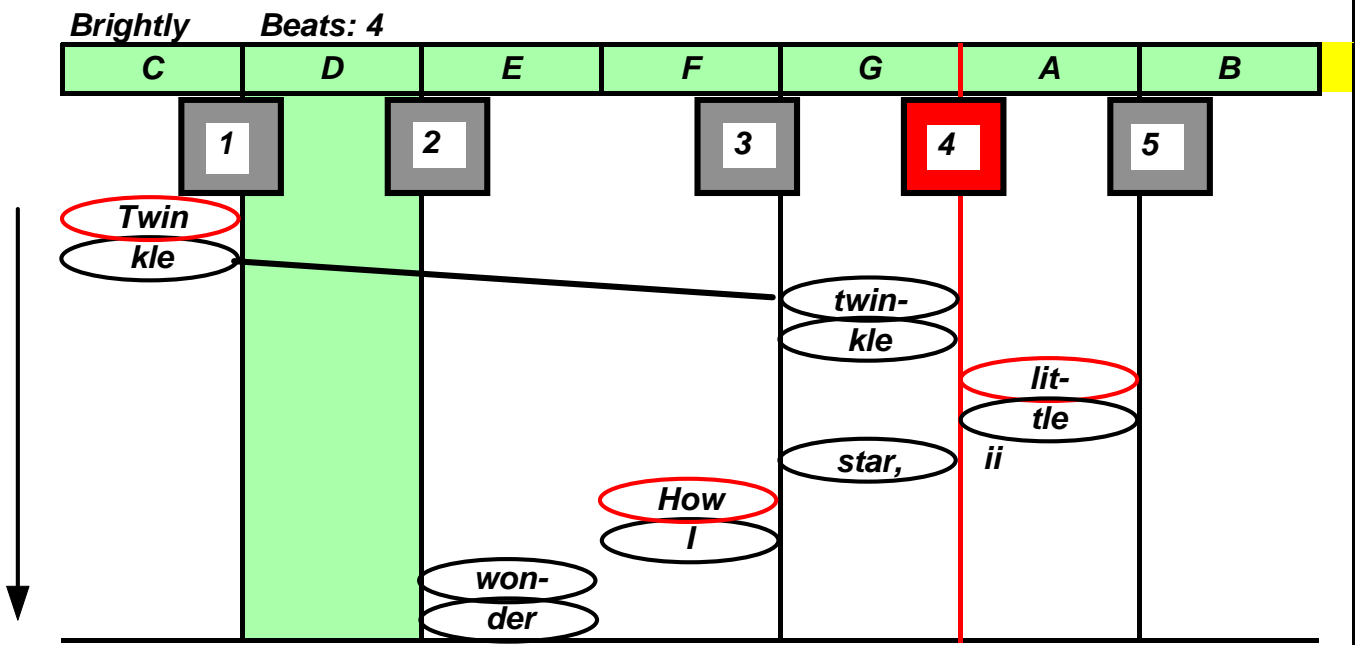


PK-10

Intro to the Musical Keyboard

With Keyboard Labels



From the Music Innovator's Workshop

Introduction

About Musical Keyboards

Many instruments are built using the standard musical keyboard. The best known are the piano and the instruments known as electronic keyboards. Other instruments that use the same standard keyboard are organs and accordians. These keyboards are made up of groups of 12 keys arranged in a standard way. Keyboard musical instruments are made up of several groups of these 12 keys. The piano keyboard, for example, is made up of 7 of these little groups placed next to each other, along with 3 extra keys at the left end of the keyboard and 1 key at the right end.

The 7 Little Keyboards. The next page shows diagrams of these 7 identical little keyboards, rearranged so they'll fit on the page. They're colored different colors to help you tell them apart. **WHEN YOU LEARN TO PLAY FROM ONE OF THEM, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PLAY FROM ANY OF THEM** because they all **LOOK** and **FEEL** the same.

The Key Maps and Diagrams. You will be learning to read from notes on a musical staff that **SHOWS** you which keys to play. This staff is a diagram of the keyboard. It is made up of vertical lines matching the locations of the black keys on the keyboard. The notes appear on this diagram in the same locations as the keys that you are to play on the keyboard. These notes move down the page in the same order that you are to play the keys. There are two formats of this diagram. One is called "key diagram" and the other is "key map." They are very much alike, except that the notes of the key diagrams are much larger than the notes on the key maps. Your first lessons will be on the large note **KEY DIAGRAMS**. After that your lessons and pieces will be on the key maps with their smaller notes.

The 7 Little Keyboard Labels. The page following the next page shows samples of the Keyboard Labels that we provide. These labels go behind the keys on your keyboard to identify each of the "7 little keyboards" that you will find on your own keyboard. These labels will help you to match the notes on your sheet music with the correct group of keys on the keyboard. You can use the labels temporarily until you are able to identify each group of keys "octave groups" without the labels.

A piano has 7 complete octave groups. Other keyboards with fewer keys are grouped the same way, but they have fewer groups. Each octave group is colored on your music with a different rainbow color to help you know which group to play in.

The 7 Standard Octave Groups

Group 0 - White

This violet octave Group 1 is located at the far LEFT end of the piano keyboard.

Group 2 - Indigo

This blue octave Group 3 is located in front of your LEFT arm and hand.

You SIT IN FRONT of this green octave Group 4, which is at the middle of the keyboard.

This yellow octave Group 5 is located in front of your RIGHT arm and hand.

