



Independence Builder

The best exercise to learn finger independence on the keyboard.

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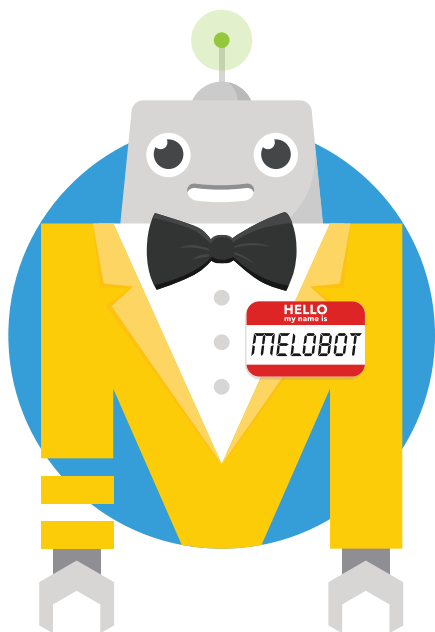
LET'S GET STARTED

Introducing Independence Builder

To really start making strides playing the keys, one of the most important skills you can build is called "independence". This is one of the best exercises to work on that skill.

Playing keys requires a lot of dexterity and finger coordination. With two hands and ten fingers in play, the Independence Builder exercise will help you develop that dexterity, build your finger independence, and level up your skills on the keys fast.

This is Melobot, he'll guide you through the exercise and give you handy tips on technique.



Tips for effective practice:

- Practice each hand separately first.
- Practice with a metronome (from 60 to 108 bpm).
- Set a tempo and play exactly with the metronome.
- Start out slowly enough that you can play the exercises perfectly.
- Practice with various dynamics. Practice soft, loud and everything in between.
- Practice in different rhythms.
- Lift your fingers high and with precision, playing each note very distinctly.



KEY

How to read the exercise.

Shapes:

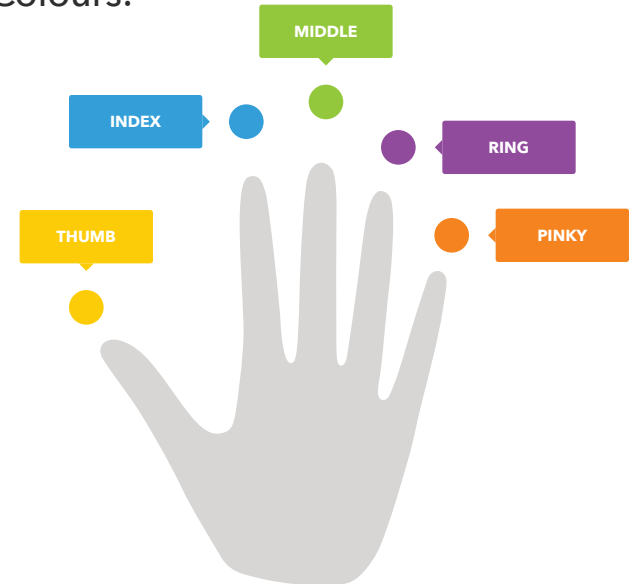


← A "Pill" shape means HOLD this note.



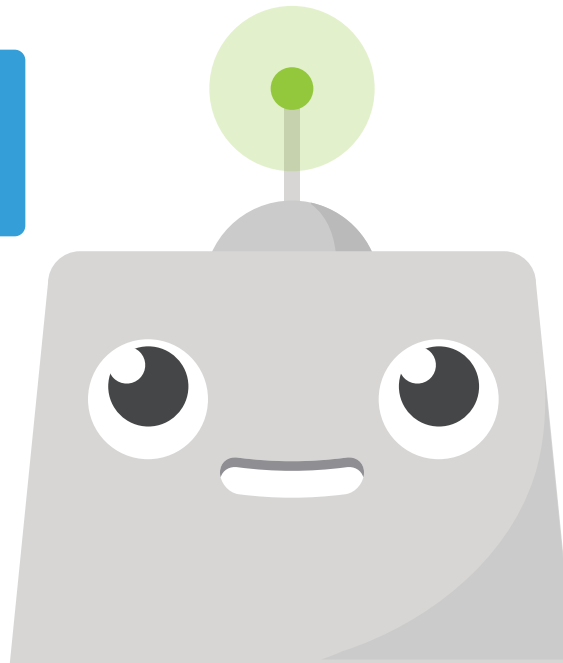
← A Circle shape means PLAY (press & release) this note.

Colours:



So THIS means:
"Hold down with your thumb"

And THIS means:
"Play (press & release) with your
middle finger."





