



FREE GUIDE

The Piano Arpeggio STARTER PACK

Make any song you play sound beautiful — starting today.

Here's something most piano students never figure out: the difference between sounding like a beginner and sounding like a musician isn't which chords you play. It's what you do with them.

Block chords sound fine. Arpeggios sound beautiful. And the good news is — they use the exact same notes you already know.

All five patterns in this guide use one chord progression: $A\text{ minor} \rightarrow F \rightarrow C \rightarrow G$. You've heard it in hundreds of songs. Once these patterns are in your hands, every song you play will sound completely different.

Before You Begin: Your Four Chords

All five patterns use these same four chords. Get comfortable with them first.

A minor — A, C, E | Left hand: A + E (fingers 1 + 5)

F major — F, A, C | Left hand: F + C (fingers 1 + 5)

C major — C, E, G | Left hand: C + G (fingers 1 + 5)

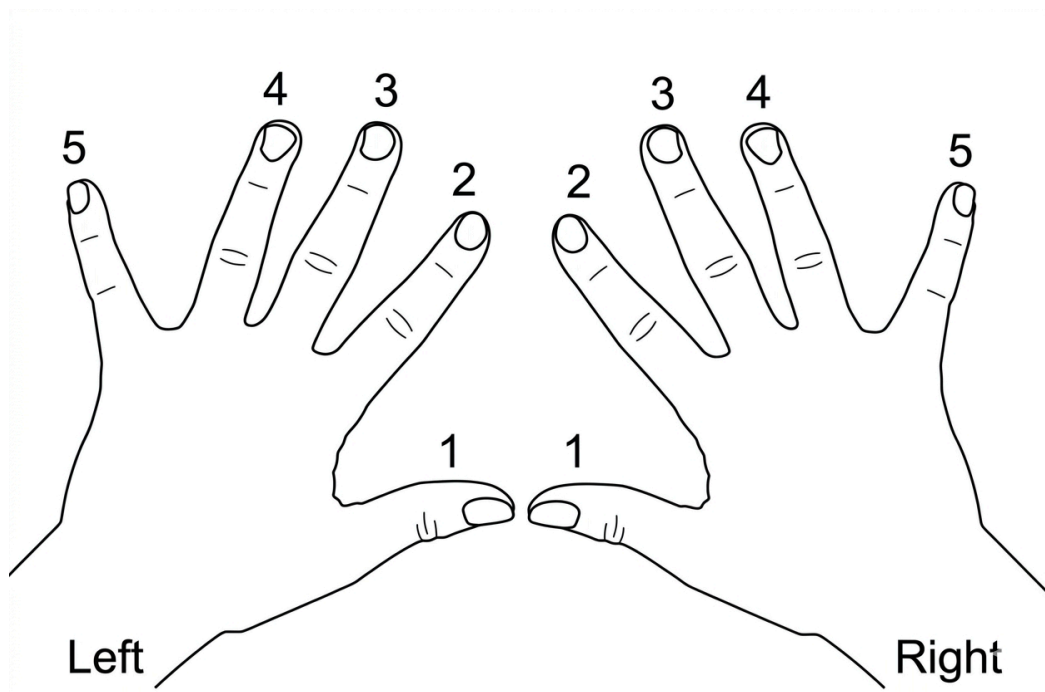
G major — G, B, D | Left hand: G + D (fingers 1 + 5)

Right hand tip: Thumb = finger 1, index = 2, middle = 3, ring = 4, pinky = 5.

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Your Finger Numbers

Every pattern in this guide is written in finger numbers.



Thumb is always 1. Pinky is always 5. Both hands use the same numbering. Once this is in your head, every pattern below will make instant sense.

Quick check: hold up your right hand. Wiggle finger 3. That's your middle finger. Wiggle finger 1. That's your thumb. Now you're ready.

How to Read the Finger Patterns

Each pattern below shows you the finger numbers to play, in order. For example:

RH: 1 - 3 - 5 - 1 - 3 - 5

LH: *Holds finger 1 + 5 (root + fifth)*

This means: right hand plays thumb, middle finger, pinky — repeating. Left hand holds two notes steady underneath.

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The 5 Patterns

Learn them in order. Each one builds on the last.

PATTERN 1 The Sunrise

Rising. Hopeful. The foundation of all arpeggio playing.

How it works: Play the notes of the chord one at a time, from the bottom up. Right hand uses fingers 1, 3, 5 — thumb, middle, pinky. Left hand holds the root and fifth steady underneath. Think of it as the sun coming up — one step at a time.

Pro tip: Keep your wrist loose and your tempo even. The magic is in the spacing — each note should ring before the next one arrives. Start at 60 BPM.

Finger numbers:

RH: 1 - 3 - 5 - 1 - 3 - 5 (repeat)

LH: Holds finger 1 + 5 (root + fifth)

🌟 Practice:

Learn the pattern on A minor alone until fingers 1, 3, 5 feel automatic.

Then move through all four chords: Am → F → C → G.

Keep going without stopping between chords — the transition is part of the practice.

PATTERN 2 The Waterfall

Descending. Gentle. A completely different mood from the same notes.