Group 6 - Orange

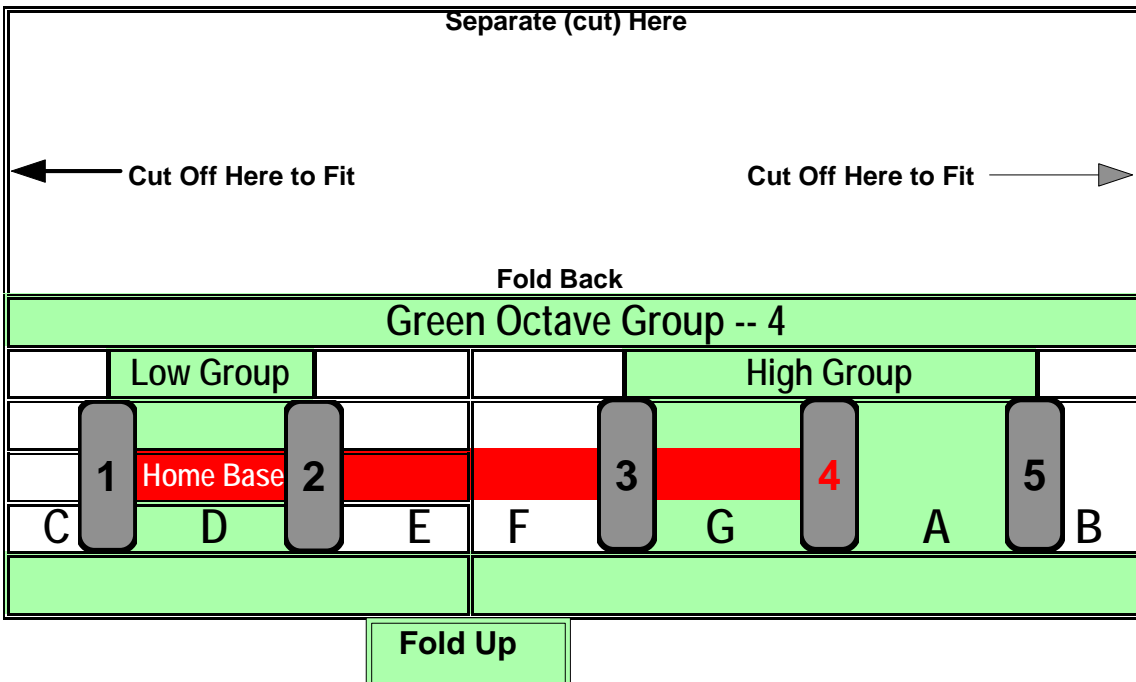
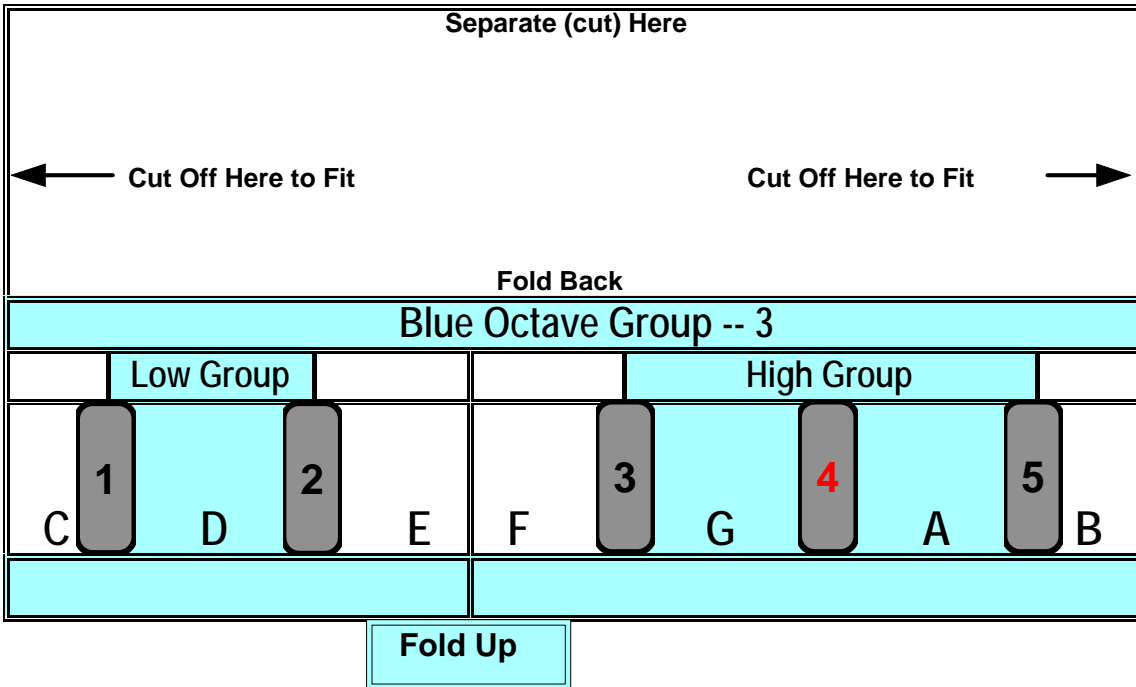
This red octave Group 7 is located at the far LEFT end of the keyboard.

H
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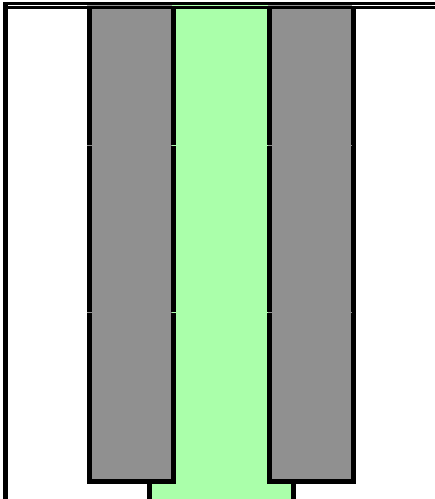
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Samples of the 7 Octave Group Locator Labels

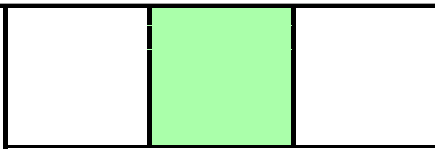
*You will find these 7 labels at the end of this Unit.
They need to be printed and then cut out (or folded)
before you can place them on your keyboard.
Instructions are included along with the labels.*



5-Key Low Group



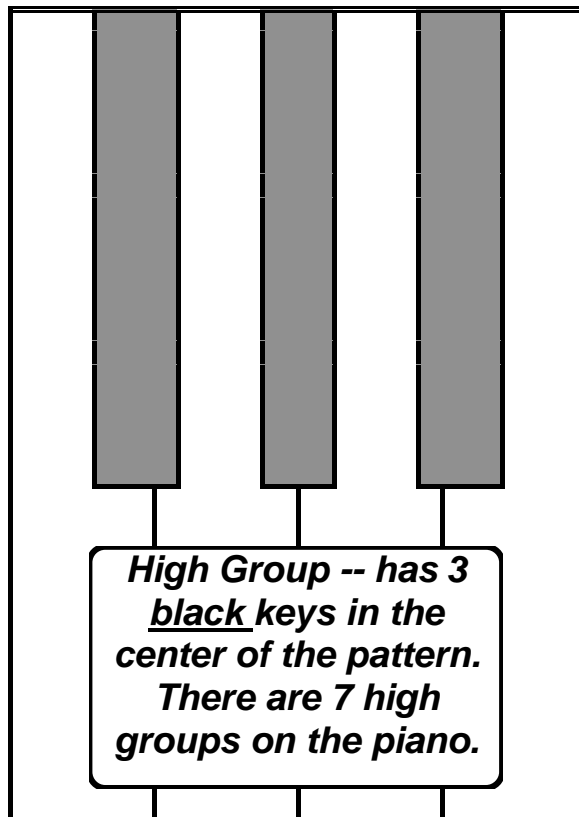
Low Group -- has 2 black keys in the center of this pattern. There are 7 low groups on the piano.



Each Octave Group contains 2 Subgroups: A 5-key Low Group and a 7-key High Group

Within each Octave Group, the Low Group has lower sounds than its High Group.

