

# Note Spotter Project

Dear parents,

I recently got a letter from a student:

*" I have never been able to learn how to read music, I have tried many times, I've tried to learn how to play piano and after less than one year I have had to quit because my teachers got frustrated with me.*

*If the letters are above the notes I can read the letters, but take them away and I'm totally lost. My teachers have tried to tell me what notes are and what keys are but this does nothing. I just want to learn how to play music for fun. Is there a way to read notes?"*

This made me starting the **Note Spotter Project** for all my piano students. It is a gradual approach to spot notes on the 5 line staff by recognizing them directly without the need of common used mnemonics such as "Every Good Boy Does Fine".

The goal is to improve note reading by Christmas 2019 significantly for every student, regardless what his skill level is. There are 3 levels that have to be mastered one after the other.

**Note Spotter 40:** Student has to be able to spot **40 notes** per minute on the treble and bass staff, first without ledger lines and then with 2 ledger lines above and below the staves. Then student has to transfer his note recognition skills onto the keyboard by using special assigned drills during the piano lessons. Finally Student has to sight-read melodies with 40 notes per minute by using the metronome.

**Note Spotter 60:** Student has to be able to spot **60 notes** per minute on the treble and bass staff, first without ledger lines and then with 2 ledger lines above and below the staves. Then student has to transfer his note recognition skills onto the keyboard by using special assigned drills during the piano lessons. Finally Student has to sight-read melodies with 60 notes per minute by using the metronome.

**Note Spotter 80:** Student has to be able to spot **80 notes** per minute on the treble and bass staff, first without ledger lines and then with 2 ledger lines above and below the staves. Then student has to transfer his note recognition skills onto the keyboard by using special assigned drills during the piano lessons. Finally Student has to sight-read melodies with 80 notes per minute by using the metronome.

Project will be performed as a **game** and all achievements 40/60/80 will be awarded with a certificate and a prize. Use the following tools to improve the Note Spotting Skills:

1. **Specially designed Flash Cards** will be provided in printed letter size sheets. Student has to cut out Flash Cards himself. I will personally demonstrate how to use the flash cards. Flash cards can also be purchased at the front office.
2. **Visit my Website** that has many tools for students at: **pianofun.net**  
In particular go to: **pianofun.net/learning-modules**

Use the following modules for *spotting notes* and *transfer them to the Keyboard*:

- **Note Finder Basic,**
- **Note Finder Advanced**
- **Keyboard Reverse**

I will do a **one minute note spot check** during every lesson and verify where the student is regarding his note spotting skills. I also will establish a statistic graph for each student to verify his relative success.

Let's work together and **improve our students Note Reading Skills**. Following that, sheet music will be digestible much easier, motivation will increase and playing piano will make more fun.

Happiness comes from overcoming obstacles toward a given goal.

Best Regards  
Hanspeter Tschupp  
Music Teacher

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