the remaining exercises.

Read through these directions before you begin...

PART 1

With your fingers in Middle C position (both thumbs on Middle C), practise each hand separately at a slow speed.

Try playing through these a few times. The idea here is to just get the fingers playing the keys, don't worry about speed or rhythm yet.



PART 2

Once you have the correct keys to put your fingers on, listen to the matching demonstration from the audio downloads. Copy the rhythm you hear in the demo with the keys you've learned to play.

PART 3

Once you feel ready, it's time to play along to the drum backing track provided. This will mean you are playing on your own (without the demo piano) to the drum tempo. Play the RH combo, then the LH combo immediately after.

PART 4

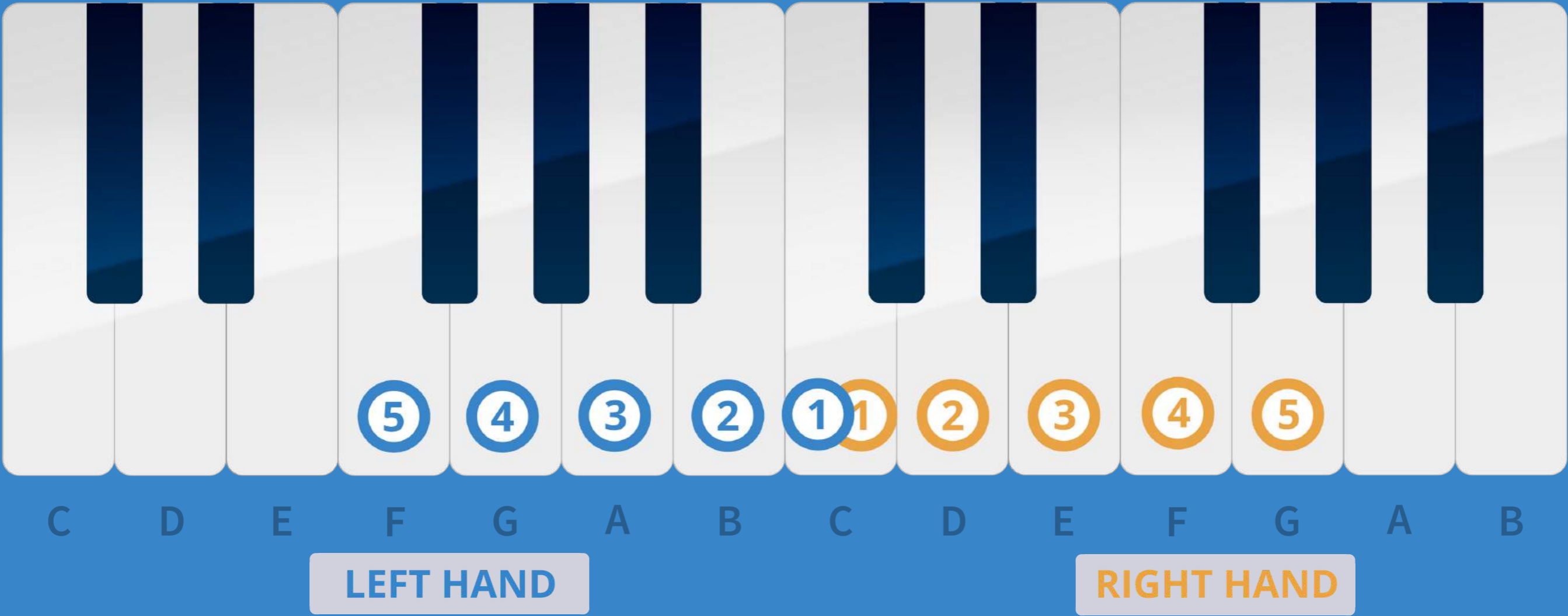
Once you have gone through the first three combos, try the next three (4-6), these are more difficult!

This sign indicates for you to play with both hands together at the same time when you're ready!



Middle C

P O S I T I O N



Get your hands ready in Middle C position before you begin the exercises.