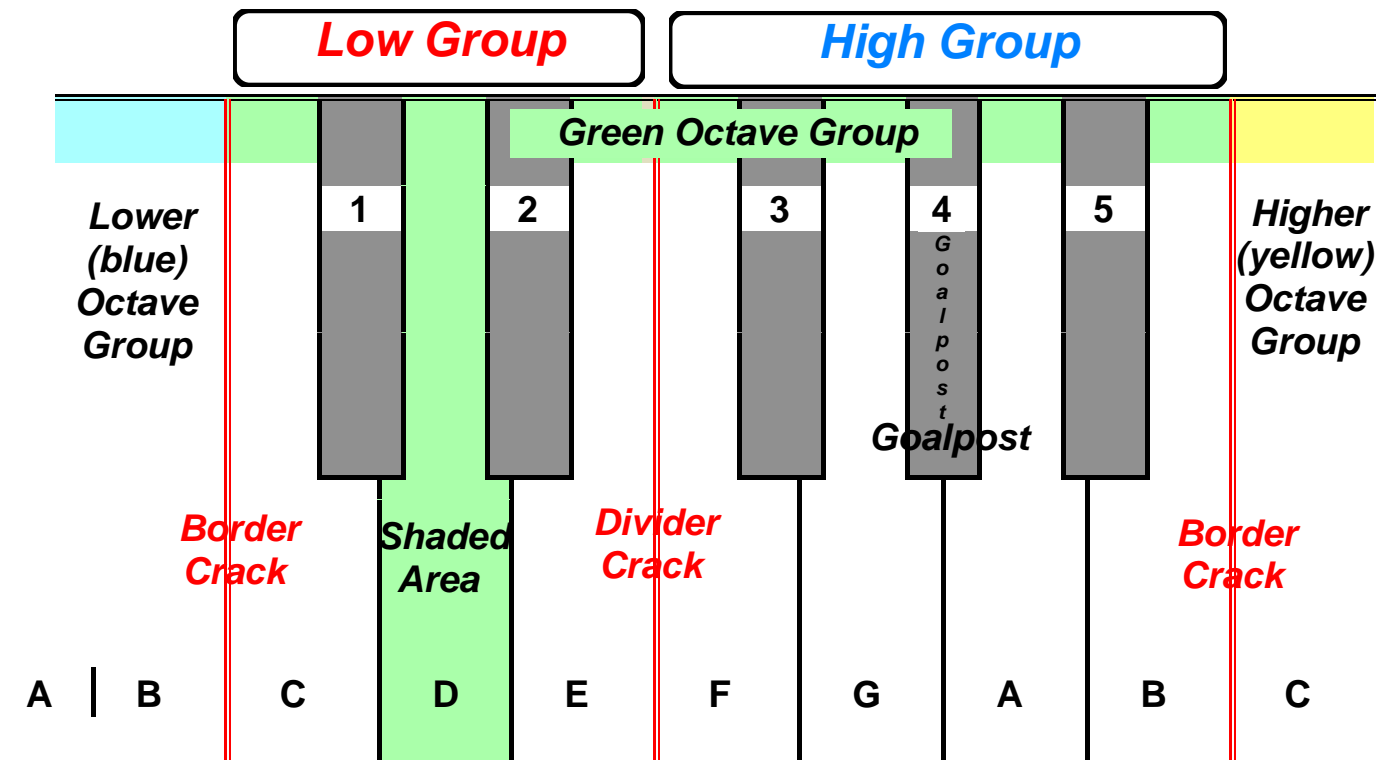
7-Key High Group



High Group -- has 3 black keys in the center of the pattern. There are 7 high groups on the piano.

Learning to recognize these three kinds of group patterns (Octave, Low, and High Groups) will help you find your way around on the keyboard. It is a very important part of learning to play the keyboard.

Diagram of an Octave Group of the Keyboard Showing its Main Features



Directions of Movement on the Keyboard

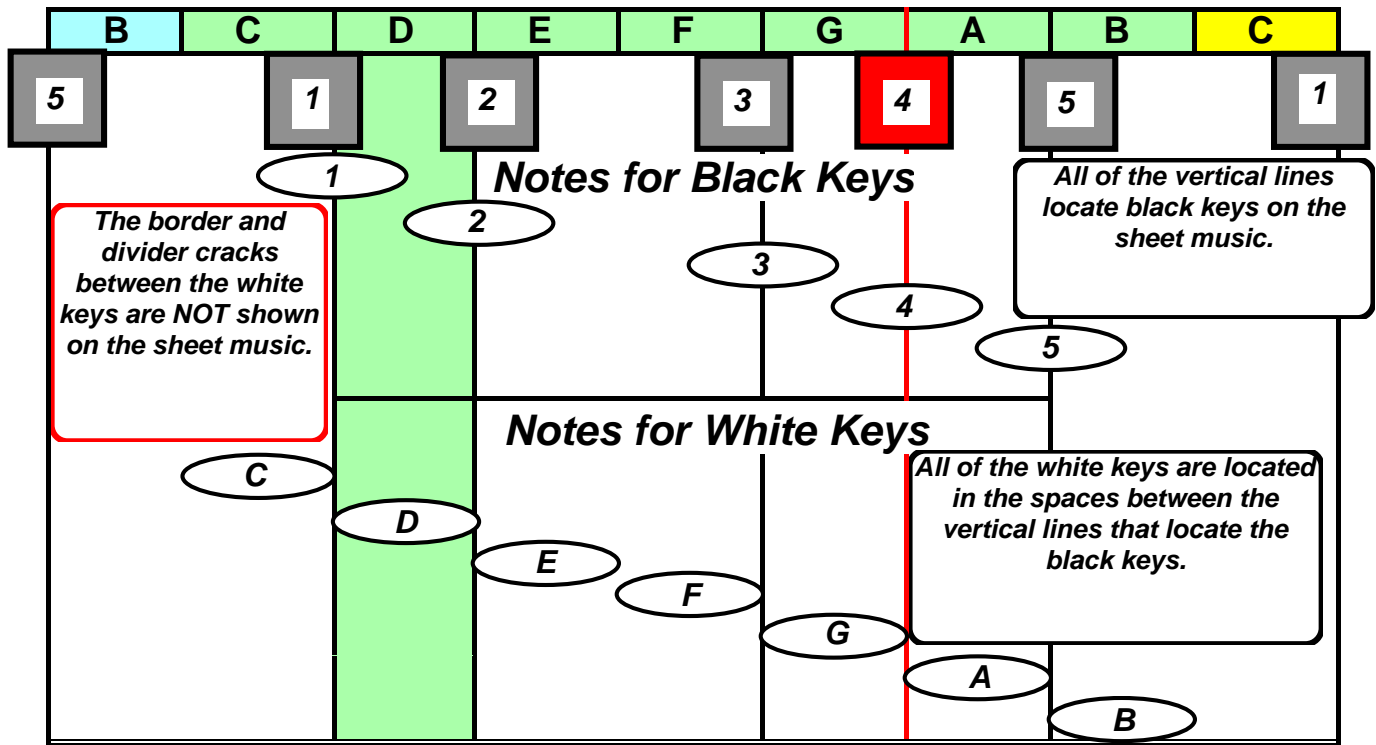
It is easy to get confused by the directions on the keyboard. We all have learned what "up" and "down" mean. BUT - that's NOT what they mean on the keyboard. This is also true for "high, higher, low, and lower."

On the keyboard, these words all refer to the SOUNDS played by the keys. And to get the higher sounds on the keyboard, we must go to the RIGHT; to get the lower sounds we must go to the LEFT.