STEP 1

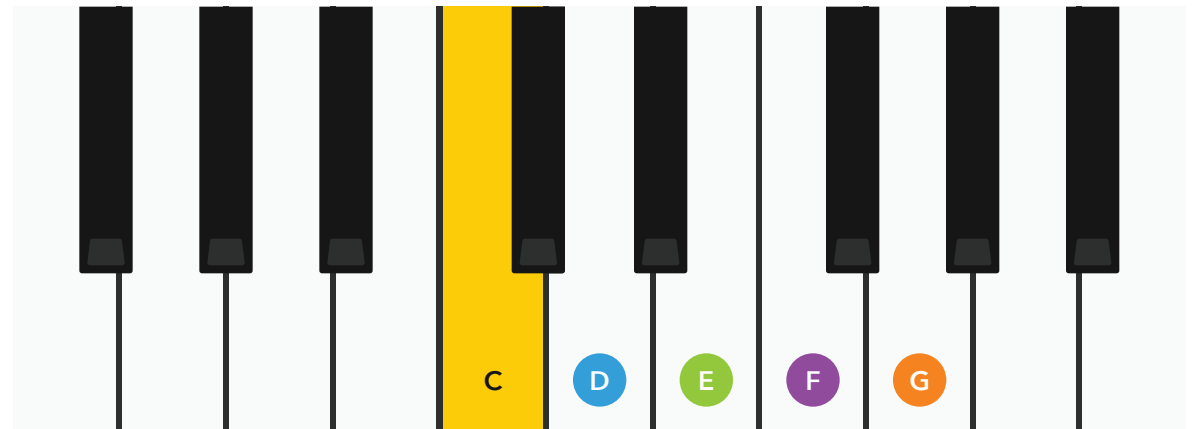
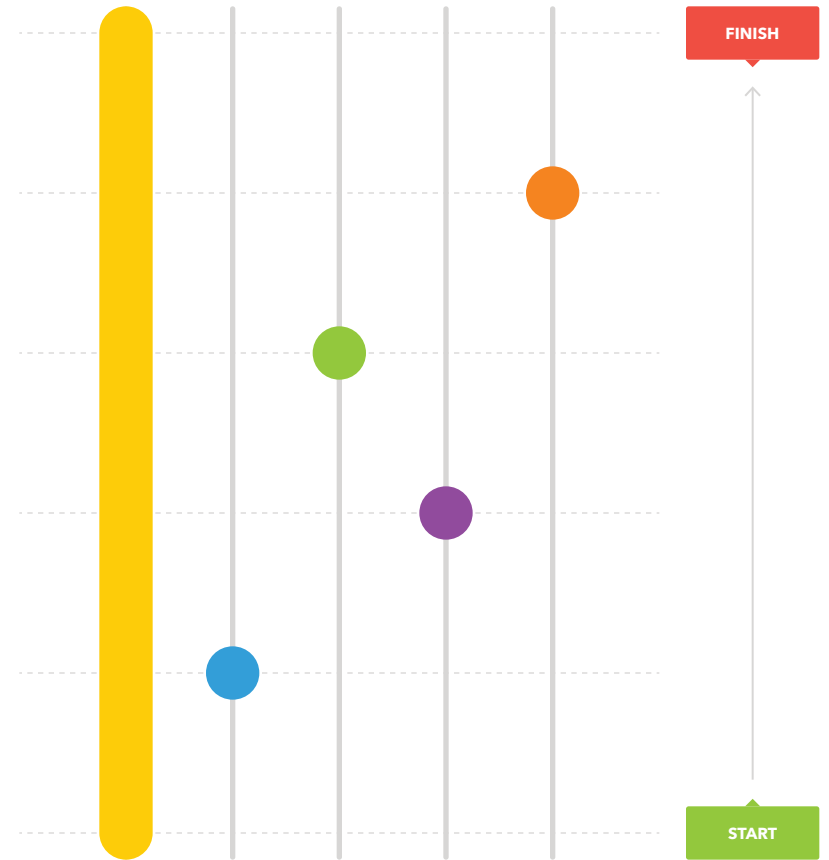
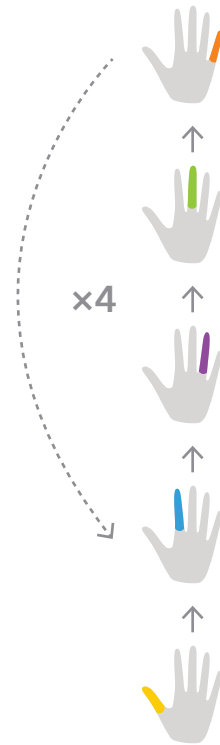
Start with C

Start by playing the C and D together with your thumb and index finger.

Keep holding your thumb down on the C key, but lift off the D and play the F with your ring finger, followed by the E with your middle finger and G with your pinky - holding C down with your thumb the whole time.

Keep holding down your thumb on C, and repeat the sequence again starting with your index finger on D. Run through the sequence 3 more times.

Remember to hold your thumb down throughout the sequence!