HAVE A GO 1



RH: 5 4 3 2 1 1 1 1

LH: 5 4 3 2 1 1 1 1

Play through twice.

Step 1: Hands separate, no rhythm and SLOW.

Step 2: Copy the rhythm of the demo track.

Step 3: Play this rhythm to the tempo of the drum track.

HAVE A GO 2



RH: 3 2 3 2 3 5 3 2

LH: 1 2 3 4 3 2 1 1

Play through twice.

Step 1: Hands separate, no rhythm and SLOW.

Step 2: Copy the rhythm of the demo track.

Step 3: Play this rhythm to the tempo of the drum track.

HAVE A GO 3



RH: 4 3 1 4 3 1 4 3

LH: 1 4 3 1 4 3 1 2

Play through twice.

Step 1: Hands separate, no rhythm and SLOW.

Step 2: Copy the rhythm of the demo track.

Step 3: Play this rhythm to the tempo of the drum track.

HAVE A GO 4



RH: 4 4 4 4 3 1 3 2

LH: 5 4 3 2 1 1 1 1

Play through three times and end on RH: 1

Step 1: Hands separate, no rhythm and SLOW.

Step 2: Copy the rhythm of the demo track.

Step 3: Play this rhythm to the tempo of the drum track.

Step 4: Play **HANDS TOGETHER** with the drum track.

HAVE A GO 5



RH: 1 5 1 5 1 4 5 4

LH: 1 4 1 4 1 5 4 5

Play through three times, then end on:

RH: 3

LH: 1

Step 1: Hands separate, no rhythm and SLOW.

Step 2: Copy the rhythm of the demo track.

Step 3: Play this rhythm to the tempo of the drum track.

Step 4: Play **HANDS TOGETHER** with the drum track.

nailed it!

NOW GO TO THE NEXT
VIDEO LESSON '**TWO
HALVES MAKE A WHOLE**'

COME BACK HERE AFTER
THE '**SO MAJOR**' LESSON.

SO MAJOR

This lesson supplement follows on from the 'So Major' lesson in the *Super Basics* mini-course.

A scale is a set of notes that have been grouped together to create a mood or flavour and are the basis of melody and harmony within songs. From the latin word meaning “*stairs*”, the scale is played one step at a time going up (ascending), or down (descending) the keyboard. A scale is designed over the distance of one octave (between the starting note and it’s next repetition).

The major scale is the most common of scales and consists of the following interval pattern over an octave:

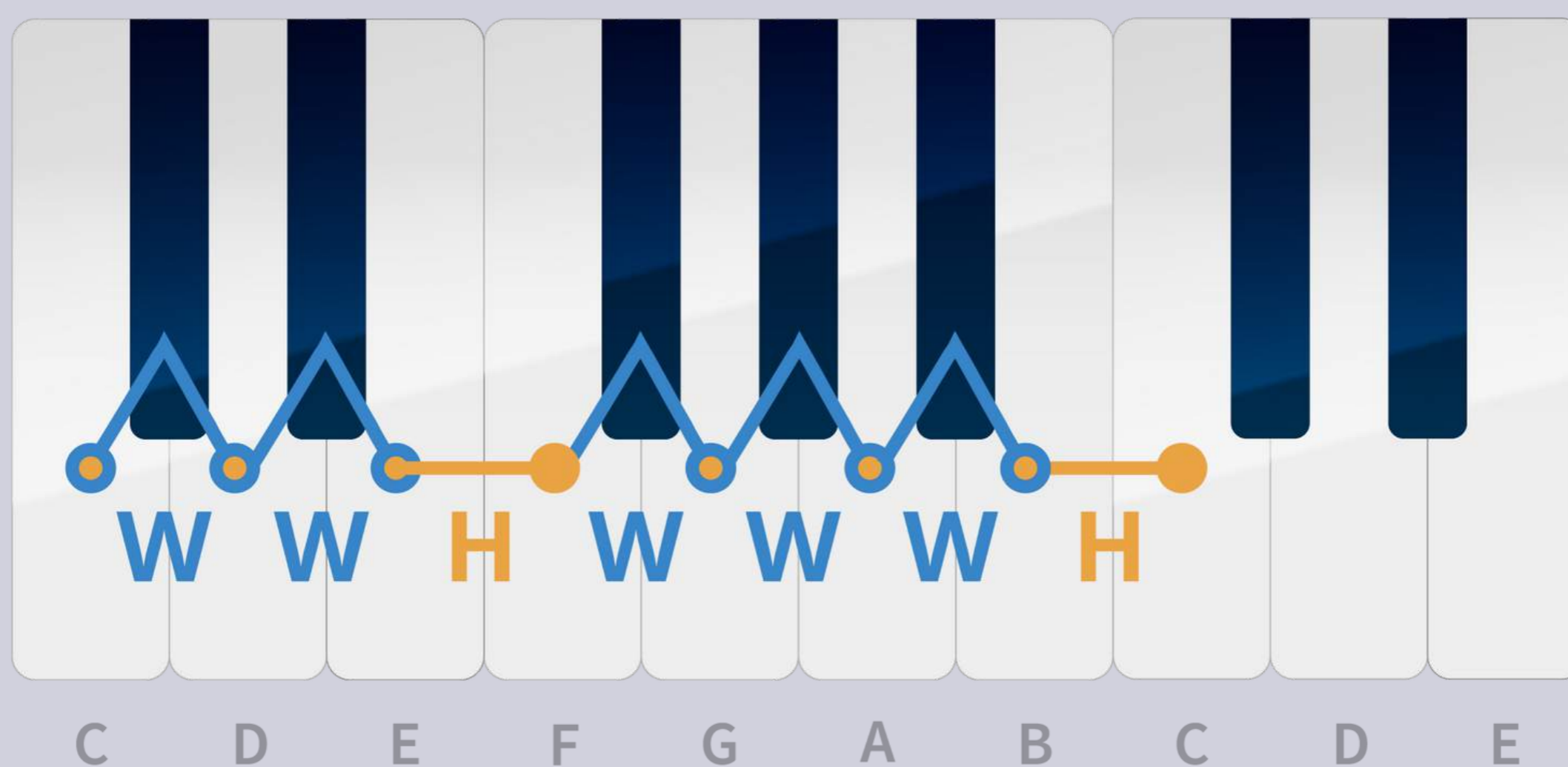
Whole-step - whole-step - half-step - whole-step - whole-step - whole-step - half-step.

We can simplify the whole-step and half-step into one letter each: W and H.

W - W - H - W - W - W - H

SCALE STEPS

Remembering that a whole-step is equal to two half-steps we can begin on C and play the C major scale like this:



In the image above, the movement of counting the whole-step is indicated in blue and the half-step is in orange.

Each dot indicates the notes of the scale we play, 8 notes in total.

winning!

NOW GO TO THE NEXT
VIDEO LESSON
'IT'S ALL SCALABLE'.

COME BACK AFTER
'FINGER TOSS'.

IT'S ALL SCALABLE

You will have found it impossible to play the scale without moving your hands position at least once. Each time you move to a new position it creates a break in the sound no matter how quick you are. So in order to play the scale as smoothly as possible we use a few techniques: the *thumb tuck* and the *finger toss*.

The **thumb tuck** is great for ascending in the RH or descending in the LH:

1 2 3 **thumb tuck** 1 2 3 4 5

The **finger toss** is great for descending in the RH or ascending in the LH:

5 4 3 2 1 **finger toss** 3 2 1

THE MAJOR SCALE

The following page has the patterns laid out on the keyboard for the C major scale.

