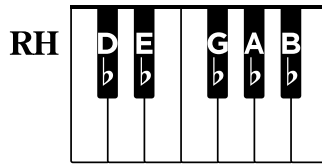


Improvisation

Black-Key Improv

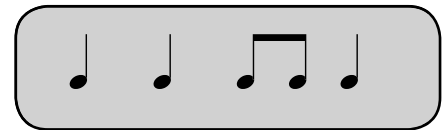
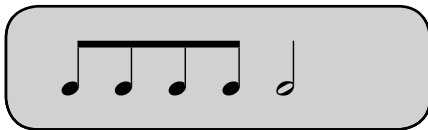
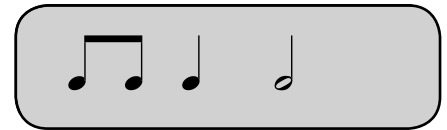
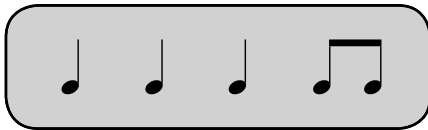
IMPROVISATION (im-prah-vih-ZAY-shin) is making up music on the spot, as you play. In this first improvisation, you'll play *only* on the black keys with your RH.



Instead of playing one random note after another, use **RHYTHM PATTERNS** to help make your improvisations sound great.

- ✓ Choose one black key from the keyboard diagram above, and play all the rhythm patterns below. Start counting out loud before playing.

Rhythm Patterns (all in $\frac{4}{4}$)



- ✓ Then, choose two black keys next to each other. Play the rhythm patterns again switching between the two keys. You may switch between these two keys any way you like!
- ✓ Do the same steps with 3 different notes.

Improvise!

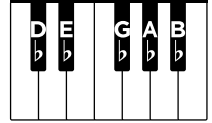
Your teacher will show you which black keys you may use.* Be sure to use some of the rhythm patterns you were given, and feel free to add some of your own ideas! As your teacher starts playing the accompaniment, *feel the beat of the music*. Start playing whenever you're ready!

Hint: Start with only one black key, and when you feel comfortable, slowly add more black keys.

* **Teachers:** Show the student *A-flat* above *Middle C* as their *lowest* note, to avoid colliding with the accompaniment. Limit the black-key choices to a small range at first. As the student gains confidence, you may increase the range.

Black-Key Improv

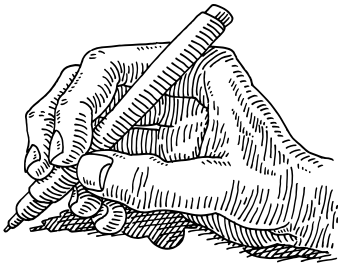
Teacher Duet



(Student notes)

Teacher Duet (Student plays *higher than the teacher.*)

Moderately

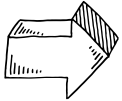
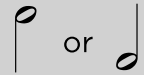


Notation

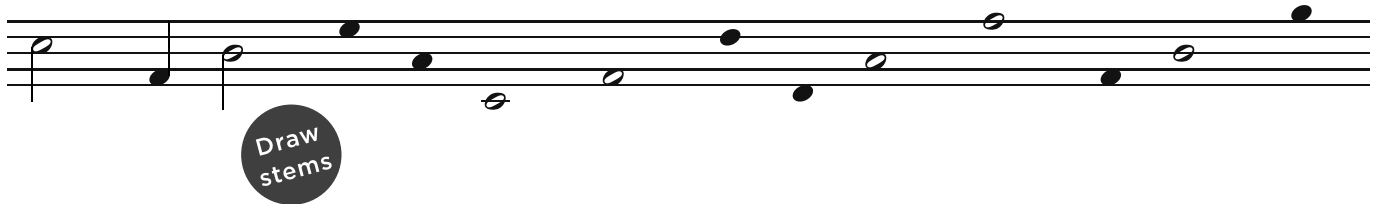
Stem Direction



Stems are placed:
down on the **left**
up on the **right**



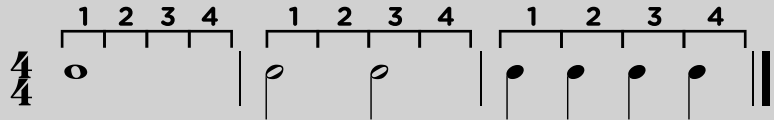
Stems go **UP** for notes **below the middle line**.



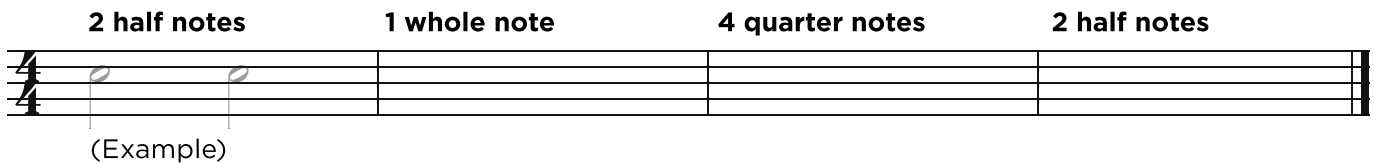
Note Spacing



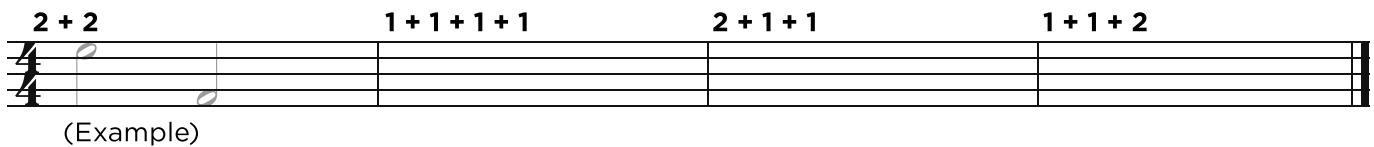
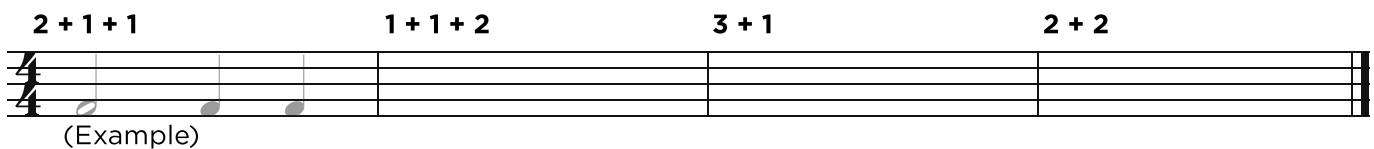
In $\frac{4}{4}$, mentally divide each measure into 4 parts (beats) to spread out the notes evenly.



1. Draw notes to fill each measure. The notes can be on any line or space. Spread out the notes evenly.



2. Follow the numbers to determine which notes to draw. (1 = quarter note, 2 = half note, 3 = dotted quarter note)



PRO TIP



Quarter rests (♩) and half rests (♭) are spaced the same way as notes. However, *whole rests* are always placed *in the center* of the measure.

