

E-Z Numbers System for Playing Kalimba



Works for almost any kalimba!

Mark Holdaway
Kalimba Magic

To use this numbers-based kalimba book, you may want to write the note numbers on your kalimba. While most kalimbas will start on “1” and weave their way up the scale, your kalimba may be different. Consult your kalimba notes.

While this is sort of “paint by number” applied to music, the numbers have meaning: they are the degrees of the scale. That is, “1 - 2 - 3” is the same as “Do Re Mi.” Musicians all over the world know what the 5th is, or the 7th. And learning kalimba from this book will expose you or your child to these fundamental musical building blocks.



Visit us to learn more about the kalimba at:

www.kalimbamagic.com

This is our Temporary Numbers Book, which I am gifting you for free.

Soon, I will have completed the full version. Check here to see if its done:

www.kalimbamagic.com/numbers

Section A: Kitten Songs

Yellow

Section B: Wildcat Songs

Orange

Section C: Cheetah Songs

Red

Section D: Lion Songs

Purple

This book is made to work with essentially any kalimba. You just need to have the key - knowing what notes your kalimba has in terms of “1, 2, 3, 4, 5...” - the notes of the scale.

The fewer notes your kalimba has, the fewer songs it can play. The more notes you have, the more musical possibilities you have before you.

We’ve arrange the book into sections, starting with the simplest songs that all kalimbas should be able to play with, moving to more complex songs. As we go to each section in the book, fewer kalimbas will be able to play the music - you cannot play a song that requires 10 notes on a 6-note kalimba or an 8-note kalimba.

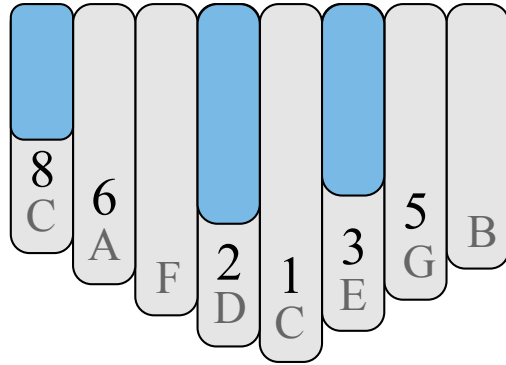
Each section begins with a guide showing which kalimbas can play the songs, and which tines you will be playing, and how you should mark them.

A key element of this book: even though the songs are all in a numbers-based system, toward the end of each section, we introduce you to kalimba tablature, and we point you to more resources you can use for your kalimba.

Kitten Songs

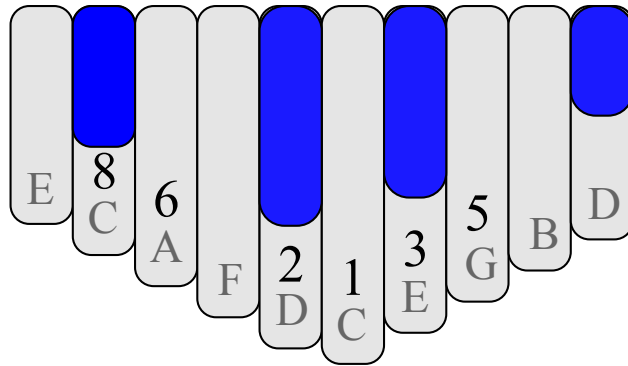
8-Note Kalimba:

Mark the tines 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 8 as shown.