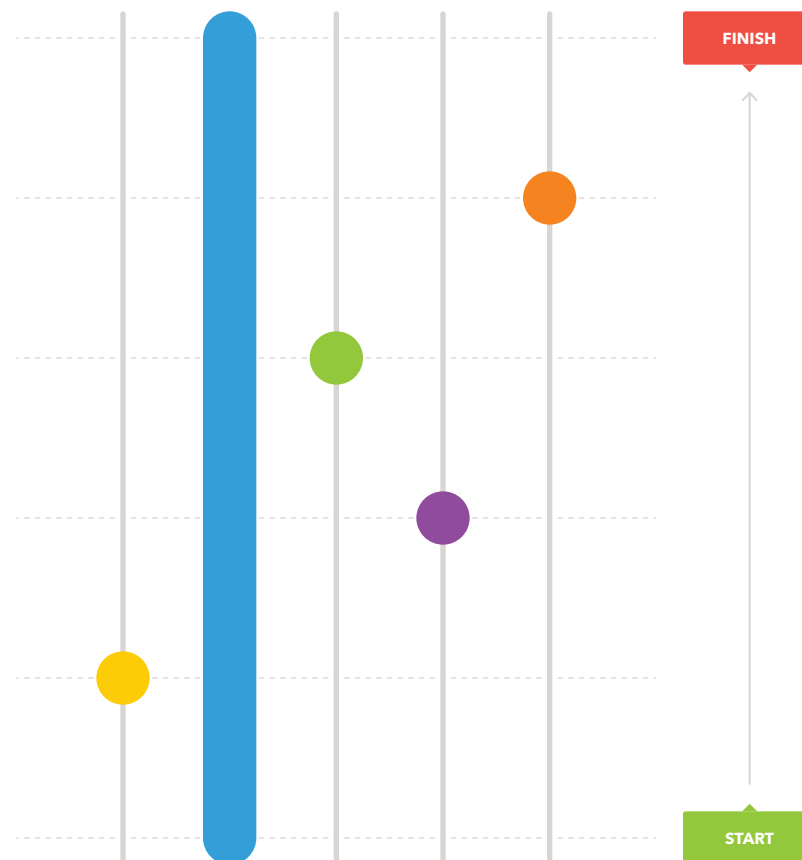
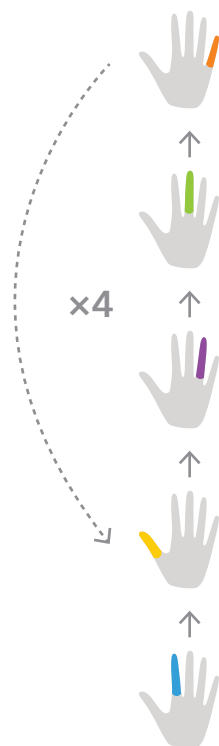
STEP 2

Move on to D

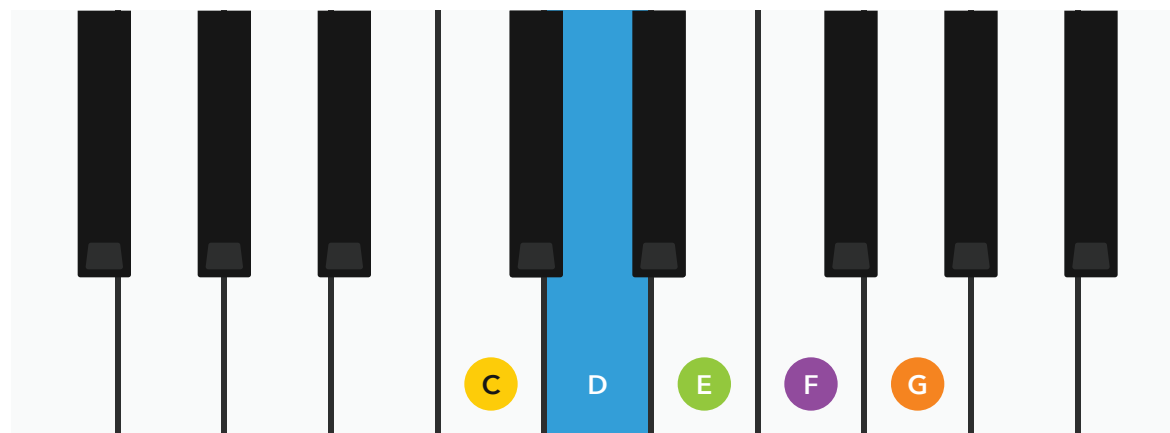
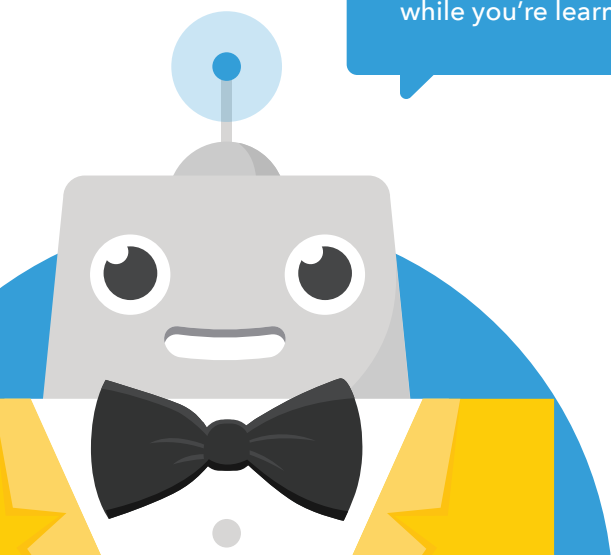
Start with C and D again, but THIS time hold your index finger on D throughout the sequence.

Lift off the C and play the F with your ring finger, followed by the E with your middle finger and G with your pinky - holding D down with your index finger the whole time.

As before, repeat the sequence 4 times without lifting your index finger, so that the D note sustains throughout.



Accuracy is more important than speed while you're learning the exercise.