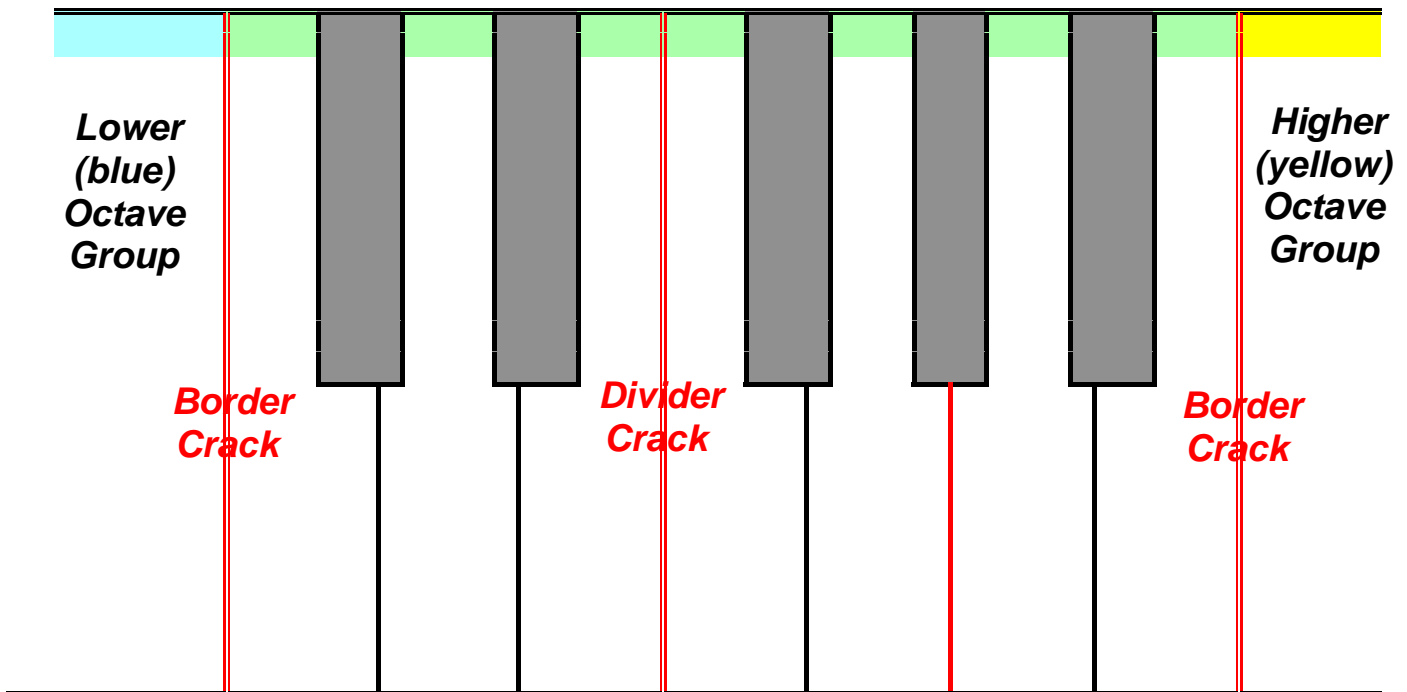
The LOWEST sound is played by the A key at the far LEFT end of the keyboard, and the HIGHEST sound is played by the C Key at the far RIGHT end of the keyboard.

Therefore, all movement on the keyboard in the direction of that lowest A key is going DOWN to a LOWER key. All movement in the direction of the highest C key is going UP to a HIGHER key.

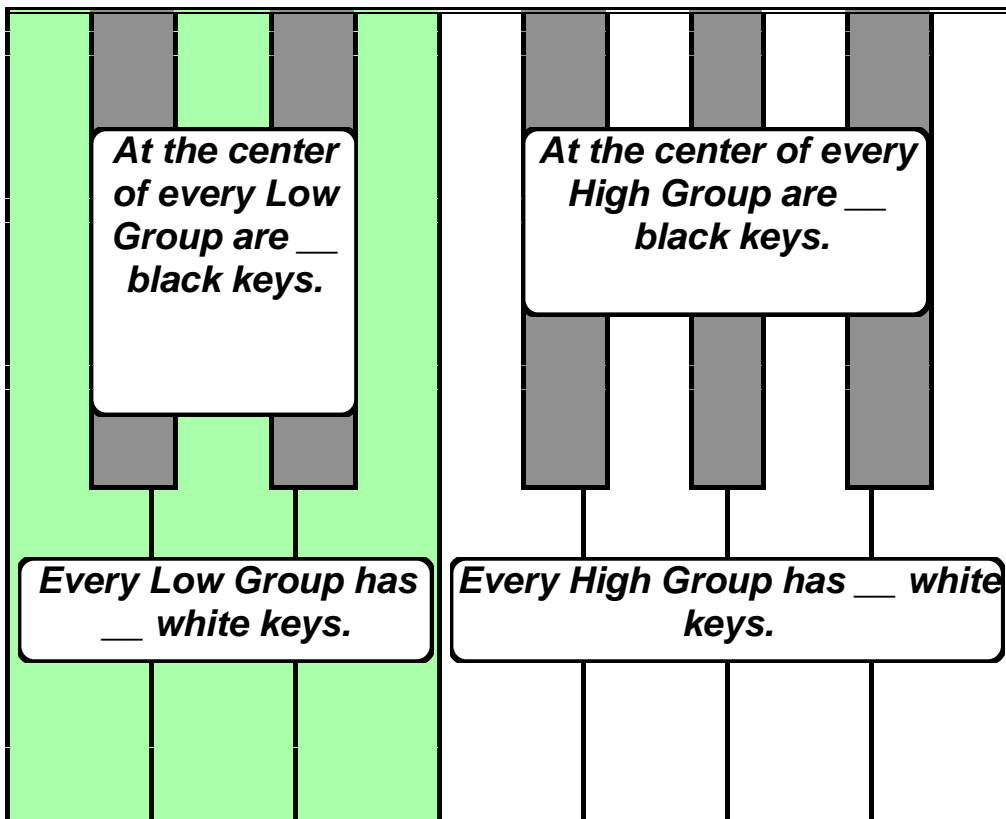
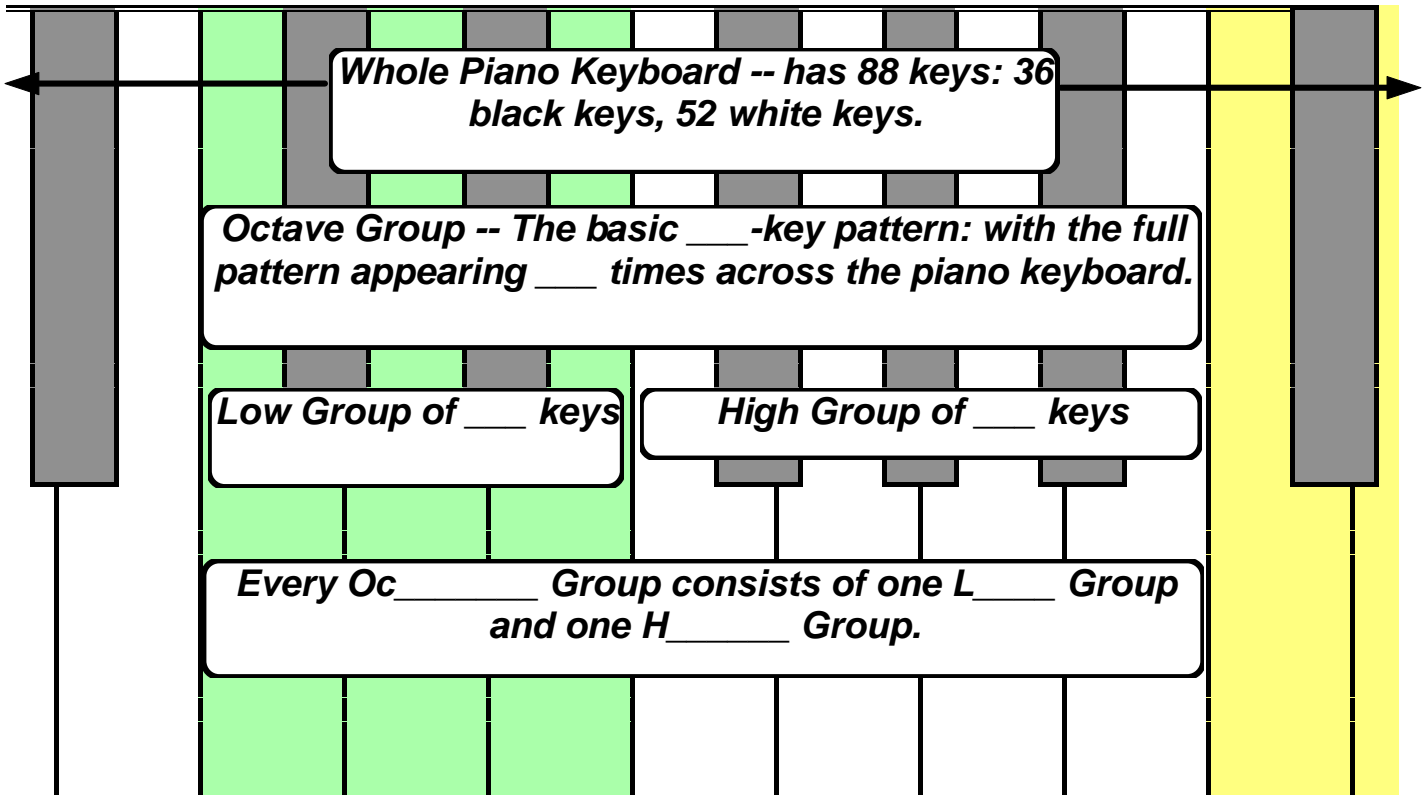
Keyboard Diagram (top) Compared With the Keyboard Layout