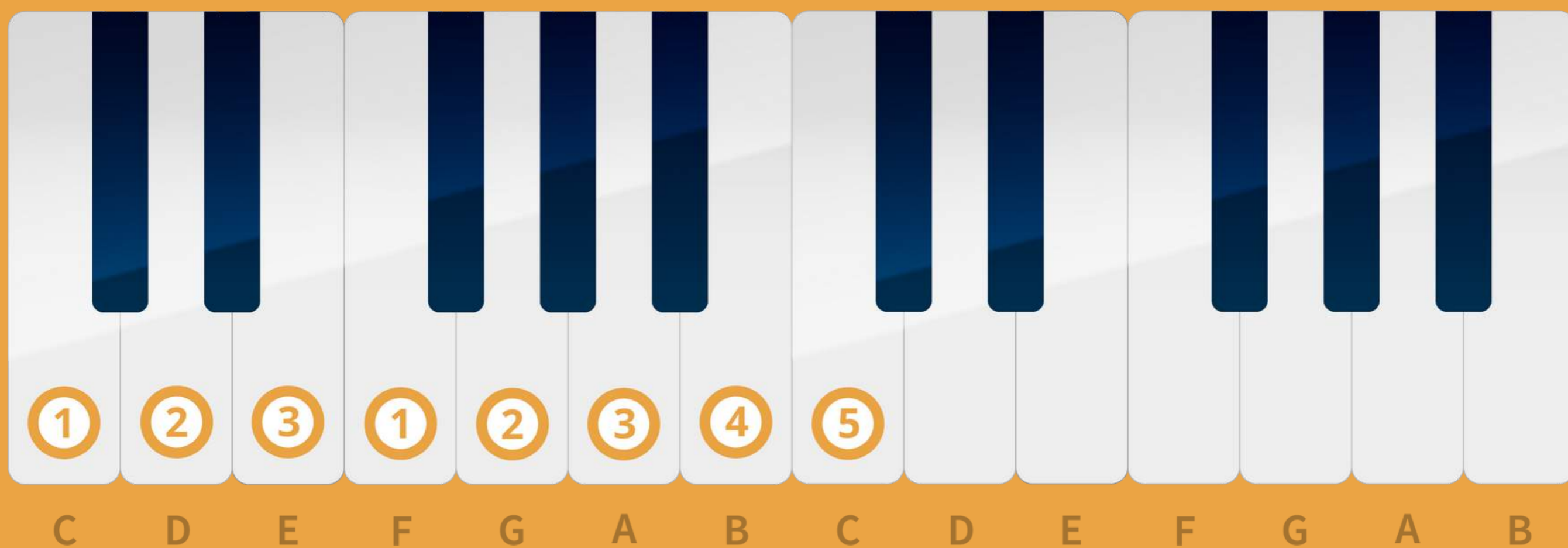
Using the finger techniques you've just learned, have a go at playing it ascending and descending with the RH then the LH.

Once you have tried with each hand separately, then if you're feeling brave, try playing with both hands ascending together and descending together!