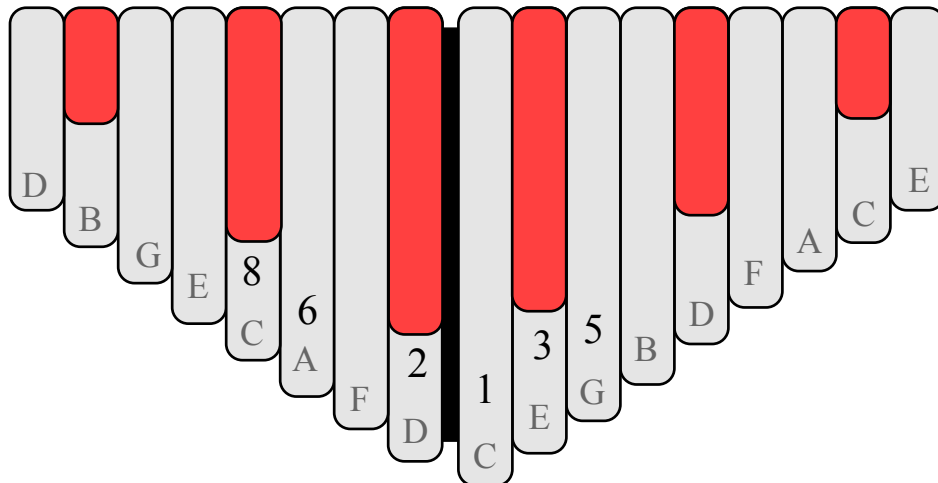
10-Note Kalimba:

Mark the tines 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 8 as shown.



17-Note Kalimba in C:

Mark the tines 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 8 as shown.





The Pentatonic Scale, Starting on “1”

1	2	3		5	6		8
Do	Re	Mi	---	So	La	---	Do
Do	Re	Mi	Fa	So	La	Ti	Do

You may ask yourself: “Where are ‘Fa’ and ‘Ti’?” The pentatonic scale has only five notes, and it skips ‘Fa’ and ‘Ti,’ and I include the ‘--’ to indicate where they would be in the normal “Do Re Mi Fa So La Ti Do” scale.

Even though the pentatonic scale has been simplified by removing these notes, there are still many songs you can play with just these notes.



Hot Cross Buns

3	2	1		3	2	1
Hot	cross	buns!		Hot	cross	buns!

1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	1
One	a	pen -	ney	two	a	pen -	ney	hot	cross	buns!



Mary Had A Little Lamb

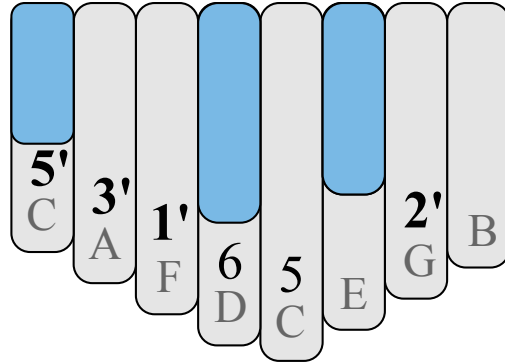
3	2	1	2	3	3	3		2	2	2		3	5	5
Ma -	ry	had	a	lit -	tle	lamb		lit -	tle	lamb		lit -	tle	lamb

3	2	1	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	1
Ma -	ry	had	a	lit -	tle	lamb	whose	fleece	was	white	as	snow

Wildcat Songs

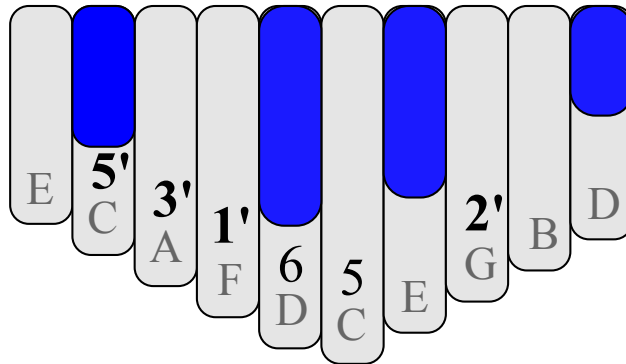
8-Note Kalimba:

Mark the tines 5, 6, 1', 2', 3', and 5' as shown.