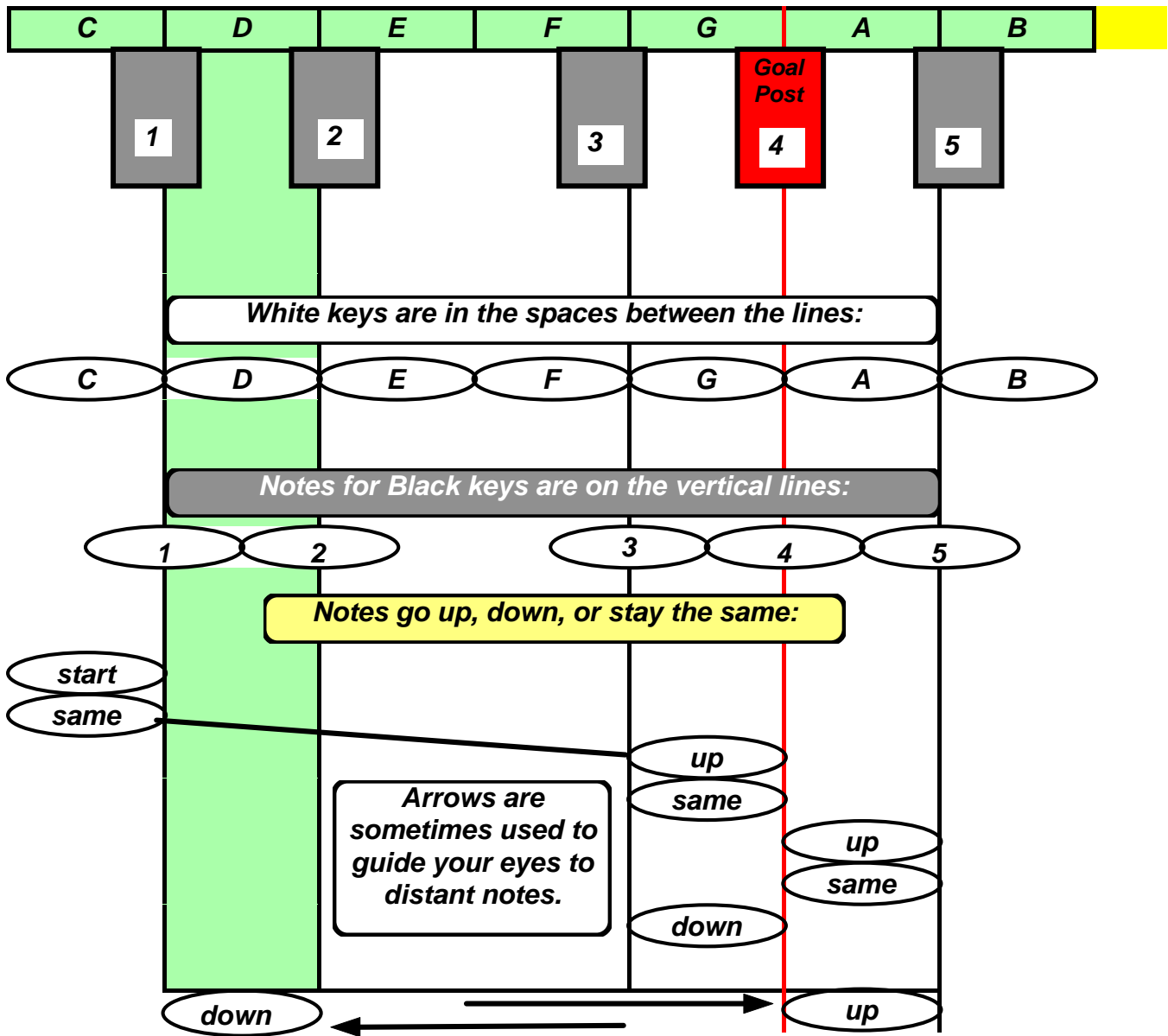
Layout of the Keyboard - "Green" Octave Group With Labels



Fill in the Missing Words and Numbers:
 Read the labels aloud, filling in the correct word or number as you read. Practice until you can fill in all of the blanks with ease. Your teacher will want to hear you do this at your lesson, and will give you any help that you need.



Keyboard Diagram Basics - Summary



Finger Numbers

Right Hand

- 1 - THUMB**
 Finger 1 is the thumb.
- 2 - INDEX**
 Finger 2 is the index finger.
- 3 - MIDDLE**
 Finger 3 is the middle finger,
- 4 - RING**
 Finger 4 is the ring finger.
- 5 - LITTLE**
 Finger 5 is the little finger,

Left Hand

- 5 - LITTLE**
 Finger 5 is the little finger,
- 4 - RING**
 Finger 4 is the ring finger.
- 3 - MIDDLE**
 Finger 3 is the middle finger,
- 2 - INDEX**
 Finger 2 is the index finger.
- 1 - THUMB**
 Finger 1 is the thumb.

How We Play From The Keyboard Diagrams

What are the Notes? Notes are oval markers on the diagram that show you the locations of the keys to play, and the order in which to play them. For the melody of a song, you play one key at a time proceeding down from the top of the page to the bottom of the page. The lower sounding notes are at the left side of the diagram, and the higher sounding notes are at the right side of the diagram. (Refer to the diagram of the song on the next page.)

When to Play the Notes. You play the notes in order, from the top of the diagram, zigzagging back and forth across the page, until you reach the bottom of the page. This sequence tells you which keys to play and in what order to play them (pitch), but does not tell you how long to sustain the sound (the rhythm of the music).

