The C 5-Finger Scale

Your very first scale: **five neighboring notes that sit right under your hand** — one note for each finger. In C, those notes are C · D · E · F · G.

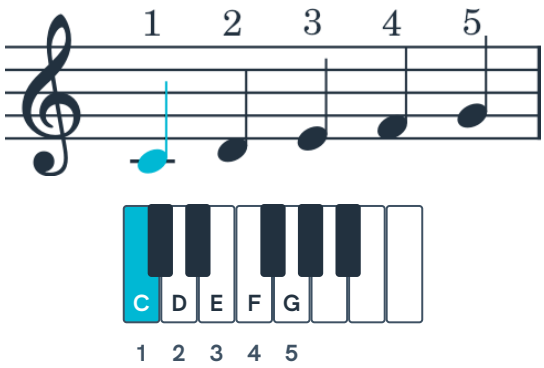
FIVE NOTES, FIVE FINGERS

Put your right thumb on **C** (the white key just left of the two black keys, Handout 350). Let the other four fingers rest on the next four white keys — D, E, F and G. That's the whole position: **one finger per key, and the hand never moves**.

Pianists number the fingers **1 to 5, starting from the thumb**. The small numbers above the notes tell you which finger plays.

1	2	3	4	5
thumb	index	middle	ring	pinky

Left hand? Same five keys an octave lower — but start with your **pinky** on C, so the numbers run 5 4 3 2 1.



START AT HOME, COME BACK HOME

C is the **home note** — the note the scale is named after, and the place where your hand starts. Walk up four steps to G, then walk back down. Notice how the last **C** feels like arriving: **ending on the home note is what makes music sound finished**.



Up four steps, then back down. The colored notes are **home**.

Try it Rest your right hand on the five keys and play up and back: C-D-E-F-G-F-E-D-C. Now play it again but **stop on D**. Hear how it wants to keep going? Only the home note sounds finished. That feeling of "home" is the biggest idea in all of music — and you just played it. All 24 positions: 5-Finger Positions in Every Key (reference chart).

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