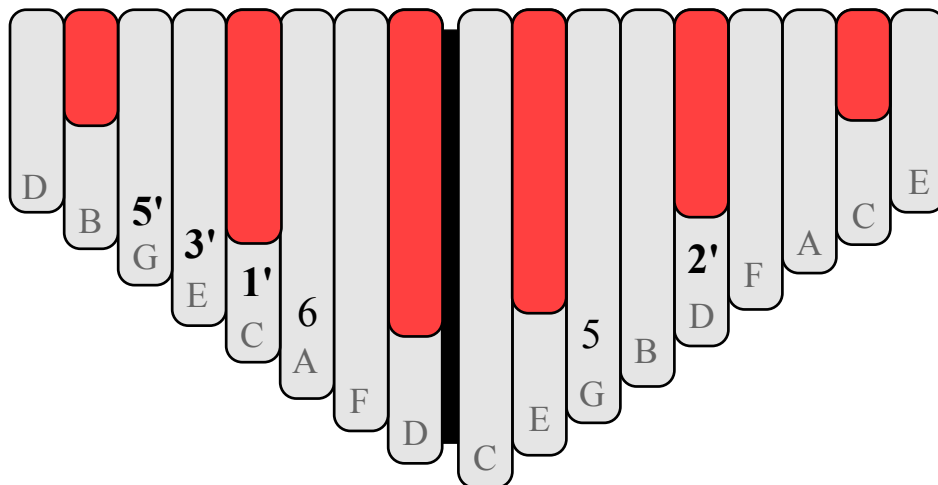
10-Note Kalimba:

Mark the tines 5, 6, 1', 2', 3', and 5' as shown.



17-Note Kalimba in C:

Mark the tines 5, 6, 1', 2', 3', and 5' as shown.





The Pentatonic Scale, Starting on “5”

5 6 1' 2' 3' 5'
 So La --- Do Re Mi --- So
 Do Re Mi Fa So La Ti Do
 Do Re Mi Fa So La Ti Do

It turns out that most songs don't fit in between “low Do” and “high Do.” Some songs start on the ‘5’ or ‘So,’ and “Amazing Grace” is a prime example.

The low ‘So’ and ‘La’ are in a lower octave and are represented by ‘5’ and ‘6,’ while the ‘Do’ ‘Re’ ‘Mi’ and high ‘So’ are in a higher octaves and are represented by **bold numbers** followed by a single quote: **1' 2' 3' 5'**



Amazing Grace

John Newton

5 1' 3' 1' 3' 2' 1' 6 5 5 1' 3' 1' 3' 2' 3' 5'
 A-maz-ing-- grace how sweet the sound that saved a--- wretch like-- me

3' 5' 3' 5' 3 1' 5 6 1' 1' 6 5 5 1' 3' 1' 3' 2' 1'
 I once-- was-- lost, but now-- I'm-- found, was blind but-- now I see.



There's a Hole in My Bucket

Trad. American

1' 2' 3' 1' 5 6 1' 5 6 1' 5 6 1'
There's a hole in my buck-et dear Li-za dear Li-za

1' 2' 3' 1' 5 6 1' 5 6 1' 2' 1'
There's a hole in my buck-et dear Li-za a hole



Go Tell it on the Mountain

African American Spiritual

3' 3' 2' 1' 6 5 1'
Go tell it on the moun - tain

2' 2' 2' 1' 3' 5' 5' 5'
O - ver the hills and ev - ry - where

3' 3' 2' 1' 6 5 1'
Go tell it on the moun - tain

3' 1' 3' 2' 1'
Je - sus Christ is born



Old McDonald Had a Farm

Traditional

1' 1' 1' 5 6 6 5 3' 3' 2' 2' 1'
Old Mc-Don-ald had a farm E - I - E - I - O

5 1' 1' 1' 5 6 6 5 3' 3' 2' 2' 1'
And on this farm he had some chicks E - I - E - I - O

5 5 1 1 1 5 5 1 1 1
With a chick chick here and a chick chick there

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 6 5
Here a chick there a chick ev-ery-where a chick chick

1' 1' 1' 5 6 6 5 3' 3' 2' 2' 1'
Old Mc-Don-ald had a farm E - I - E - I - O



Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen

African American Spiritual

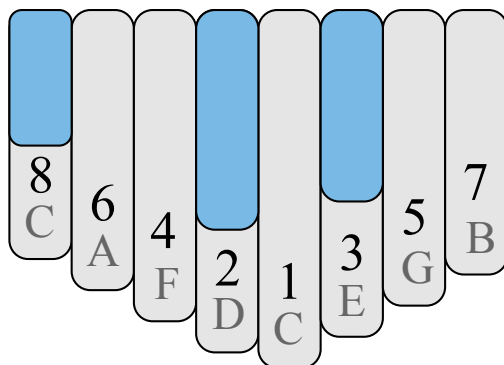
3' 5 6 1' 2' 3' 3' 3' 3' 3' 5 6 1' 1' 6 5
No-bo-dy knows the troub-le I've seen No-bo-dy knows but Je-sus