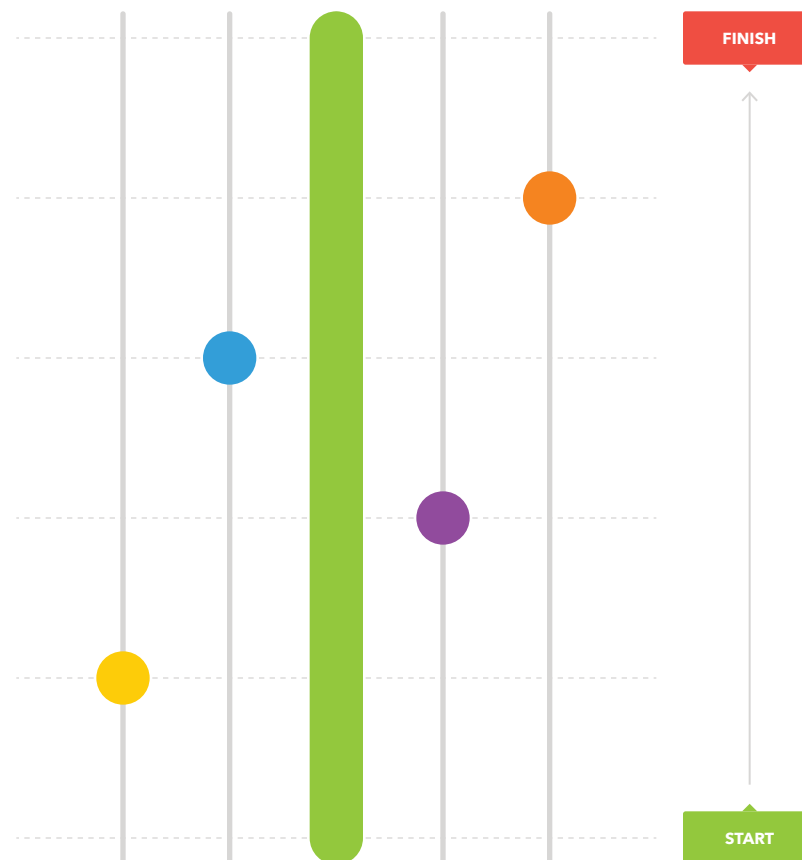
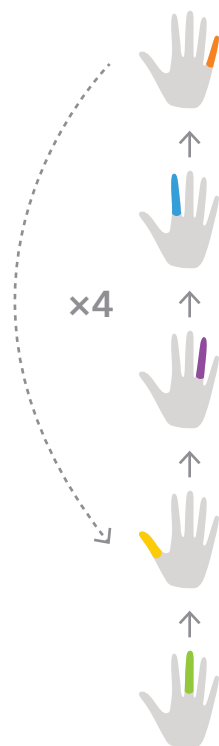
STEP 3

You guessed it... E!

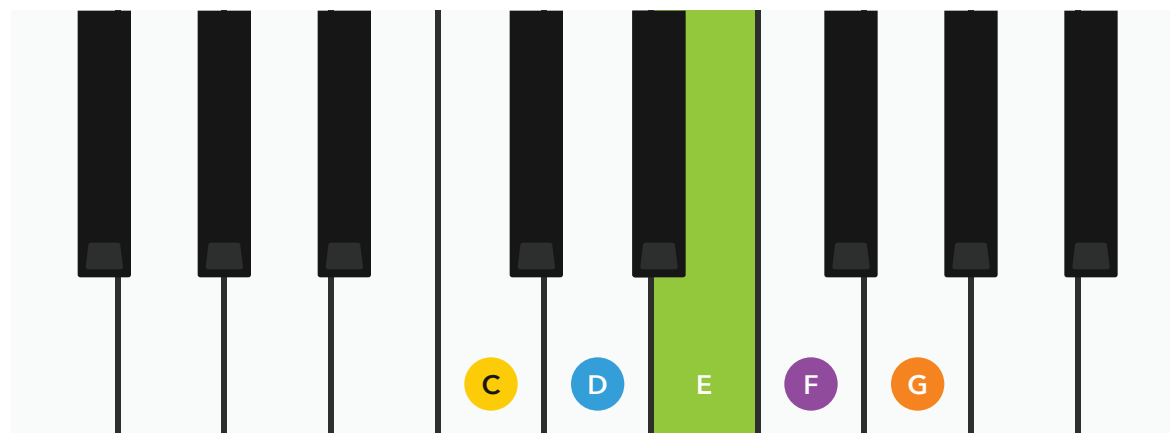
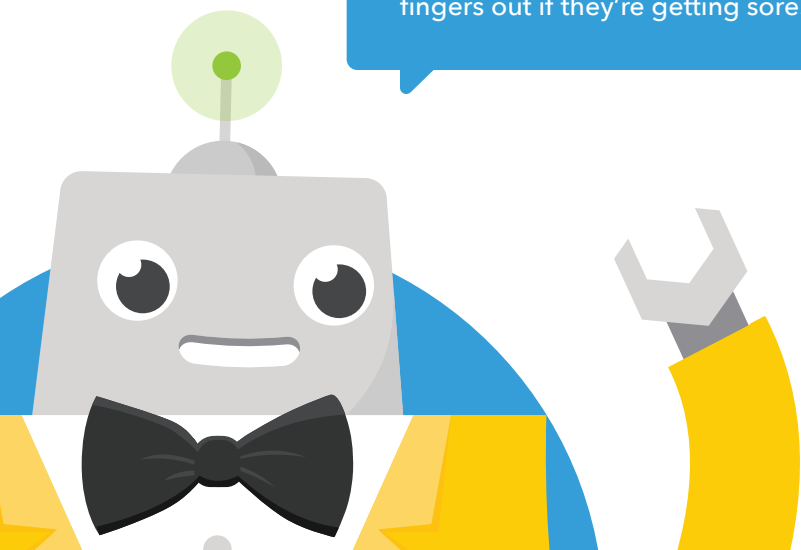
Noticing the pattern yet? This time, you'll be holding down E with your middle finger.

