

mirthy →

Beginner's Piano Guide



Hi I'm Declan,

creator of the DecPlay 5 Step Piano Formula
that has helped over 3000 people
to learn piano later in life

Thanks for reading this piano guide
- I look forward to helping you on your piano journey!



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1. How This Guide Helps You

It's great that you are interested in learning to play piano!

This guide outlines the **simple steps** you can take to learn to **play the songs you love on piano**, whether or not you have any previous musical experience.

It outlines:-

- how to access the **free online piano lesson**
 - that demonstrates the unique DecPlay method, which is designed for people learning later in life and is easy to follow as it avoids the need to 'read music'.
- answers to **frequently asked questions**
- **recommended keyboards**
- how to get **help and answers** to any further questions you may have

..... you might be wondering

Can I do it?

Absolutely YES - you can learn piano at any age and with any level of ability! How do I know? Because I've witnessed the outstanding success of the DecPlay formula with over 3,000 people in 72 countries, with students aged from 50 to 90+, many with no previous musical experience.

In fact the method is so effective it has been awarded a patent and been featured on the BBC.



How do I get the free piano lesson?

To view the free online piano lesson go to:-

www.decplay.com/mirthy

(see more details in Section 2).

2. Watch The Free Lesson

To learn the secrets of the 5 Step Formula, watch the free video lesson at:-

www.decplay.com/mirthy/



You don't even need a keyboard at this stage. Simply watching the video will give you the knowledge that will transform your progress, next time you are at a piano.

What You Will Learn:-

1. The **5 Step Formula** for learning to **play songs easily on piano**
2. How to play piano **without needing to 'read music'**
3. Techniques for **learning later in life** (arthritis and low sight friendly)
4. How to apply this knowledge to **play your first song**
5. How to **progress further**

This Enables You To:-

- **Play songs you love** on piano
- **Make rapid progress** from beginner level to advanced styles
- **Play confidently**, either for yourself or for family/friends
- **Memorise** songs easily

3. The Story - How DecPlay Was Born

The struggle

Music is now my life but for years I struggled with learning the piano, until I discovered the knowledge I'm about to share with you.

I spent over 10 years having traditional piano lessons which I didn't enjoy. It wasn't the fault of the teachers, it was just that I wanted to play popular songs and have fun, not slave away on examination pieces that I didn't even like.

My progress was painfully slow and **I almost gave up playing altogether!**

featured on



The breakthrough

By a stroke of luck, I discovered one of the secrets used by pop stars such as Paul McCartney, to learn piano in a fraction of the usual time, without needing to 'read music'. Suddenly I could understand the simple patterns that popular music is built from and I could learn and memorise my favourite songs quickly and easily.

Instead of being a chore, suddenly playing piano was great fun and my confidence grew dramatically as I started playing in public, writing songs and recording in studios.

This started a journey of discovery to learn more secrets and compile the most effective methods into a step by step formula to help others experience the joys of playing piano.

I left my business career to focus on this mission and, after several years of refining the formula to make it easy for beginners to understand, the **DecPlay 5 Step Piano Formula** was born!



Amazing results

The results have been spectacular, especially with people learning later in life, with students aged from 50 to 93 years!

4. Meet The Students

The stories and feedback I receive from students are truly heartwarming. They include:-

- people learning piano in their 90s
- creating a music legacy for their grandchildren
- fulfilling a lifetime dream
- finding joy through piano after the loss of a loved one
- playing songs within days - and even writing songs within weeks of starting

See the amazing examples of what students have achieved with DecPlay at <https://decplay.com/testimonials/>

Senior Citizens - Amazing Results

From total beginners, to players struggling with notation and the left hand - the results have to be seen to be believed

Meet the Students Seniors Piano



Hallelujah piano diary (30 mins to few weeks)



Fur Elise in 4 lessons



Eric - learns with Piano Seniors course

5. How to Avoid The No.1 Mistake

DON'T USE NOTATION to play popular music.



Traditional music notation (shown above) is ideal for complex classical music but is not suited to playing songs / popular music.

Notation is an abstract language which causes many to struggle when learning piano. This results in many people giving up piano before they reach the stage of being able to play songs and have fun.

Easier Way to Read Music

DecPlay replaces traditional notation with music in a language you already understand, enabling you to understand song sheets within minutes. It also highlights the simple patterns that exist in popular songs in a way that our brains find easy to learn. This mirrors how we 'hear' music and is incredibly simple and intuitive.

This new music format is so groundbreaking it has been awarded a patent and has been featured on the BBC, teaching people to play songs in less than 1 hour! The [free online lesson](#) shows this method in detail.



6. The 5 Step Piano Formula

As well as the new format of song sheets, DecPlay has devised a 5 Step Piano Formula which enables you to learn to **play songs on piano** in a **fraction of the usual time**. The step by step process is incredibly easy to follow and enables you to **develop your skills** rapidly, from beginner level through to advanced level.

