

5-Note Row

Ideas for musical creativity

There are many ways to create music using a 5-note row, or pentatonic scale. Try these 3 ideas and then explore more!

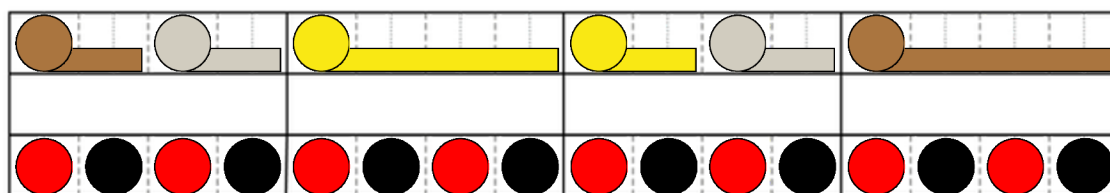
You can use any instrument. To start, we suggest presenting the notes using individual chime bars, or removing unwanted notes from a glockenspiel (or similar) so that you have only the notes you need.

This can work as both composition and improvisation. You can expand into different octaves too - just remember to change the shape.

Idea 1 - Melody and Accompaniment

- Create a simple melody using only 3 notes. You can experiment with different rhythms.
- Use the remaining 2 notes to create a simple accompaniment

Use this example as inspiration. The note row flashcards are on the following pages.

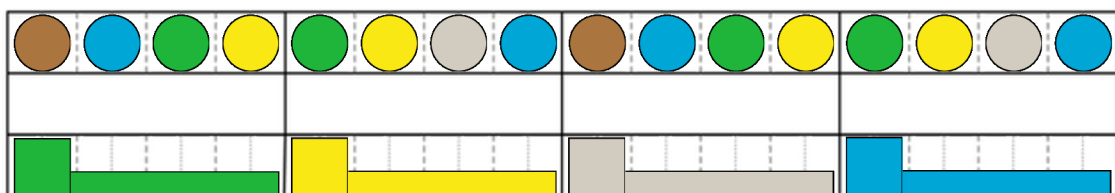
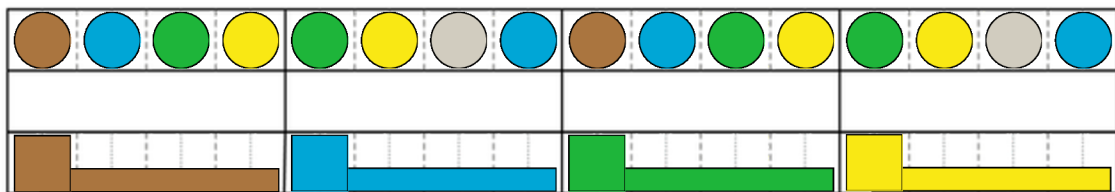


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Idea 2 - Melody and Bassline

- Create a simple melody using 5 notes from the DEFAB note row.
- Add the same melody as a slow bass line (use squares or crosses instead of circles)

Use this example as inspiration. The note row flashcards are on the following pages.

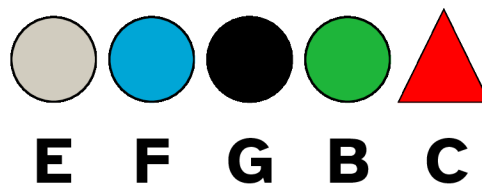


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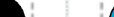
Idea 3 - A Simple Song