Play C with your thumb, F with your ring finger, D with your index finger, and G with your pinky - keep holding that E!

Play 4 times through the sequence once more, holding E the whole time.



It's harder than it looks! Stretch your fingers out if they're getting sore.





STEP 4

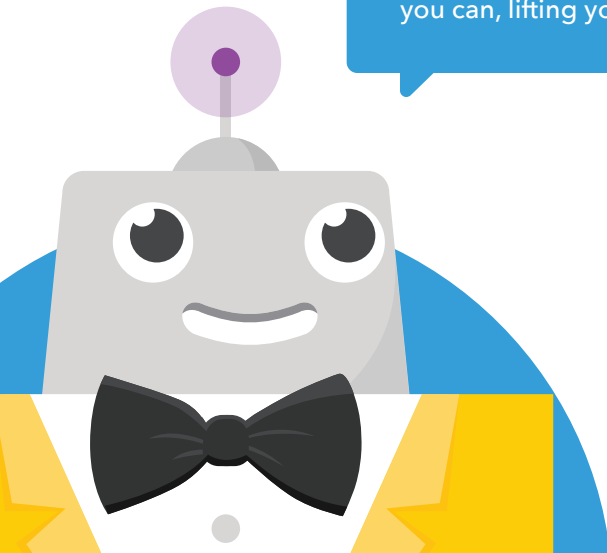
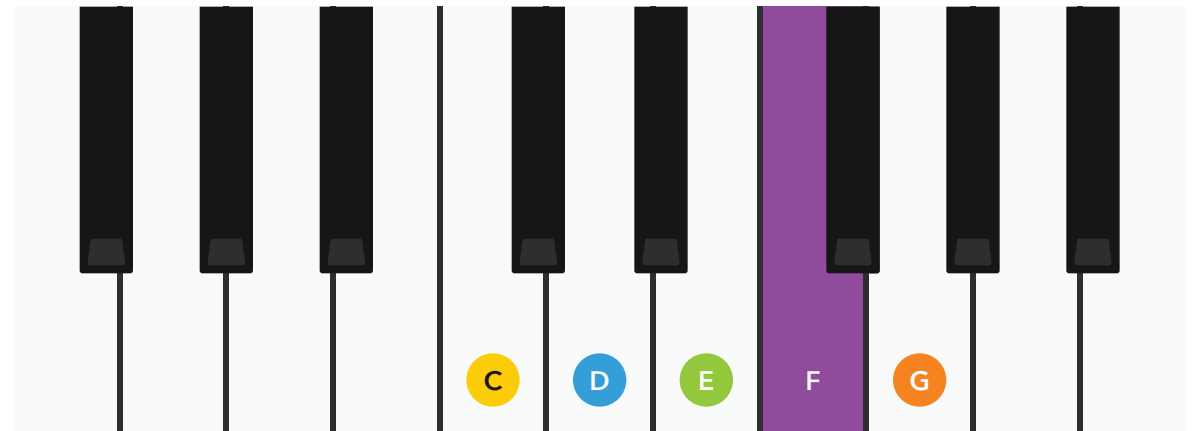
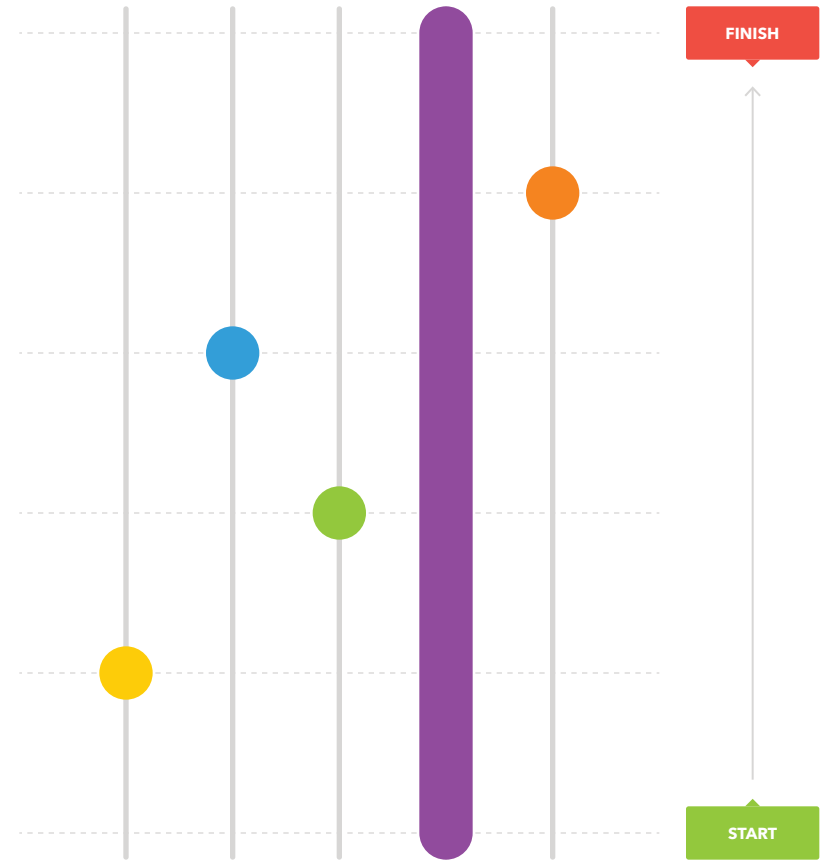
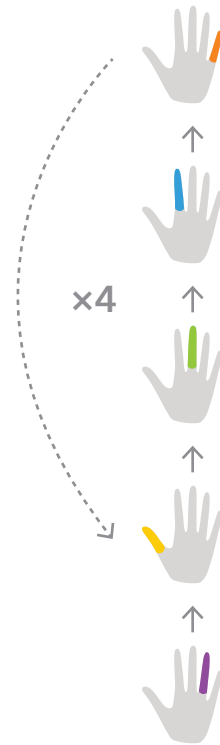
Gimmie an F

