

Levels of Absolute Pitch (AP)

AP level	Overall AP capability	Single-pitch / pitch-class identification	Simultaneous-pitch separation	Pitch memory	Pitch reproduction	Timbre independence	Fine-pitch perception	Generalization / context
AP0	No AP	No stable absolute pitch categories	Cannot reliably identify individual pitches within simultaneous sounds	No dependable absolute pitch memory	Cannot reliably reproduce a target without reference	Pitch strongly tied to source/context	No dependable absolute-pitch judgment	Highly context-dependent
AP1	Basic AP	Recognizes some familiar pitch classes inconsistently	May identify an obvious/highest/lowest pitch in simple two-note combinations, but cannot reliably decompose chords	Can retain some individual pitches briefly, slowly, and effortfully	Can reproduce some familiar pitches with variable accuracy	Limited separation of pitch from timbre	Emerging sensitivity to pitch deviations	Limited generalization
AP2	Functional AP	Most/all 12 pitch classes identifiable with useful reliability in ordinary isolated/sequential conditions	Can begin identifying individual pitches in simple dyads or familiar chords , but performance may decline as density increases	Stable but not yet necessarily rapid or automatic memory for individual pitches and some musical material	Can reproduce identified pitches reasonably accurately, subject to motor skill	Increasing independence from ordinary instrument/voice timbres	Can detect meaningful deviations from expected pitch	Generalizes across ordinary musical contexts
AP3	Fluent AP	Rapid, highly reliable chromatic identification	Can separate and identify multiple simultaneous pitches in ordinary chords/polyphonic passages , although complexity and speed still matter	Strong, rapid, automatic, and durable absolute-pitch representations	Accurate and increasingly automatic reproduction	Strong pitch-timbre separation	Good sensitivity to pitch deviations	Broad generalization across registers, timbres, keys, melodies, and contexts
AP4	Expert AP	Extremely rapid, stable identification	Robust decomposition of complex chords and polyphonic textures , including less familiar voicings and rapidly changing simultaneous niches	Highly precise and durable memory automatically alongside other musical processing	Highly accurate where motor skill permits	Robust across unfamiliar timbres, registers, voices, instruments and complex sounds	High precision for deviations from expected pitch	Robust under demanding and unfamiliar conditions
AP5	Exceptional AP	Exceptional speed, accuracy and breadth	Exceptional simultaneous-pitch resolution , potentially extracting multiple absolute pitches from dense, rapid, unfamiliar or spectrally complex sounds	Exceptional working, long-term and internally manipulated pitch representations, near-instantaneous or involuntary access	Exceptional reproduction where motor skill permits	Exceptional separation of pitch from highly varied/complex sound sources	Exceptional fine-pitch discrimination	Exceptional generalization across unusual sounds, registers, textures and contexts