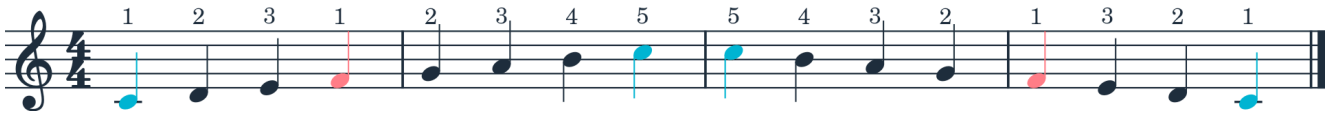Thumb-Under: the Full Scale

five fingers, eight notes — the tuck that unlocks the whole keyboard

A one-octave scale has eight notes and you have five fingers — so the hand must travel. The trick pianists have used for 300 years: play 1-2-3, then **tuck the thumb under** the hand to land on the next key, giving you a fresh 1-2-3-4-5 to finish. The secret is to send the thumb traveling **early** — while finger 2 and 3 play, the thumb is already sneaking under like a hermit crab, so there is no jerk and no bump.

THE RIGHT HAND — 1-2-3, TUCK, 1-2-3-4-5



Cyan = home C's. Coral = **the tuck**: the thumb plays F by sliding UNDER finger 3. Coming down, finger 3 crosses OVER the thumb at the same spot.

THE LEFT HAND — 5-4-3-2-1, CROSS OVER



The left hand mirrors it: after the thumb plays G (coral), **finger 3 crosses over** to A.

Try it Practice the tuck alone: hold your hand over the keys and play just **3-tuck-1** (E, then thumb under to F) back and forth, keeping the wrist calm and level — no elbow swing, no wrist dip. When it feels smooth, play the full scale slower than slow, then try G major (same fingering!) — F major is the rebel: its right hand uses **1-2-3-4**, a story for the next scale sheet. Check yourself: Exercise 63.

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