



The Ballad Pattern

PRACTICE SHEET

One left hand pattern that makes any song instantly sound beautiful.

Your right hand gets all the attention. The melody. The chords. The notes everyone can hear. But here's the truth: your left hand is what separates someone who plays piano from someone who sounds like a real pianist.

The Ballad Pattern is one left hand pattern. Root, fifth, octave. Three notes, played in a simple sequence — and when you add it to any song, it instantly sounds beautiful. Classical pieces, pop songs, hymns, songs you've loved for decades. It works on all of them.

This practice sheet gives you everything you need to learn it: how the pattern works, the fifth of every chord you'll ever encounter, and the exact step-by-step method to make it feel natural fast.

What You'll Find in This Guide

Part 1 — How the Ballad Pattern works (Root, Fifth, Octave explained clearly)

Part 2 — The fifth of every chord: major and minor, all 12 keys

Part 3 — The 6-step practice method: how to learn any song with this pattern fast

Tip: Print this out and keep it on your piano. You'll use it every time you sit down.

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PART 1 How the Ballad Pattern Works

Root. Fifth. Octave. Three notes that change everything.

The Ballad Pattern is a left hand accompaniment built from three notes of the chord you're playing. You don't need to know advanced music theory to use it. You just need to know three things:

ROOT

Bottom note

FIFTH

Middle note

OCTAVE

Top note

C major example:

Root = C

Fifth = G

Octave = C (high)

Root — The lowest note. The name of the chord. If you're playing C major, the root is C.

Fifth — Five notes up from the root. For C major: count C, D, E, F, G — G is your fifth. (See Part 2 for every chord's fifth, already mapped out for you.)

Octave — The same note as the root, one octave higher. If your root is C, your octave is the next C up.

The pattern in action — C major:

Play C (low) — then G in the middle — then C (high). That's it. That's the whole pattern.

Now move to F major: F (low) — C in the middle — F (high).

Same shape. Different chord. Same beautiful sound.

HOW TO HOLD IT Your Left Hand Position

Pinky on the root, thumb on the octave, pointer finger finds the fifth.

Place your left hand so your pinky (finger 5) sits on the root note, and your thumb (finger 1) sits on the octave — the same note, one octave higher. Your pointer finger (finger 2) reaches to the fifth in between.

🌟 Quick Check:

Pinky (5) = root note at the bottom

Pointer finger (2) = the fifth in the middle

Thumb (1) = the octave on top

If it feels too difficult at first — start by just playing pinky and thumb (root + octave). Add the fifth once that feels comfortable.

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PART 2 The Fifth of Every Chord

Print this. Put it on your piano. Never guess again.

Every time you sit down to play a new song, this table tells you exactly what fifth to use for any chord. Major chords on the left. Minor chords on the right.

MAJOR CHORDS

Chord	Notes	5th
C	C, E, G	G
C# / Db	C#, F, G#	G# / Ab
D	D, F#, A	A
Eb / D#	Eb, G, Bb	Bb
E	E, G#, B	B
F	F, A, C	C
F# / Gb	F#, A#, C#	C# / Db
G	G, B, D	D
Ab / G#	Ab, C, Eb	Eb
A	A, C#, E	E
Bb / A#	Bb, D, F	F
B	B, D#, F#	F#

MINOR CHORDS

Chord	Notes	5th
Am	A, C, E	E
Bbm	Bb, Db, F	F
Bm	B, D, F#	F#
Cm	C, Eb, G	G
C#m / Dbm	C#, E, G#	G#
Dm	D, F, A	A
Ebm	Eb, Gb, Bb	Bb
Em	E, G, B	B
Fm	F, Ab, C	C
F#m	F#, A, C#	C#
Gm	G, Bb, D	D
G#m / Abm	G#, B, D#	D#

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PART 3 The 6-Step Practice Method

If you practice this the right way, you can learn any song with this pattern in a week — 10 minutes a day.

Most people watch a video, try to play the whole song at once, get frustrated, and give up. This method stops that from happening. Use it every time you sit down.

STEP 1 Focus on one small section at a time.

Don't try to learn the whole song at once — that's how people quit.

Start with just the first line. One section. That's your only job today.

STEP 2 Learn the octaves first — no fifth yet.

Move through the root-to-octave pattern for each chord in your section.

For What a Wonderful World, that means: F octave → A octave → Bb octave → and so on.

Just the bottom and top note. Move between them until it feels easy and natural.

Only add the fifth once the octaves feel comfortable.

STEP 3 Build each chord from the ground up.

Once the octaves are solid, add the fifth into each chord — one chord at a time.

Start with just two notes: root moving to fifth. Practice that until it's smooth.

Then add the octave on top. Root → fifth → octave. All three together.

Do this for each chord in your section before trying to connect them.

STEP 4 Practice moving from chord to chord.

First chord to second chord — back and forth until the transition is smooth.

Then third chord to fourth chord. Then play the whole first line.

The transitions are the hardest part. Give them the most time.

STEP 5 Add the melody in small chunks — slowly.

Right hand melody one or two measures at a time. Left hand Ballad Pattern underneath.

Go slower than you think you need to. Slow and clean beats fast and sloppy.

If your hands fall apart — you're going too fast. Back up and slow down.

STEP 6 Play the full section from start to finish.

Once both hands feel solid on the section — play it all the way through.

That's your win for the day. Then move to the next section and repeat.

This is how you practice productively on piano. Small sections. Build in chunks. Connect. Done.

✨ **Remember:**

The goal this week isn't to play the whole song perfectly.

The goal is to get the pattern into your hands so it starts to feel natural.

Start with just the first line. Go slow. Be patient with yourself.

One section a day is real progress — even if it doesn't feel like it yet.

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A quick note before you go:

You're not behind. You're not too old.

The reason piano hasn't felt joyful in the past isn't you. It's that nobody handed you the right tools. These five patterns are some of those tools.

Every PIANOLY student started right where you are now.

Ready to See the Full Roadmap?

These five patterns are just one piece of the puzzle. If you want to see exactly how we take students from zero (no experience, no music background) to playing the songs they've always loved, I put together a [free training](#) that walks you through the whole path.

You'll see the exact method, the order we teach everything, and why it works so much faster than traditional lessons.

Felix watched it in retirement and decided to join. He now plays every Sunday and Wednesday for his church prayer group and performs with the worship team once a month.

Marc had tried traditional lessons for years and gotten nowhere. After going through the training and joining the program, he surprised his wife by playing their wedding song.

Results vary depending on time invested and starting experience. But what these stories show is that with the right system, progress happens faster than most people expect.

[→ Click here to access the free training and see the full roadmap. ←](#)



Learn the songs you've always loved. Finally.

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