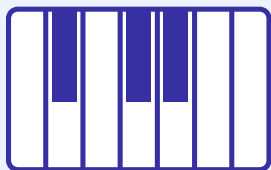


The Piano Keyboard

Music

Why black keys come in twos and threes, and how to find any note.



The black keys are grouped 2, 3, 2, 3 all the way up. That grouping is the map — without it every white key would look identical.

KEYS
88

OCTAVES
 $7\frac{1}{4}$

PER OCTAVE
12

- C sits immediately left of any group of TWO black keys.
- F sits immediately left of any group of THREE.
- The seven white keys A–G repeat every octave.
- A full piano has 88 keys: 52 white, 36 black, A0 to C8.
- Middle C is the C nearest the middle, usually the fourth from the left.
- A black key has two names — C♯ and D♭ are the same key.

LOOK FOR IT

To find E♭: locate the group of three, take its leftmost black key.

There is no black key between E and F, or B and C. Those pairs are already a semitone apart.