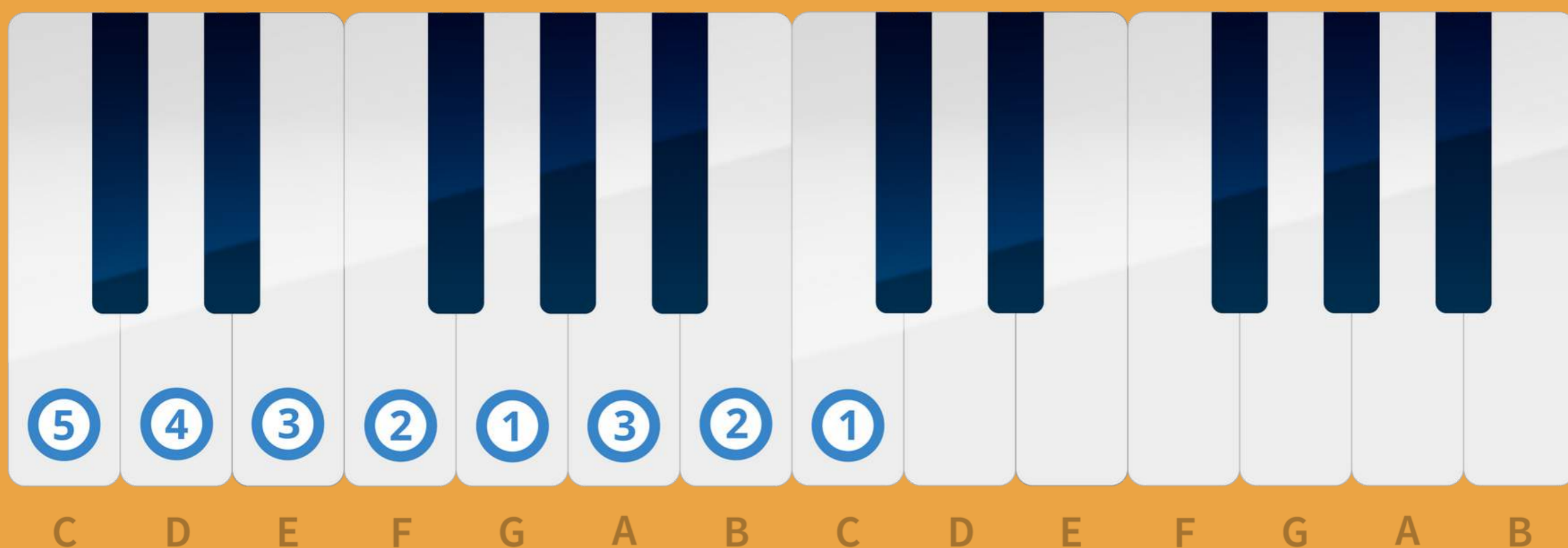
C major

SCALE

Fingering for the Right Hand.



Fingering for the Left Hand.



nice one!

NOW GO TO THE NEXT
VIDEO LESSON '**JUST A
MINOR THING**'

COME BACK HERE
STRAIGHT AFTER.

JUST A MINOR THING

This lesson supplement follows on from the 'Just A Minor Thing' lesson in the *Super Basics* mini-course.

The minor scale is similar to the major scale but you will notice that it has a different feel to it, it sounds sad. The interval pattern is:

Whole-step - Half-step - Whole-step - Whole-step - Half-step - Whole-step - Whole-step

So shortened to one letter we have:

W - H - W - W - H - W - W.

With this pattern you can work out the minor scale starting on any note of the piano.

SCALE STEPS

Remembering that a whole-step is equal to two half-steps we can begin on A and play the **A minor scale** like this:



In the image above, the movement of counting the whole-step is indicated in blue and the half-step is in orange.

Each dot indicates the notes of the scale we play, 8 notes in total.

THE MINOR SCALE

The following page has the pattern laid out on the keyboard for the A minor scale.

Have a go at playing it ascending and descending, in the RH then the LH. Remember to use the finger techniques you've learned previously to play the scale smoothly and connected.

Once you have tried with each hand separately, then if you're feeling brave, try playing with both hands ascending together and descending together!