You've probably got the hang of it now right?
Holding F with your ring finger this time.

Then play C with your thumb, E with your middle
finger, D with your index finger, and G with your
pinky, while you keep holding the F.

Repeat 4 times, and get ready for the last step!

Try and play each note as distinctly as
you can, lifting your fingers high.





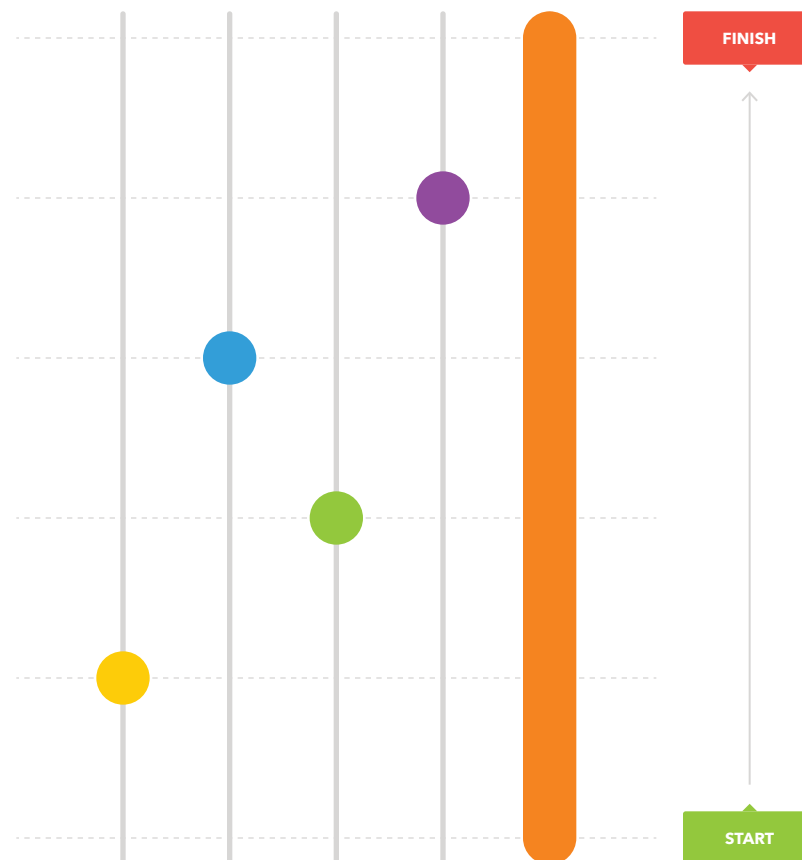
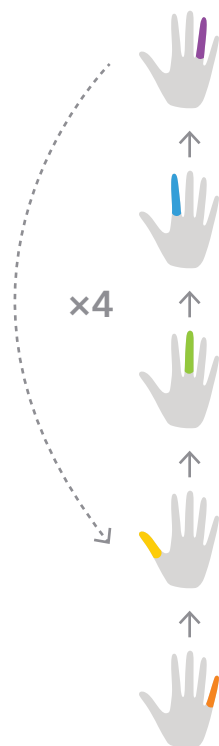
FINAL STEP