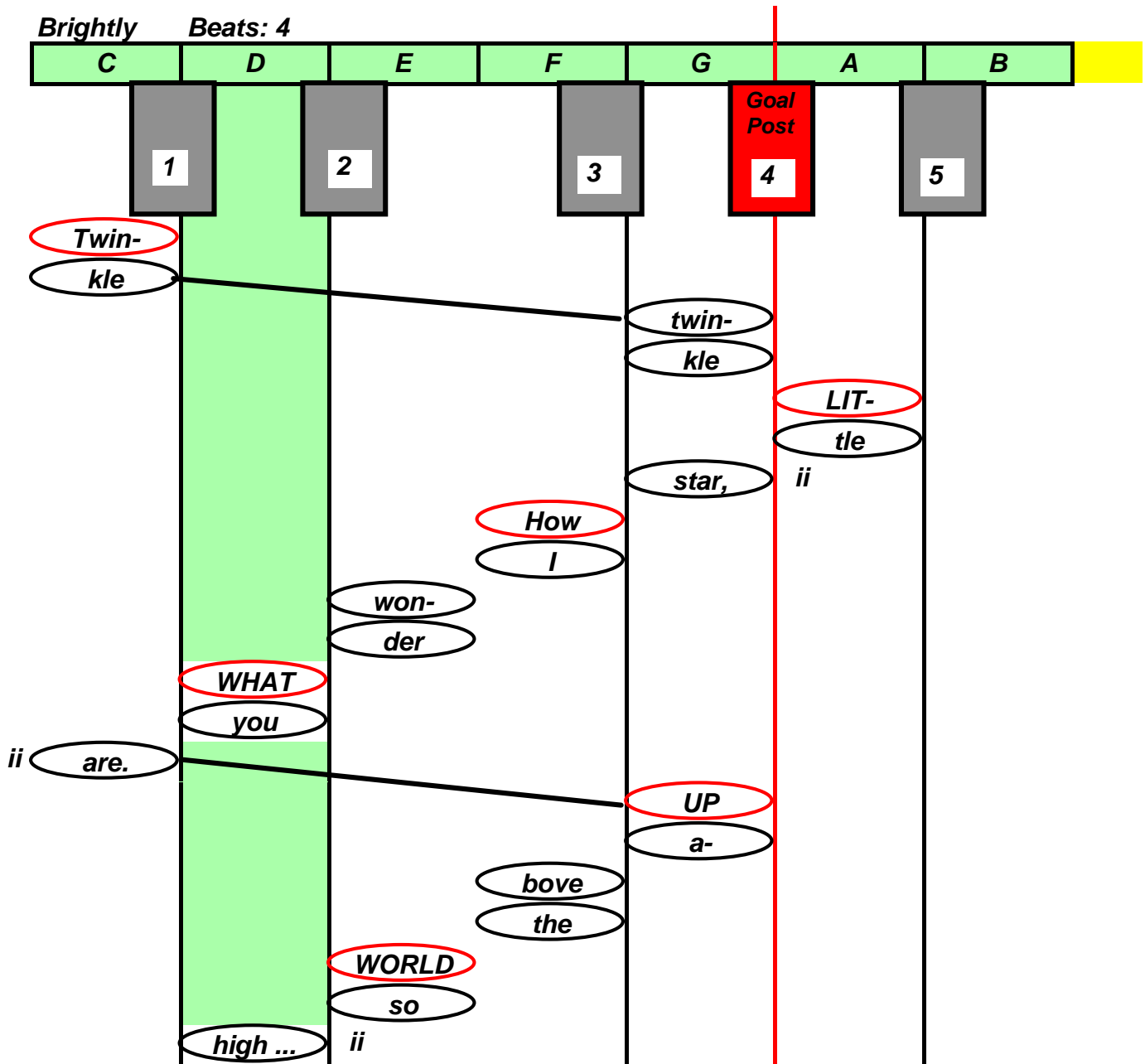
The Colored Notes for Rhythm. The key diagrams use colored notes to indicate rhythm. To start, the diagrams will just show you which keys to play - without the color. You will be playing familiar songs and will be able to play these songs without the note colors. (Also, you will soon be learning to play from key maps that show rhythm on a time line and don't use color for rhythm.)

About the Notes With Red Borders. The **red borders** of notes on key diagrams are used to mark the first beat of each measure. (Measures in music mark short equal amounts of time in beats) The red border shows the beginning of each measure.

Where to Put the Music. Place your music diagram on the piano's music rack so that the notes on the diagram line up with the keys that they match on the keyboard. Note that the spacing of notes on key diagrams is about the same size as the spacing of the keys below the diagram on the keyboard. They are intended to match each other.

How Fingering is Indicated. Fingering, when it is provided, is indicated with the standard keyboard finger numbers universally used. The finger numbers are 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 with the thumbs as 1's. Note that the finger numbers are the same for both hands, and that when the fingers are spread out on the keyboard their order is reversed: 54321 12345 (with the thumbs in the middle). Also note that on keyboard diagrams, the finger number for a note is either to its left or right. (It is NOT shown above or below the note - to avoid confusion about to which note it applies. In the beginning lessons, you will sometimes see finger numbers INSIDE the notes.)

Example

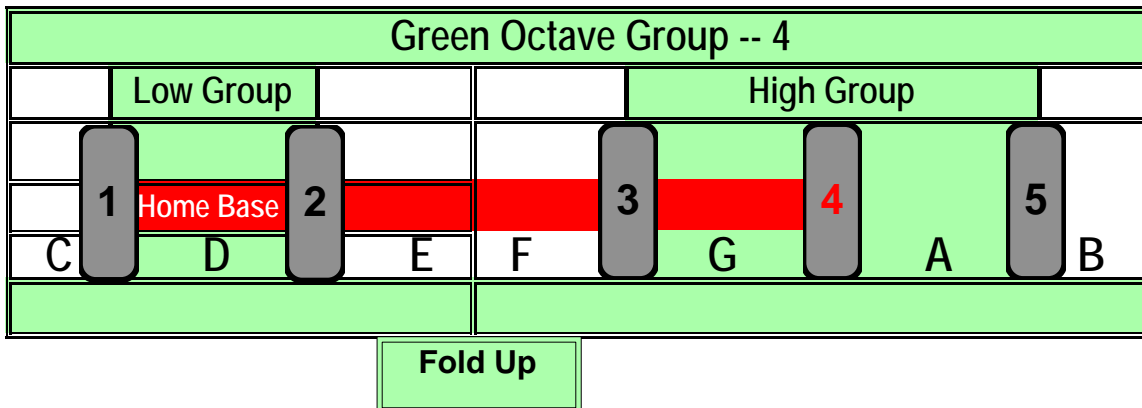


Be sure to notice how large the notes are. The notes are all the same width as the white keys on the keyboard. When you place the music above the keyboard, you will be able to see that the notes for the white keys exactly match the keys that they stand for on the keyboard. We begin these instructions on key diagrams with the very large matching notes to help you easily find the keys on the keyboard that visually match the notes they are telling you to play. After you learn how to find the keys from the notes, you will be ready to learn to read the notes from our KEY MAPS. These key map notes are much smaller than those in the song above, so that we can get much more music on a single page. They will be easy to read because they are placed on a musical staff that looks exactly like the one above, only it is smaller.

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Octave Group Locator Labels

For Your Keyboard



**From the Music
Innovators Workshop**

About the Octave Group Locator Labels

These labels are designed make it easy for you to identify each OCTAVE GROUP and its subgroups on your keyboard. The labels are to be cut out and placed directly on your keyboard behind the black keys to identify by location and color, each of the 7 octave groups on your piano. Each label shows the locations of the subgroups of the octave group, the LOW GROUP on the left and the HIGH GROUP on the right. The labels also identify each key by its letter name or address. Smaller keyboards may use fewer than the seven labels provided.