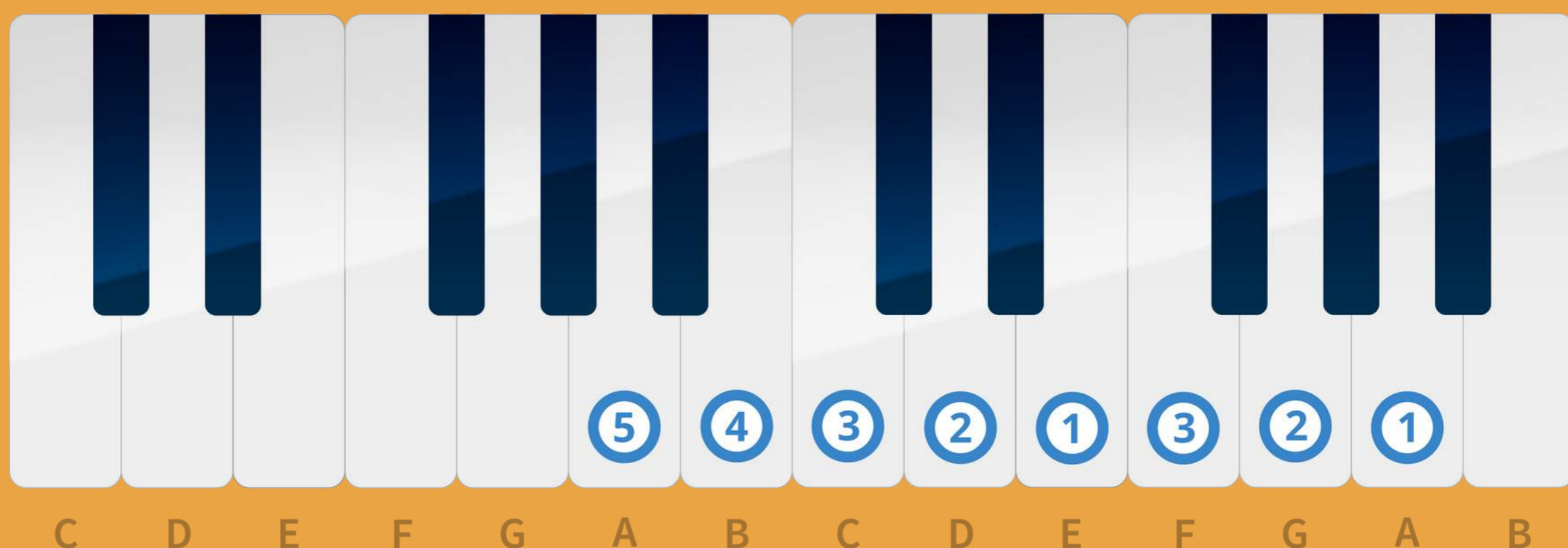
A minor

SCALE

Fingering for the Right Hand.



Fingering for the Left Hand.



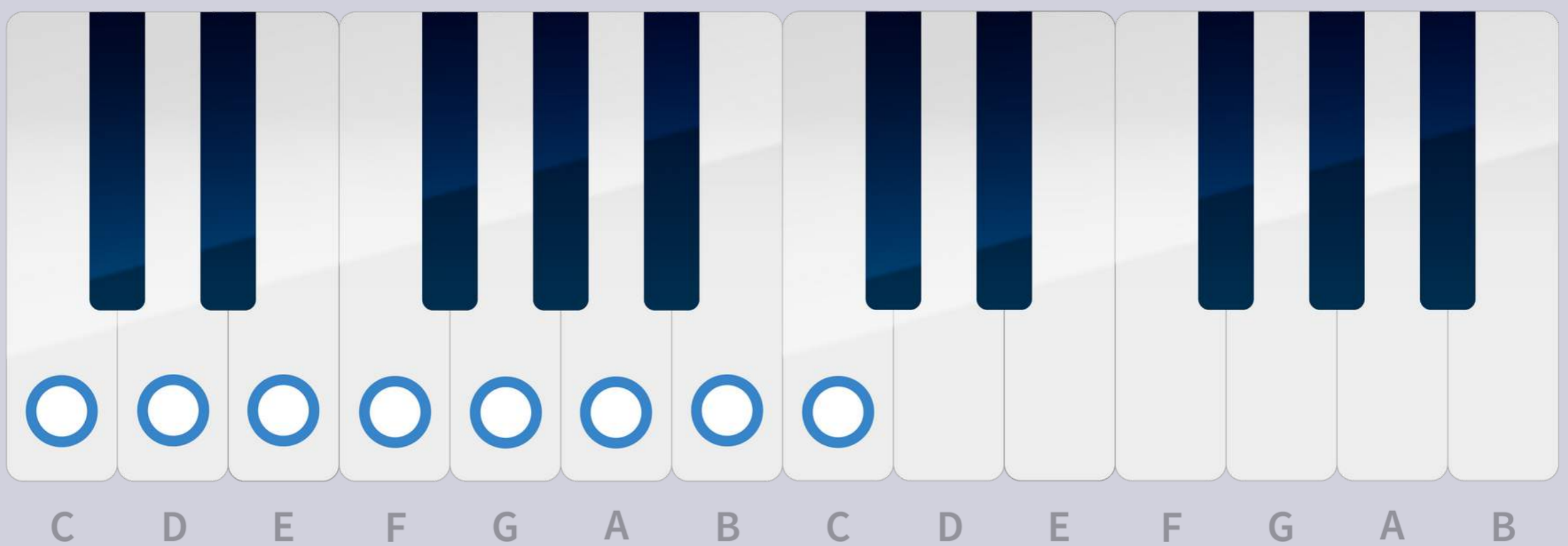
you
beauty!

