


## Simple Legato Exercises

Place your hands on the key surfaces and use very little motion of the hands and fingers as you go from one note to the next. Keep the wrists quiet, poised and relaxed, with fingers dropping into the keys, but not lifting above them.

As you play through this exercise, use *rotating wrist legato* in the measures marked with  ( $mf - \frac{3}{4}$ ), followed by *simple legato* ( $p - \frac{1}{2}$ ) with very little motion of hand or wrist in all other measures. The lift mark (,) indicates lifting both hands between measures. This exercise will help you see, feel, and hear the difference between these two legato touches.



The musical score for Video Clip 7 consists of two systems of piano exercises in 4/4 time. The first system has four measures: Measure 1 (mf, 3/4, rotating wrist), Measure 2 (p, 1/2, simple), Measure 3 (mf, 3/4, rotating wrist), and Measure 4 (p, 1/2, simple). The second system starts at measure 5 and has three measures: Measure 5 (mf, 3/4, rotating wrist), Measure 6 (p, 1/2, simple), and Measure 7 (p, 1/2, simple). A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid on the score.

For many accompaniment figures, it can be difficult to decide whether to use a *rotating wrist legato* or a *simple legato* touch. Play the following exercise as explained to feel and hear the differences at varied dynamics levels.

- Play  $mf$  using a rotating wrist at the base of the key.
- Play  $mp$  still using a rotating wrist at  $\frac{3}{4}$  key depth.
- Play  $p$  by reducing the rotation to a minimum. Keep relaxed with fingers playing *simple legato* at only  $\frac{1}{2}$  key depth.
- Keep your hand and wrist relaxed and reduce motion even more, playing  $pp$  using a touch almost at the key surface.



The musical score for Video Clip 8 consists of two systems of piano exercises in 6/8 time. The first system is labeled 'legato' and contains eight measures of a continuous eighth-note pattern. The second system contains eight measures of the same pattern, ending with a final note.