How it works: The Waterfall is The Sunrise in reverse. Same fingers, same chord, same left hand — but you start at the top and flow down. Right hand uses fingers 5, 3, 1 — pinky, middle, thumb. One direction change creates an entirely different feel.

Pro tip: Let the top note ring before you start down. That first note sets the mood. Don't rush — the slower you play this, the more beautiful it sounds.

Finger numbers:

RH: 5 - 3 - 1 - 5 - 3 - 1 (repeat)

LH: Holds finger 1 + 5 (root + fifth)

✨ Practice:

Play The Sunrise and The Waterfall back to back on the same chord.
Notice how the mood shifts just from changing direction.
Try alternating: one bar up, one bar down. Listen to what it does to the feel of the song.

PATTERN 3 The Heartbeat

Steady. Classic. Used in everything from Bach to pop radio.

How it works: This is the Alberti Bass — but once you feel it, you'll understand why we call it The Heartbeat. The pattern is: finger 1, finger 5, finger 3, finger 5 — low note, high note, middle note, high note — then repeat. You hear it all over classical music and in popular songs all the time.

Pro tip: Count out loud: 1-and-2-and. Low on '1,' high on 'and,' middle on '2,' high on 'and.' Get the rhythm locked in before you worry about chord changes.

Finger numbers:

RH: 1 - 5 - 3 - 5 - 1 - 5 - 3 - 5 (repeat)

LH: Holds finger 1 + 5 (root + fifth)

✨ Practice:

Start with just the right hand. Say each finger number out loud as you play it.
Once it feels natural, add the left hand holding steady underneath.
Then try the full Am → F → C → G progression with this pattern.

PATTERN 4 The Wave

Sweeping. Two-handed. Sounds genuinely impressive.

How it works: This is the first two-handed arpeggio in the guide. Left hand plays fingers 5-3-1 and then the right hand picks up and continues with fingers 1, 3, 5 — creating one seamless sweep upward across both hands. When you get it right, it sounds like a real pianist.

Pro tip: Go slow first. Your hands need to feel the handoff from left to right before you add any speed. Once it's smooth at 50 BPM, it will sound impressive at 80. Rushing this one is the number one mistake.

Finger numbers:

LH: 5 – 3 – 1 → RH: 1 – 3 – 5 (repeat)

Left hand goes first and then hands off to RH seamlessly.

✨ **Practice:**

Practice the left-hand part alone first (fingers 5, 3, 1). Then right hand alone (1, 3, 5). Then put them together at 50 BPM — focus only on the handoff point between hands. Close your eyes once it feels natural. This is where piano starts to feel like music.

PATTERN 5 The Flow

Continuous. Fluid. The pattern that makes you sound like you've been playing for years.

How it works: The Flow combines The Sunrise and The Waterfall into one unbroken motion. Right hand goes up with fingers 1, 3, 5 — and without stopping, comes back down with 3, 1. Then up again. It's a continuous loop that never stops moving. This is the flowing sound you hear in piano covers all over the internet.

Pro tip: You already know both directions from Patterns 1 and 2. This is just connecting them. The key is the turnaround at the top — don't pause. Let finger 5 flow straight back down into 3 without a gap. That smoothness is everything.

Finger numbers:

RH: 1 – 3 – 5 – 3 – 1 – 3 – 5 – 3 (continuous loop)

LH: Holds finger 1 + 5 (root + fifth)

✨ **Practice:**

Practice on A minor alone until the up-down motion feels like one continuous thing. Then add the other three chords. The same finger motion transfers directly. Apply this to any song you love. The result will surprise you.

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How to Actually Practice These

Reading about a pattern is one thing. Making it automatic is another. Here's how to build these into your playing.

Step 1: Learn each pattern on A minor alone.

Don't move on until A minor feels smooth. Every chord uses the same finger motion — once Am is solid, the other three chords follow quickly.

Step 2: Move through all four chords in order.

Am → F → C → G. Keep the pattern running as you change chords. The transition is part of the practice — not something to solve before you start.

Step 3: Use the 3P Practice Loop.

Every session should have three phases:

PREPARE	5 min	Warm up by playing each chord shape slowly. Wake up your hands.
PROGRESS	15 min	Work on one pattern. Isolate what's hard. Loop it until it clicks.
PLAY	10 min	Run through what feels good. Enjoy it. This is the whole point.

30 minutes. Consistent beats long.

Step 4: Apply a pattern to a song you love.

Once a pattern feels natural, find a chord chart at ultimate-guitar.com and apply it to a real song. You'll be surprised how quickly it sounds like music.

Quick Reference: All 5 Patterns

Pattern	Motion	Sounds Like	Best For
The Sunrise	1-3-5 up, repeating	Hopeful, opening	First song learners
The Waterfall	5-3-1 down, repeating	Gentle, reflective	Slow ballads
The Heartbeat	1-5-3-5 repeating	Classic, steady	Any song, any style
The Wave	LH 5-3-1, RH 1-3-5 (both sweep)	Sweeping, impressive	Emotional moments
The Flow	1-3-5-3 continuous loop	Fluid, professional	Songs you want to own

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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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