GO BACK TO THE VIDEO
LESSON 'TURNING SCALES
INTO KEYS'

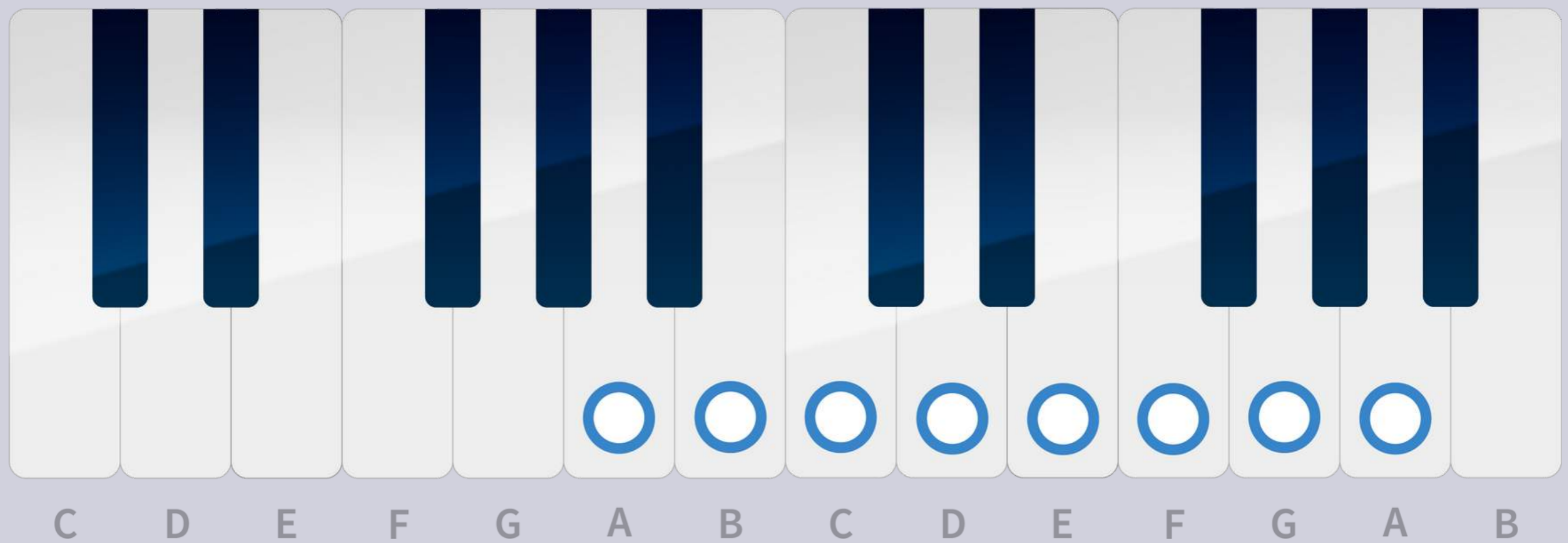
COME BACK HERE ONCE
YOU'VE WATCHED IT.

Every song has a key signature that it tends to stick to, that key signature is based on a scale.

So a song that is in the key of C major it will typically use these notes more than others:



If in the 'key of A minor' it will typically use these notes more than others:



Your knowledge of what makes up different keys will begin to take more shape as you learn more major and minor scales.

We'll cover many more major, natural minor and some new types of scales in future Piano Picnic courses.

For now just remember that to play in 'the key of....' means to mostly stick to the notes of that scale.

champion!

YOU'VE FINISHED THE
SUPER BASICS
CHEATSHEET.

NOW TAKE THE **QUIZ** TO
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

Still hungry?

Learn songs just by listening!



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