Finally, G

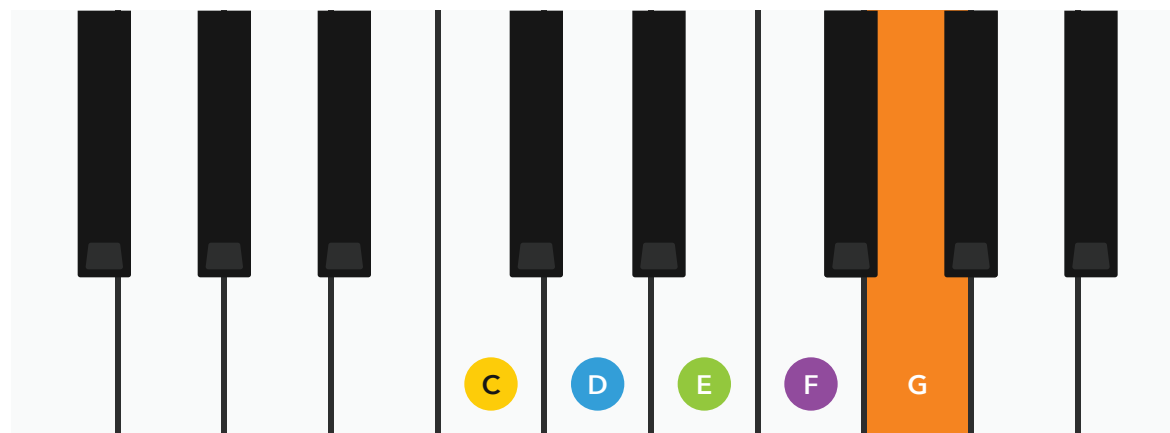
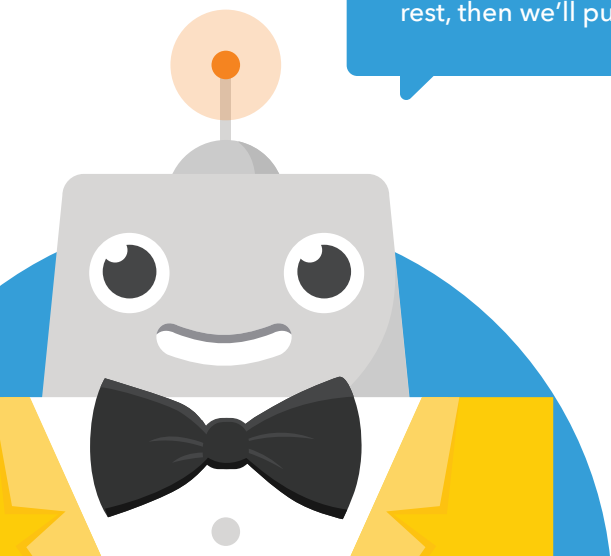
Last one - bet you can do this one without reading the instructions, but here we go!

Hold G with your pinky, then play C with your thumb, E with your middle finger, and D with your index finger. Hold that pinky.

Repeat the sequence 4 times, then take a break... you've earned it!



Play this last step, give your fingers a rest, then we'll put it all together!





PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

The independence builder exercise.

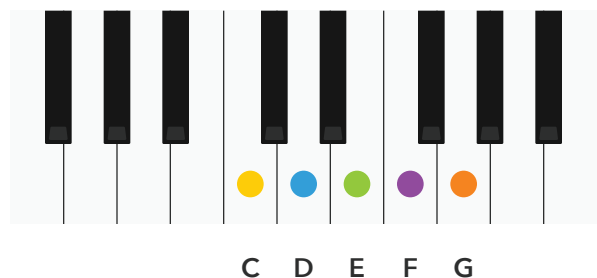
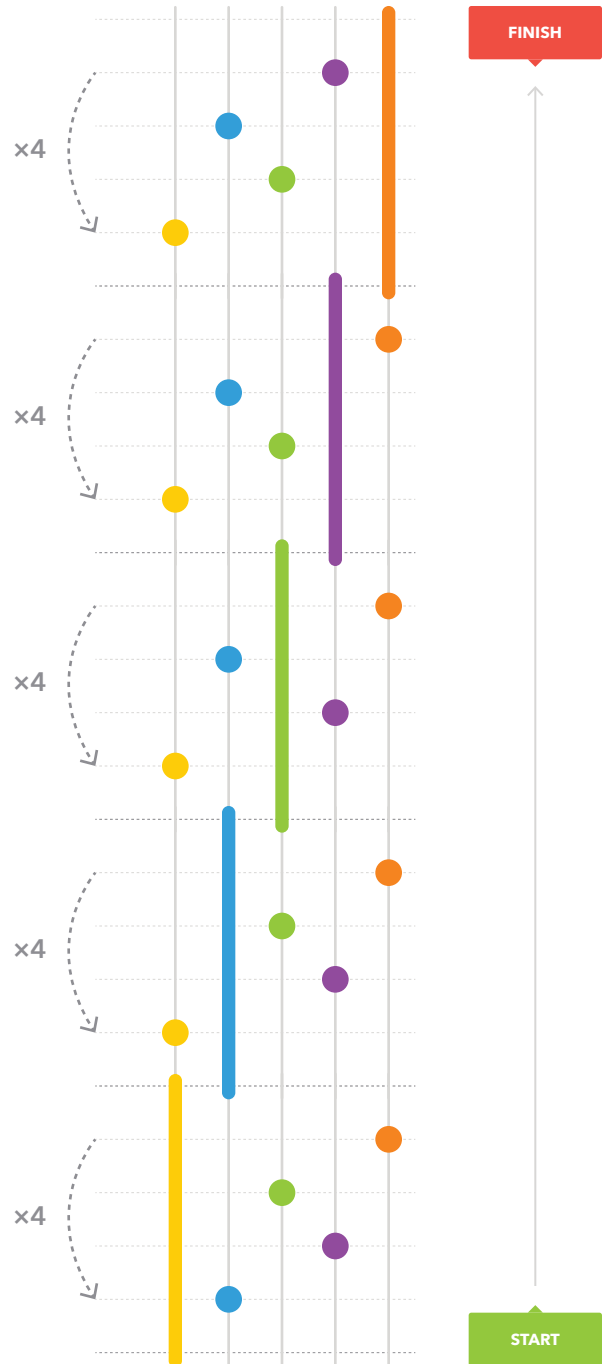
OK, those are all the steps - let's put it all together!