The labels stand up behind the black keys, in the slot/groove/crack between the black keys and the upright part of the keyboard just behind them. Most of the time, they will stay in place without getting in your way. You can leave them there as long as they remain helpful. Eventually, you will have no need for them.

IMPORTANT! - To work properly, these labels must FIT your keyboard. They need to be printed so that their width exactly matches the keys on the keyboard. They must be placed so that the 5 black key images on each label fall directly behind the 5 black keys of each octave group on the keyboard. The fold up tag at the bottom of each label will fall between black keys 2 and 3. Full-size printing will size the labels to fit a standard keyboard. If they do not fit, you will need to resize the printing of the labels so that when placed on the keyboard, the images of the black keys line up with the black keys on the keyboard.

The label that you will refer to most is the green one that you place in the center of the keyboard. It marks the location of Middle C. Place the rest of the labels on either side of the green one in the order that they belong, using the numbers on the labels to guide you. The label numbered 1 should be placed at the far left of the keyboard, and the rest of them in order by number to the right of it.

If you have a keyboard with less than 7 octave groups, just start by placing the green label in the middle octave of your keyboard. Then place the other labels that your keyboard requires on either side of it, in order with the lowest number at the left.

Octave Group Locator Labels

Separate (cut) Here

← Cut Off Here to Fit Cut Off Here to Fit →

Fold Back

Violet Octave Group -- 1

	Low Group			High Group							
C	1	D	2	E	F	3	G	4	A	5	B

Fold Up

Separate (cut) Here

← Cut Off Here to Fit Cut Off Here to Fit →

Fold Back

Indigo Octave Group -- 2

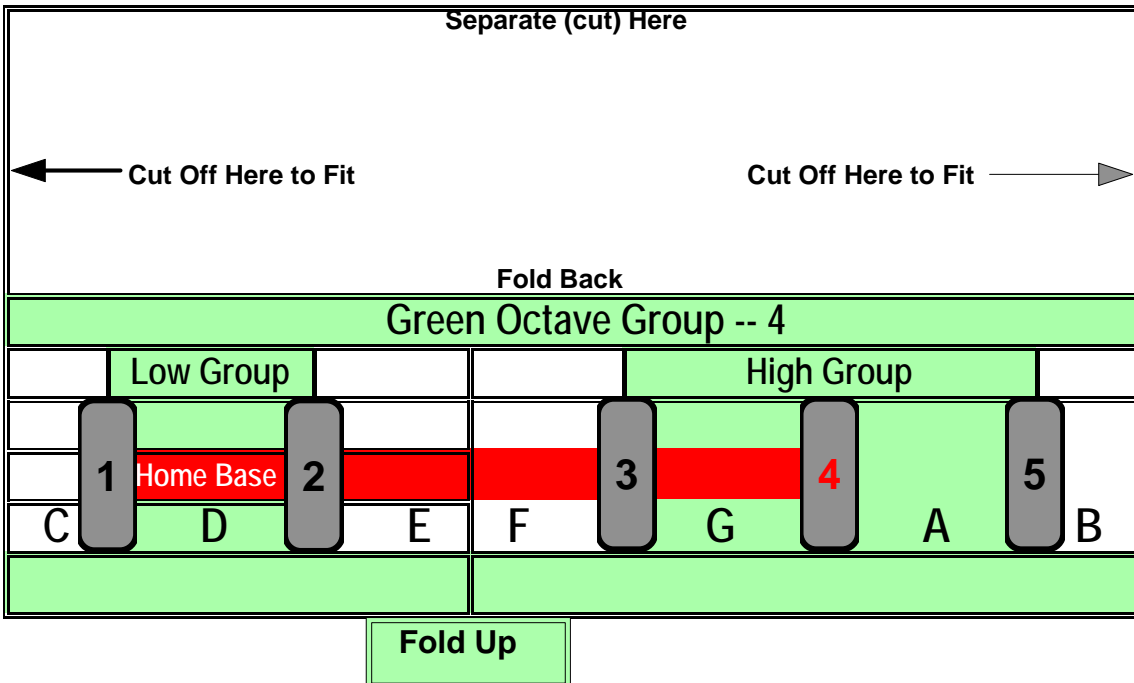
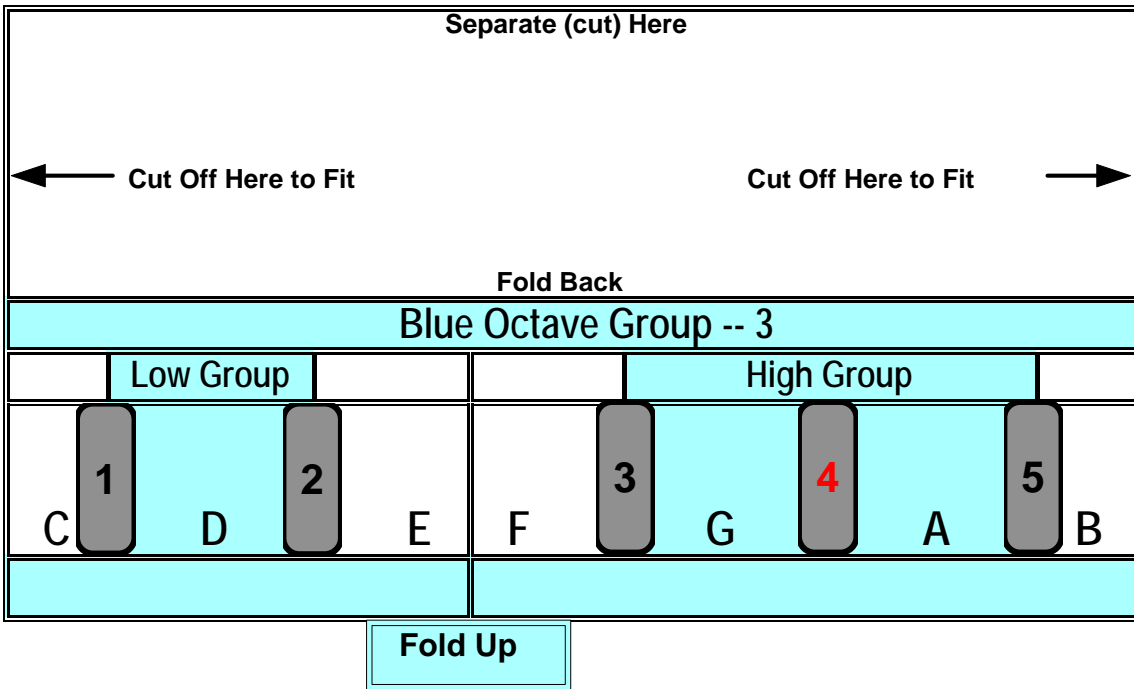
	Low Group			High Group							
C	1	D	2	E	F	3	G	4	A	5	B

Fold Up

Cut away the grayed border.

