

A Beginners Guide to Hanon Piano Exercises

How to Practice Hanon - Let's Get Started!

1. **Learn the first measure in your right hand.** This same pattern is then repeated one note higher each time until the middle of the Hanon exercise.
2. **Learn the two measures in the middle,** where the exercise "turns" and continues down the same way.
3. **Learn the last measure where it ends.**
4. Now repeat this with your left hand.
5. Finally, repeat this with both hands, but much, much slower.

So you actually need to learn only 4 measures! Memorize them as well -it's easy!

Here is the first Hanon exercise where I have marked the measures you need to learn. Learn the measures in the red boxes. The first and the last on each page.

Charles-Louis Hanon (1819–1900)

The image displays a page of piano exercises by Charles-Louis Hanon, specifically Exercise No. 308. The score is arranged in two columns and four systems. Each system consists of a right-hand staff (treble clef) and a left-hand staff (bass clef). The exercises are marked with fingerings (1-5) and dynamics (mf). Red boxes are drawn around specific measures: the first measure of the first system, the second and third measures of the second system, and the final measure of the fourth system. The first system is labeled '7' and the fourth system is labeled '11'.

Detailed Step by Step Plan

- Step 1: Learn the first measure in your Right Hand
- Step 2: Learn the first measure in your Left Hand
- Step 3: Learn the first measure with Both Hands
- Step 4: Learn the middle two measures in your Right Hand
- Step 5: Learn the middle two measures in your Left Hand
- Step 6: Learn the middle two measures with Both Hands
- Step 7: Learn the last measure in your Right Hand
- Step 8: Learn the last measure in your Left Hand
- Step 9: Learn the last measure with Both Hands
- Step 10: Play the whole exercise slowly with both hands, preferably by heart. Increase speed gradually as you feel more confident.

Depending on your time available and your level, you could learn this all at once.

If it feels hard to do, I recommend dividing the exercise as above but spend 1 day on each step. As you do, you will still reap the benefits from the Hanon exercise, and not only when it's ready!

All the five-finger drills in Hanon piano exercises are made the same way. So you can use the plan for all of them.

Focus on learning a couple or more, and keep playing them daily for best results.

You don't even have to learn them all to feel the result in your now much more nimble fingers! :)