3' 5 6 1' 2' 3' 3' 3' 3' 5' 3' 2' 3' 1'
No-bo-dy knows the troub-le I've seen Glor-y Hal-le-lu

Cheetah Songs

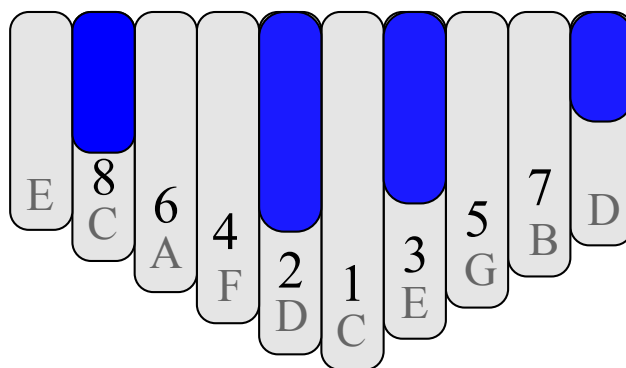
8-Note Kalimba:

Mark the tines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, as shown.



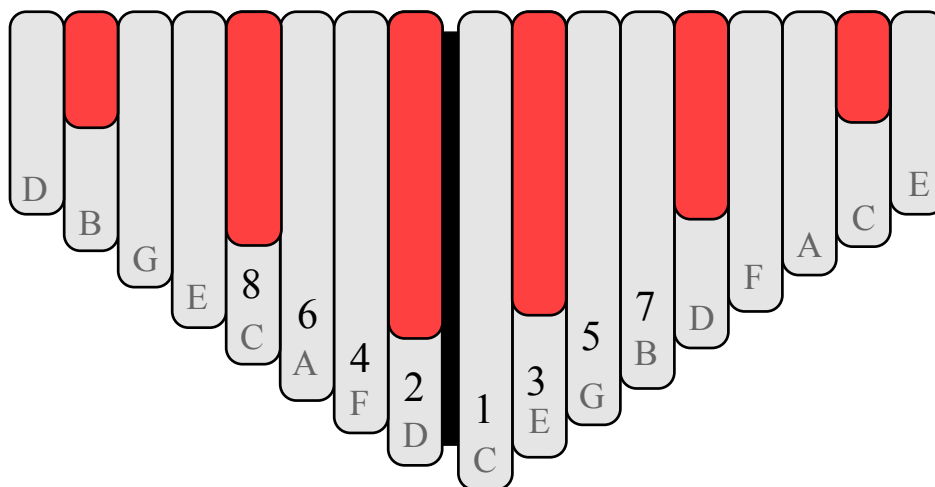
10-Note Kalimba:

Mark the tines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 as shown.



17-Note Kalimba in C:

Mark the tines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 as shown.





The Major Scale

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Do Re Mi Fa So La Ti Do

Hey - on your kalimba, you might not have an 8 - you might have a 1'. **8 is the same note as 1, but an octave higher.**



Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Traditional

1 1 5 5 6 6 5
Twin - kle twin - kle lit - tle star

4 4 3 3 2 2 1
How I won - der what you are

5 5 4 4 3 3 2
Up a - bove the world so high

5 5 4 4 3 3 2
Like a dia - mond in the sky

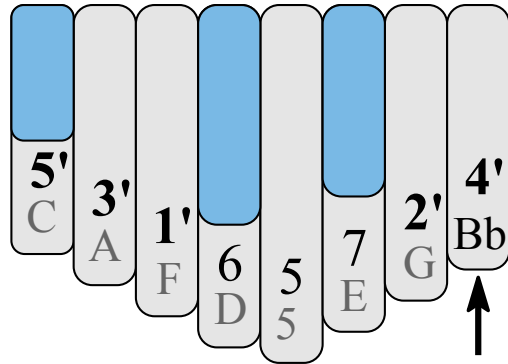
1 1 5 5 6 6 5
Twin - kle twin - kle lit - tle star

