

Amruth Venkatraman

Collaborators: none

## HW2: Pick Up Piano

1. When hovering over the Pick Up Piano name in the description of the website, the text changes color, making me believe it should behave as a hyperlink or it has some sort of special behavior, which isn't the case.
  - a. Issue: External Consistency
  - b. Severity: Minor/Major (it is the first thing the user sees)

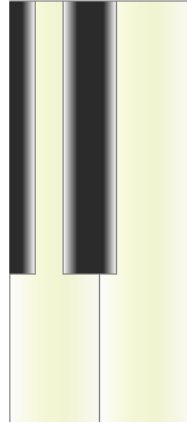
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Welcome to **Pick Up Piano**, a ear training tool that teaches you how to differentiate between notes.

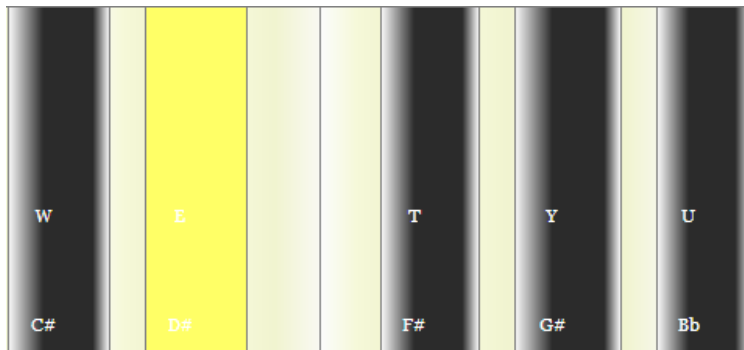
2. The scrolling bar in the header gives me the affordance that the button is still clickable when there is nothing more to see (button click event is disabled but the mouse type doesn't change).
  - a. Issue: Feedback
  - b. Severity: Minor
3. Not sure how to duplicate, but sometimes clicking on keys doesn't actually play a sound. I'm not sure what caused it, but it does make me feel like I am limited in control (since it does work sometimes).
  - a. Issue: Freedom and control
  - b. Severity: Major
4. If I know how the website works, I don't want to be forced to scroll twice through the scrollbar to finally get to testing. I should be able to start either immediately since you seem to be going for a single page approach.
  - a. Issue: Efficiency
  - b. Severity: Major
5. In a similar vein, as a new user to the website, it would be nice if how the page worked was described on the first "slide" of the scrollbar. That way I can immediately start playing with the page and getting a feel for how to interact with it.
  - a. Issue: Learnability
  - b. Severity: Minor
6. As someone with some music background, I can't quite figure out what the top labels for the keys are. Moreover, the labels sometimes get me confused when I'm looking for a particular key with the naming convention used in the bottom row, I sometimes mis-identify the key with the top row. Somehow make the meaning clear?
  - a. Issue: Safety/Learnability
  - b. Severity: Major
7. Some of the keyboard is unusable, but it is not immediately clear that this is the case. While the playable keys are labeled, it would be easier to see that they are not playable if perhaps the keys were grayed out or if the keyboard was shrunk.
  - a. Issue: Learnability
  - b. Severity: Major

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8. I do like the choice to highlight the keys on a key press to show the user the key is actually being played. It's a great feedback idea and goes a huge way in making your page even seem more dynamic (besides the sounds being played!)
  - a. Issue: Feedback
  - b. Severity: Good!
9. On the issue of highlighting the keys when being pressed, the contrast on the black keys when highlighted makes the text on them pretty difficult to read. Perhaps do some text color changing on black key pressing?
  - a. Issue: Color/Contrast
  - b. Severity: Minor



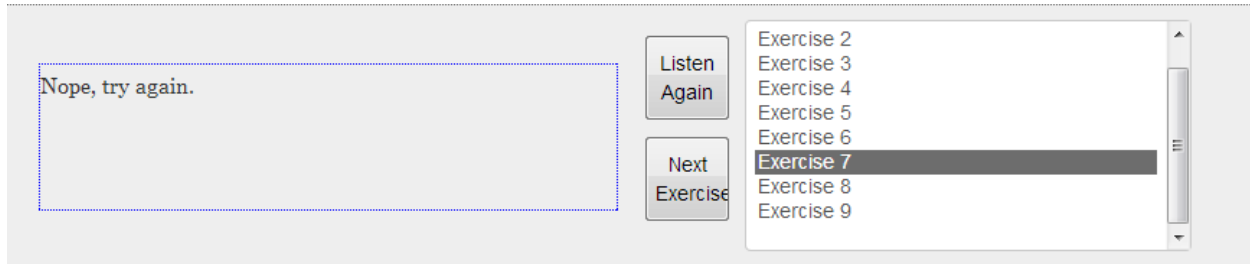
10. Still talking about keys, it's not exactly clear why clicking on the top part of the white keys doesn't play any music. Maybe make this clear or choose to allow it.
  - a. Issue: Internal consistency
  - b. Severity: Minor
11. I really like the font picked for the website logo. Perhaps use it in other places of your website (perhaps in feedback). It would give your website a more consistent feel.
  - a. Issue: Typography
  - b. Severity: Good/Cosmetic
12. The layout could benefit by a bit of resizing and reorganization. The feedback box doesn't need to be as big as it is, similar with the size of the exercise box. That gives more horizontal space for the two

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buttons in between and maybe those could be made a bit wider to fit on one line. Alternately, it would be kind of nice to have the feedback right above the board as a “row-fluid” or something.

- a. Issue: Layout
- b. Severity: Major



13. I do like the non-standard choice of replacing a settings button at the top with the gear. It offers reduction and a lot of contrast with the text right below it. Good choice!

- a. Issue: Graphic Design/Reduction
- b. Severity: Good

14. Waiting for the settings drop down to finish filling in takes quite a while. Granted it shouldn't be accessed all that often, but speeding up the appear speed may be something of interest if you do choose to not have an immediate dropdown appear.

- a. Issue: Latency
- b. Severity: Minor

15. I was about to suggest allowing users to be able to type letters to interact with the keyboard, but I realized that's what the letters above the bottom row was! It's really awesome that you did add this functionality in. Makes it more accessible and efficient!

- a. Issue: Accessibility/Efficiency
- b. Severity: Good

16. After starting an exercise it's not immediately clear how to exit the exercise if I change my mind. The scrolling buttons on the panel are disabled and there's no quit exercise button. The only option is to get it right or to press next exercise, which makes me feel like I'm forced into another exercise

- a. Issue: Learnability/Safety
- b. Severity: Major