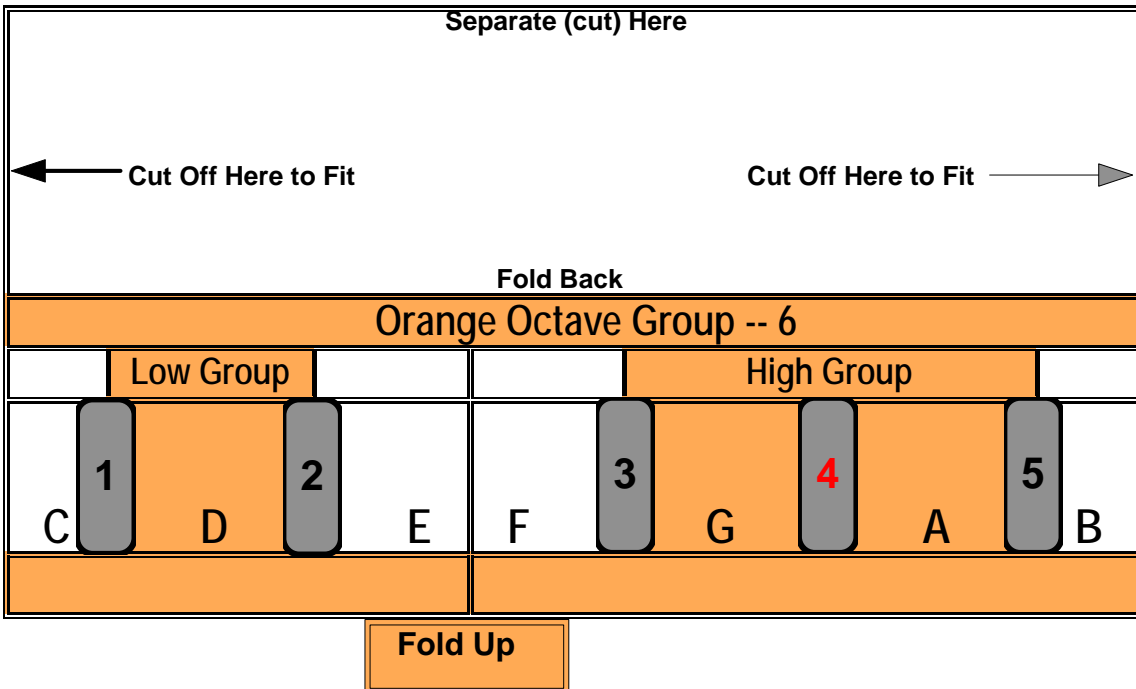
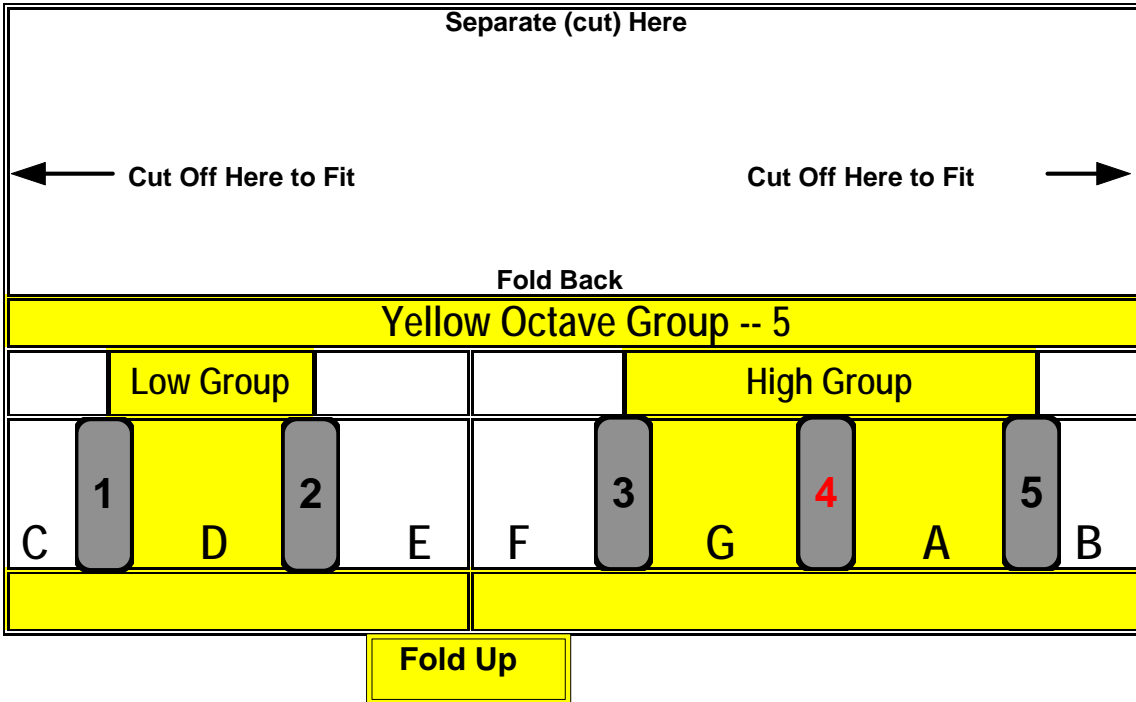
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Octave Group Locator



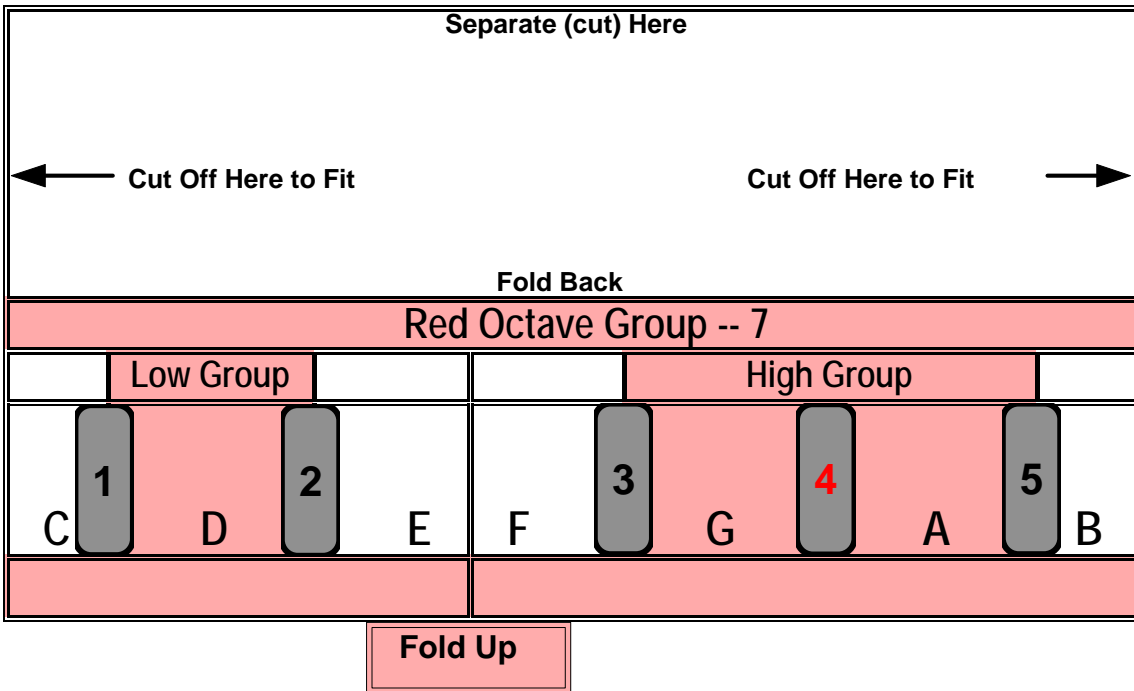
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Octave Group Locator



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