4 4 3 3 2 2 1
How I won - der what you are

Lion Songs

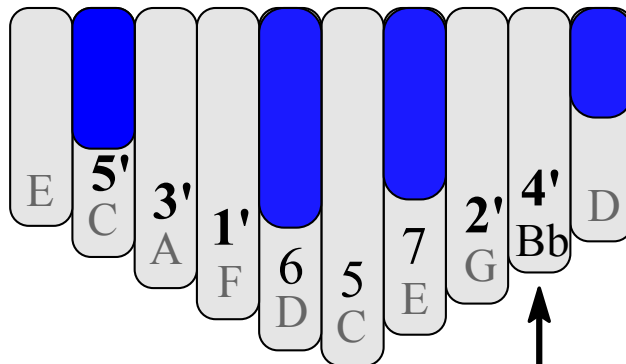
8-Note Kalimba:

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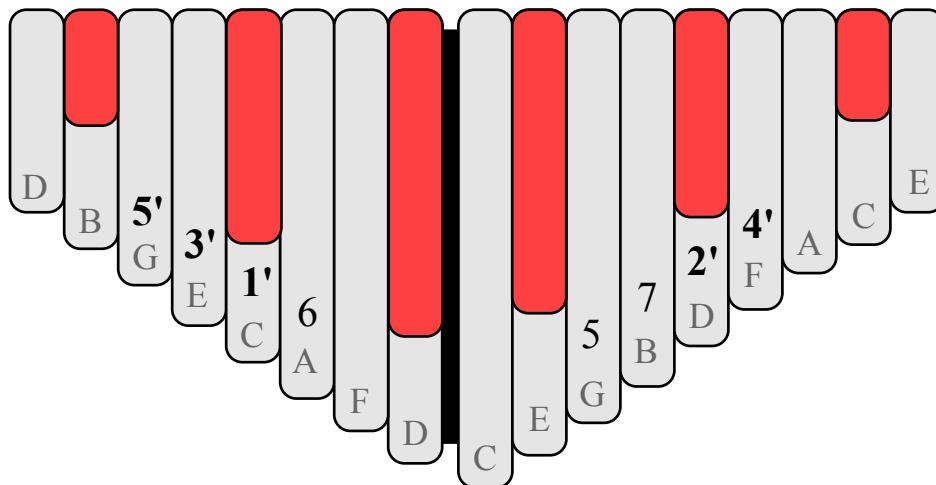
10-Note Kalimba:

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17-Note Kalimba in C:

Mark the tines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 as shown.



One Octave Diatonic Scale, Starting on “5”

5 6 7 **1' 2' 3' 4' 5'**
 So La Ti Do Re Mi Fa So
 Do Re Mi Fa So La Ti Do
 Do Re Mi Fa So La Ti Do

In Section B, we found lots of pentatonic scales that went from low 5 to high **5'**. This section continues in that vein, but without skipping over the 7 and **4'**.

The low So, La, and Ti are in the lower octave and are represented by 5, 6, and 7. The Do, Re, Mi, Fa, and high So are in a higher octaves and are represented by **bold numbers** followed by a single quote: **1' 2' 3' 4' 5'**

Away in a Manger

Murray

5' 5' 4' 3' 3' 2' 1' 1' 7 6 5
 Aw - ay in a man - ger, no crib for a bed

5 5 6 5 5 **2' 7 6 5 1' 3'**
 The lit - tle Lord Jes - us lay down His sweet head.

5' 5' 4' 3' 3' 2' 1' 1' 7 6 5
 The stars in the sky--- look down where He lay

5 **4' 3' 2' 3' 2' 1' 2' 6 7 1'**
 The lit - tle Lord Jes - us a - sleep on the hay

You may have noticed that there are not very many songs in this ebook. That is because it is just a test version of the book I am engaged in writing.

Soon, maybe even now, you will find a link to the full numbers-based book:

www.kalimbamagic.com/numbers

