

Conventions

Units of Measurement

All measurements are expressed in standard U.S. units, with metric measurements appearing in square brackets. For example, four feet is written as 4' [1.2 m], one inch as 1" [25 mm], and thirty-two thousandths of an inch as 0.032" [800 μm or 0.8 mm].

Bibliographical References

Throughout the book, bibliographical references are given in an abbreviated format; complete references are in the Selected Bibliography on page 509, and online at <http://www.pianosinsideout.com>.

Dynamic Markings

The force with which you strike keys in various diagnostic and regulation procedures is expressed in terms of its tonal effect, and is notated using the following dynamic markings:

<i>ppp</i>	<i>pianississimo</i>	Extremely soft
<i>pp</i>	<i>pianissimo</i>	Very soft
<i>p</i>	<i>piano</i>	Soft
<i>mp</i>	<i>mezzo piano</i>	Medium soft
<i>mf</i>	<i>mezzo forte</i>	Medium loud
<i>f</i>	<i>forte</i>	Loud
<i>ff</i>	<i>fortissimo</i>	Very loud
<i>fff</i>	<i>fortississimo</i>	Extremely loud

Articulation

The touch with which you strike keys is indicated with the following articulation phrases:

<i>legato</i>	tied	hold each note until sounding the next note
<i>staccato</i>	sharply detached	play and bounce off the key
<i>tenuto</i>	held but detached	press the key and release it at approximately half the duration between the notes

Musical Nomenclature

This book uses scientific pitch notation: the lowest note on the piano is A0, “middle C” is C4, and the highest note is C8. To convert the names to the notation commonly used in Europe and by musicians in the U.S., see Figure 2 below.

In European pitch notation, middle C is called “c¹”. Each C above middle C is written in lowercase followed by a number in superscript (“c²”, “c³”, “c⁴”, or “c⁵”), and is read as “C two,” “C three,” etc. The Cs descending from c¹ are: small C (“c”), great C (“C”), contra C (“C₁”), and sub-contra C (“C₂”). Helmholtz notation is similar, except that the numbers are substituted by prime symbols. For example, c³ is written as c''' and A₂ as A,,.

In all three notation systems, the chromatic notes (all white and black keys) within the major 7th up from any note C have the same number (or number of apostrophes) as that C. For example, E above C6 (c³) is E6 (e³).

Intervals are expressed as codes, such as “M3” or “m6,” but are spoken in full, spelled-out form; e.g., “major third” or “minor sixth,” not “em three” or “em six.” See “Intervals” on page 95 for more on this.

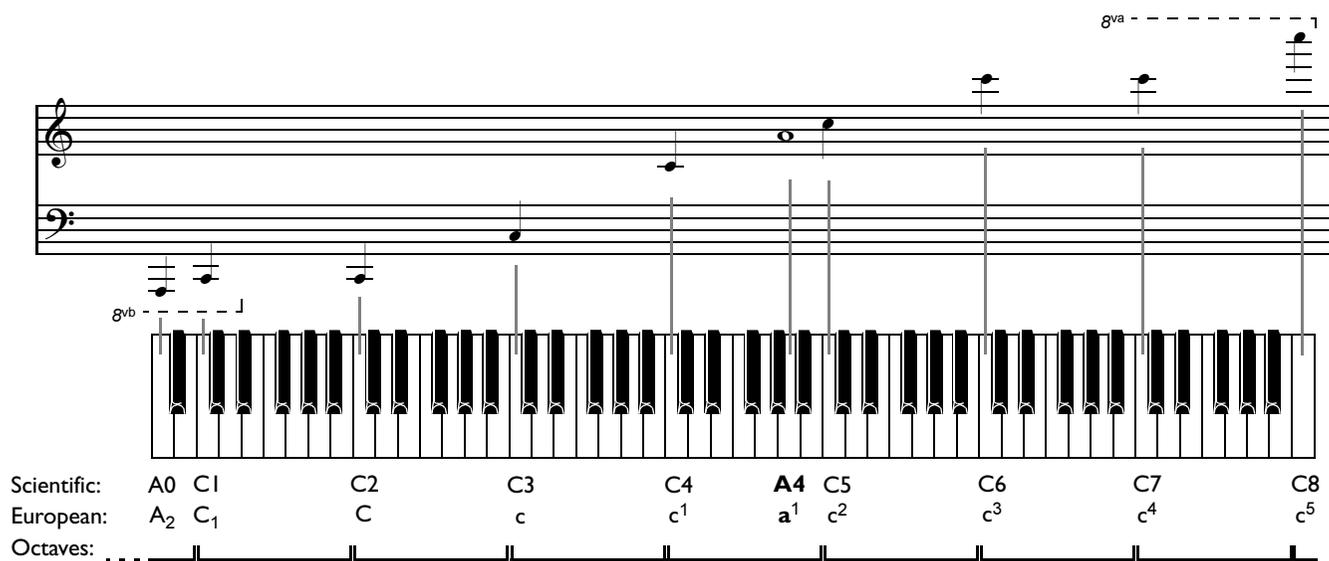


Figure 2 Names of notes and octave ranges. Notes under “8^{va}” (“ottava”) are played an octave higher, those under “8^{vb}” (“ottava bassa”) an octave lower.