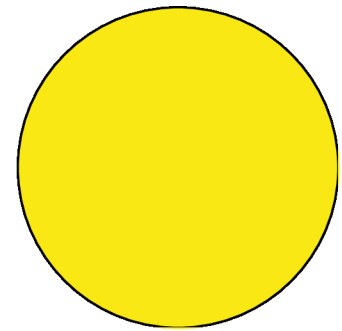
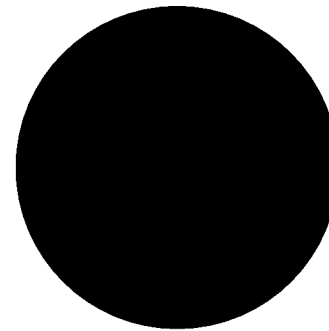
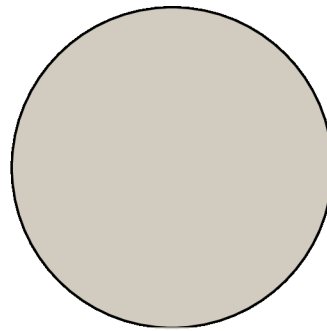
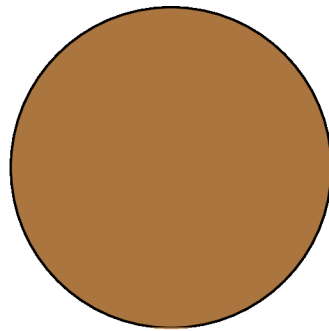
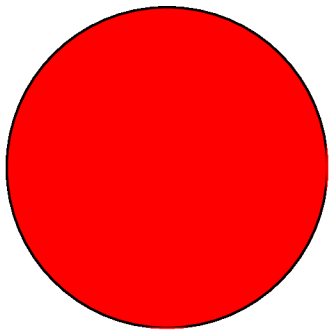
- Create a simple melody using 4 of the notes from the EFGBC note row.
- Add words to the melody.
- Choose the lowest note and use as a drone

Use this example as inspiration. The note row flashcards are on the following pages.



			
Au- tumn	win- dy days,	Rain falls	down.
			

						
Red	leaves,	wet	leaves	on	the	ground.
						



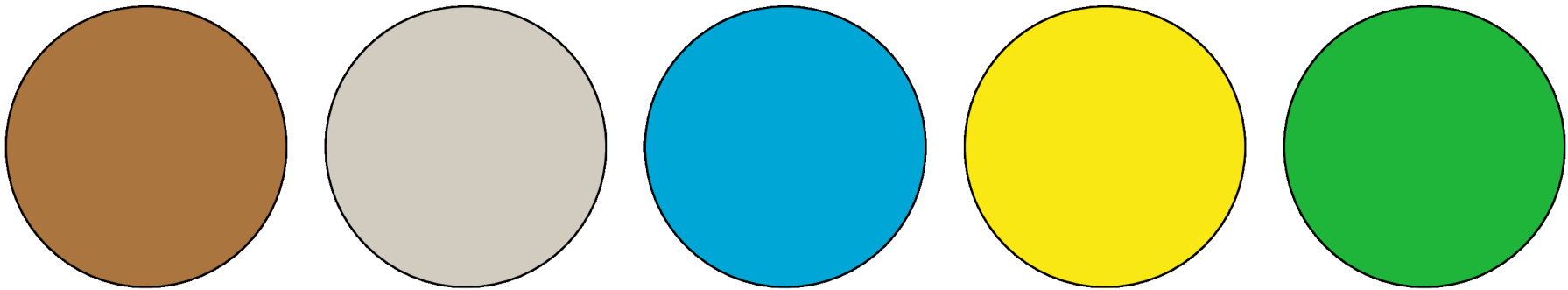
C

D

E

G

A



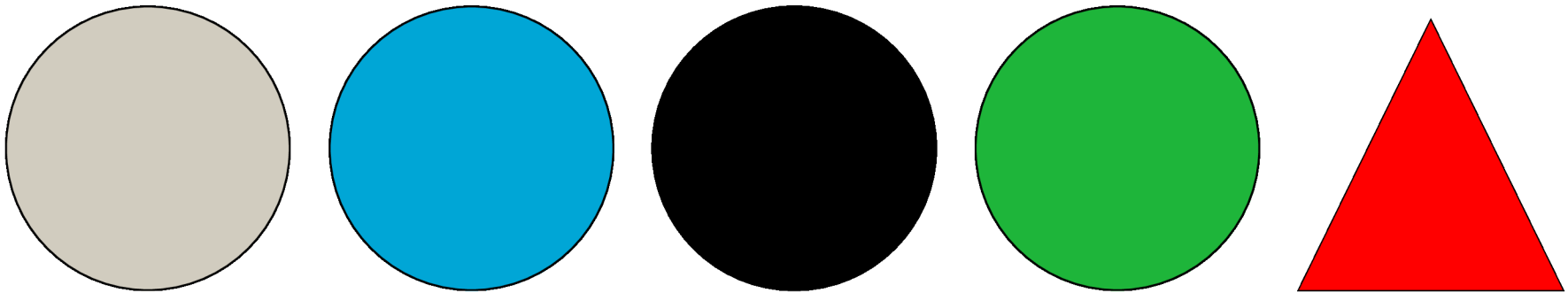
D

E

F

A

B



E

F

G

B

C