

Manual Techniques

Direct Fingering: this is the technique that most pianists use. It refers to the use of adjacent fingers for adjacent notes and does not use any of the other techniques. The hand can expand or be compressed when using this technique.

Finger Crossing: the longer finger crosses over the shorter finger, or the shorter finger crosses under the longer finger.

Substitution: one finger initially plays the note and while that finger is still holding the note down, another finger replaces the first finger, thus freeing that finger to play another note.

Finger Glissando: a finger that is playing a black key simply slides off that key onto the white key that is adjacent to the original key.

Thumb Glissando: this is the most difficult of all the manual techniques to master. When the notes are moving inward, the organist plays a white key with the tip of their thumb. While continuing to hold the key down, the organist slides the hand forward in order to continue playing the note with the base of the thumb. The wrist should drop to aid in this process. This frees the tip of the thumb to play the next note, which occurs by lifting the wrist and rocking to the tip of the thumb. When the notes are moving outward, the opposite occurs. The tip of the thumb plays the white key, with the wrist high. In order to play the adjacent note, the wrist drops and plays the key with the base of the wrist.

Recommended methods that include exercises for manual techniques:

- *Cook, *OrganTutor Workbook* (Ard, \$17.50) or *OrganTutor Organ 101* (Ard or BYU Creative Works Office, \$65-67.50).
- *Davis, *The Organist's Manual* (Norton, \$56) or
- *Gleason, *Method of Organ Playing* (Prentice-Hall, \$67) or
- *Keeler/Blackham, *Basic Organ Techniques* (Universe, \$16)