Move through the sequence, making sure repeat 4 times for each finger you're holding down.

Go as slow as you need to to make sure you're playing each note accurately and distinctly, and speed up as you get better and more confident.

The great thing about this exercise is that you don't even need to be at your keyboard to get the benefits!

Once you build in the muscle memory you can do it anywhere - on the bus, at your desk - and you'll be building the finger independence & strength you need to take the next step as a keys player!





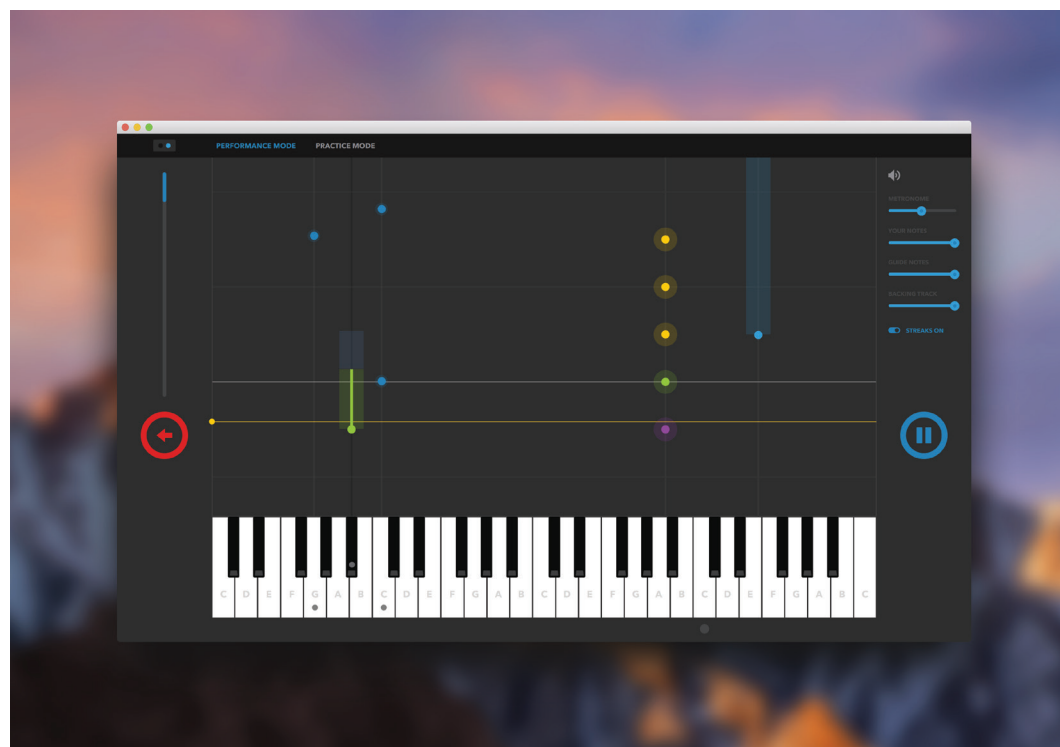
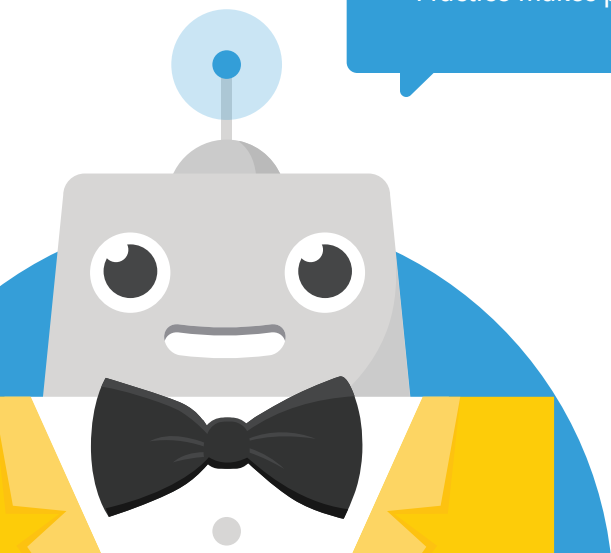
ABOUT MELODICS

Where to from here?

Congratulations on completing the Independence Builder exercise! Keep doing reps and you'll start to feel your finger strength and dexterity levelling up fast.

What to do next? If you have a MIDI keyboard, download the Melodics desktop app at melodics.com. It's free to download, and comes with 20 free lessons (INCLUDING the Independence builder) to help you make fast progress towards your musical goals.

Practice makes progress - keep it up!



Download Melodics and keep building your skills at Melodics.com