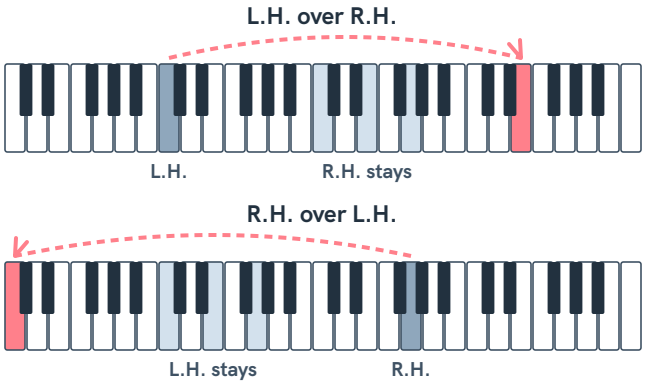
Hand Crossing

Sometimes one hand must reach past the other: the **left hand** flies over for a high note, or the **right hand** drops over for a low one. Done well, it sounds like one line.

OVER THE TOP

The hand that **travels** goes **over**. The hand that **stays** keeps playing close to the keys, wrist a little low, to leave room above it. In the diagrams, gray = the hand that stays and **coral** = where the traveling hand lands.

1. **Look first.** Your eyes land on the target key a beat before the hand leaves.
2. **Arc, don't slide.** Lift from the forearm and travel in a rainbow, high over the other hand.
3. **Land softly.** Use a strong middle finger (2 or 3) and touch down on the fingertip. No thump.
4. **Fly straight back.** The return trip starts the moment the note has sounded.



READING THE CUES

The **staff** shows where a note **sounds**, not which hand plays it. Look for these signs:

m.s.
Left hand, *mano sinistra*. French: *m.g.*, *main gauche*.

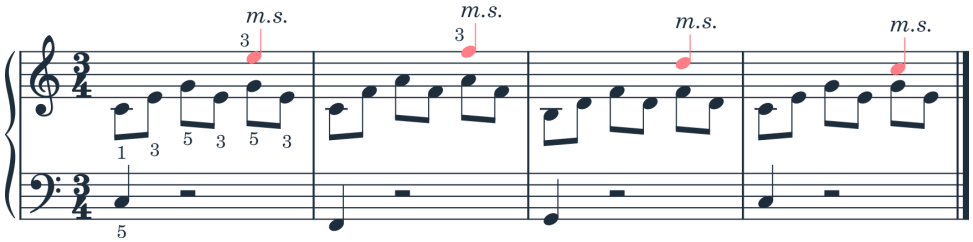
m.d.
Right hand, *mano destra* or *main droite*.

l.h. *r.h.*
English: left hand, right hand (or **L.H.**, **R.H.**).

Stems & rests
Crossing notes get their **own stem direction**; the other staff shows **rests**.

CROSSING EXERCISE

1 · Left hand over beat 1 low bass, beat 3 high melody (m.s.)



2 · Right hand over beat 1 melody, beat 3 low bell (m.d.)



Try it Practice the **traveling hand** alone first, then add the ripple, slowly and **p**, its eighths perfectly even. The crossing notes of exercise 1 make a tune, E–F–D–C. Play it with the right hand, then crossing with the left: it should sound the same. Handout 38 sweeps a chord across the keys with this move.

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