

Lesson 4b is a review of the right-hand position.

The right-hand mechanics that were learned in part two can be forgotten in the excitement of learning the left-hand. Lesson 4b, which is musically identical to lesson 4a, is a chance to review those mechanics. Begin by placing “a” on the first string, “m” on the second, and “i” on the *fourth* string. Play the lesson entirely with the thumb by “crossing over” the first finger. This lesson makes an excellent daily warm-up for the right-hand.

Remember to try to flex the tip joint of the thumb.

Lesson 4b

The musical notation for Lesson 4b consists of two staves in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first measure contains three notes: G4 (first string), A4 (second string), and C5 (fourth string). Above the first note is a finger number '1' with an 'a' above it. Above the second note is an 'm' with an 'x' to its right. Above the third note is an 'i' with an 'x' to its right. The second measure contains four quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, and C5, each with a 'p' (piano) dynamic marking below it. The third measure contains four quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, and C5, with a '2' above the second note. The fourth measure contains four quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, and C5. The fifth measure contains four quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, and C5. The sixth measure contains four quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, and C5. The seventh measure contains four quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, and C5. The eighth measure contains four quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, and C5. The second staff continues the melody with eighth notes and quarter notes, ending with a double bar line.

You successfully performed lesson 4b if you;

- Kept your thumb to the left of your other fingers.
- Communicated the phrasing.

Lesson 4c introduces triple meter as well as “Ab/G#”, and “Bb” on the third string.

Up until this point, all of your lessons have had a time signature of $\frac{4}{4}$ known as quadruple meter. Lesson 4c has a time signature of $\frac{3}{4}$ known as triple meter. In other words, there are three beats in a measure in Lesson 4c. You may have noticed that there is a fret between “G” and “A” on the third string but there is no letter in the musical alphabet between “G” and “A”. We reach this fret by altering the letters with a sharp sign \sharp which raises a note by a fret (called a half-step) or a flat sign \flat which lowers a note by a fret. Therefore, the fret between “G” and “A” can be called either “G-sharp” or “A-flat”. Typically, a sharp or a flat (called accidentals) will last for the duration of the measure. Another kind of accidental is the natural sign \natural which cancels a previous sharp or flat.