A full demonstration of the formula is included in the free piano lesson video.

7. Patterns - The Secret to Making Piano Easy

The secret to making piano easy is using PATTERNS. The vast majority of music is built from a small number of very simple patterns. Combining simple patterns can create complex-sounding music.

This is how many pop stars can play professional level music without formal training. Indeed, this is how Paul McCartney and John Lennon wrote and performed such piano classics as Let It Be and Imagine.

When you understand these patterns you can make incredibly rapid progress on piano; go from beginners style to advanced style quickly; and memorise songs easily.

DecPlay has expanded on the method used by Paul McCartney and John Lennon to include the melody (so you can play the 'tune' instead of needing to sing it) and has devised extra techniques and patterns that enable rapid results for beginners and people learning later in life.

The combination of the DecPlay song sheets and 5 Step Formula:-

1. enables you to understand songs sheets within minutes
 2. enables beginners to play songs incredibly quickly
 3. enables beginner & advanced playing styles from the same song sheet
 4. helps learning how to play by ear
 5. enables improvisation
-

8. Developing Skills

Within the DecPlay 5 Step Formula, there is a choice of playing patterns which change how the chords are played. These playing patterns dictate the level of playing (beginner to advanced) and also the style of playing (beginner, professional, accompaniment etc...).

The different styles build on the skills learnt in previous styles. You can develop your skills in a step by step program as follows:-

1. FastPlay - Rapid results - Beginners Solo Piano
 2. ChordPlay / SingPlay - Play to accompany singing
 3. ProPlay - Professional style - Solo Piano
 4. ImproPlay - Improvisation
 5. ComposePlay - creating your own compositions / songs
 6. KeyPlay - Instantly transpose to different keys
 7. DotPlay - Transition to and from traditional notation
 8. EarPlay - Playing by ear (without needing sheet music)
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9. Next Steps

View the [free online piano lesson](#) (details in Section 2) which shows:-

1. in-depth explanation and demonstration of the 5 Step Formula
 2. how to apply this knowledge to play your first song
 3. how to progress further
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10. Any Questions?

The **free online piano lesson** answers many questions, but for further help:-

- **Frequently Asked Questions** - go to <https://decplay.com/faq/>
 - **Contact Declan** - <https://decplay.com/contact/>
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APPENDIX - Recommended Keyboards

a) Difference Between Acoustic Pianos and Digital Pianos?

An acoustic piano uses strings to create the sound. The opposite of this is a digital (electronic) piano keyboard which uses electronics to create the sound.

Acoustic pianos have, arguably, the best sound. Baby grand pianos are my favourite to play, however there are many advantages of using digital pianos, including:-

- lighter keys (easier for arthritis sufferers or people with restricted finger movement)
- lower purchase cost
- lower maintenance costs
- more portability
- control of sound volume
- option of headphones
- control over the sound type, e.g. different piano and other instrument sounds
- ability to layer sounds, e.g. piano and strings
- option of transpose features
- option of backing rhythms, recording and other features

b) Top 3 Features Your Piano Keyboard Needs To Have

These are the most important features when choosing a keyboard :

1. Keys are standard size (not small, e.g. children's size)
2. Keyboard has at least 61 keys (counting both black and white keys)
3. The keys are touch sensitive (i.e. play louder when keys are pressed harder)

That said, we have a few students who are using keyboards that have fewer than 61 keys, or which are not touch sensitive. You can definitely make progress on the course with this type of keyboard but I would upgrade to the recommended type of keyboard whenever you get the chance.

c) My Favourite Keyboards

Yamaha Piaggero NP12 is my favourite low-price keyboard. The Yamaha NP-32 is also great for home use and has more keys (76 instead of 61) and louder speakers, but is a bit more expensive, slightly bulkier and has less battery life.

The Roland Go:Piano (GO-61P) has many of the benefits of the NP-12 and is a bit smaller. If you don't need maximum portability then the NP-32 is my favourite. If you have a bigger budget and will not move the keyboard often then a weighted keyboard like the Roland FP30 or Yamaha P125 would be my favourite.

My recommendations would be:-

- **Low budget** (very portable) - Roland GO:Piano
 - **Medium budget** (medium portability) - Yamaha Piaggero range e.g. NP-12 or NP-32
 - **Medium-High budget** (less portable) - Roland FP-30 or Yamaha P125
 - **High budget** (less portable) - any top end Roland, Yamaha, Kawai, Korg, Nord digital pianos
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d) Arthritis

If you suffer from arthritis then you might find a non-weighted keyboard (e.g. the Yamaha Piaggero NP-12 or NP-32) easier to play than a weighted keyboard or an acoustic piano.
