

## Contents

Parts of the Bass.....	3
Parts of the Amp.....	3
How to Hold Your Bass.....	4
The Right Hand.....	5
The Left Hand .....	7
Tuning Your Bass.....	9
The Basics of Reading Music.....	10
Counting Time .....	11
Notes on the First String G .....	12
<i>Playing Quarter Notes</i> .....	12
<i>Playing Half Notes</i> .....	12
<i>Playing Dotted Half Notes</i> .....	12
<i>Playing Whole Notes</i> .....	12
<i>Four Rhythms in <math>\frac{4}{4}</math></i> .....	13
<i>Four Rhythms in <math>\frac{3}{4}</math></i> .....	13
<i>Mixin' It Up in Four</i> .....	13
<i>Mixin' It Up in Three</i> .....	13
Notes on the Second String D.....	14
<i>Playing D, E and F</i> .....	14
<i>Once Again</i> .....	14
<i>Extra Credit in Three</i> .....	14
<i>Skipping Down &amp; Up</i> .....	14
Combining Notes on the G & D Strings.....	15
<i>Two-String Warm-up</i> .....	15
<i>D Minor Blues</i> .....	15
<i>Notes on the Third String A</i> .....	16
<i>Up-Stems &amp; Down-Stems</i> .....	16
<i>A Few New Notes</i> .....	16
<i>Lookin' Up</i> .....	16
The A Natural Minor Scale .....	17
<i>Rockin' à la Mode</i> .....	17
<i>A Minor Line</i> .....	17
Sharps .....	18
Naturals.....	18
Notes on the Fourth Fret.....	19
<i>Fourth Finger Frenzy</i> .....	19
<i>Little Finger Challenge</i> .....	19
Notes on the Fourth String E .....	20
<i>E-String Strut</i> .....	20
<i>Note-Finding Review</i> .....	21
<i>Swing Bass Line</i> .....	21
<i>Slithering Up</i> .....	21
Octaves .....	22
<i>Octave Jumps</i> .....	22
<i>Octabass 12</i> .....	23
<i>Octave Boogie Lick</i> .....	23
<i>MetalOctavus</i> .....	23
Flats.....	24
<i>Jammin' with Sharps, Naturals &amp; Flats</i> .....	24
<i>Flats and Naturals</i> .....	25
<i>Flats, Sharps and Naturals</i> .....	25
<i>Bluesy Lick</i> .....	25
The Key of F Major.....	26
<i>The F Major Scale</i> .....	26
Key Signatures .....	26
<i>The Extended F Major Scale</i> .....	26
<i>Rockin' in F</i> .....	26
<i>Funky Bass</i> .....	27
<i>Waltz in F</i> .....	27
<i>Rock Ballad in F</i> .....	27
The Key of B <sub>b</sub> Major.....	28
<i>The B<sub>b</sub> Major Scale</i> .....	28
<i>Jazz Blues in B<sub>b</sub></i> .....	28
<i>B<sub>b</sub> Bass Line</i> .....	29
Hold On.....	29
The Chromatic Scale.....	30
<i>Chromatic Rock</i> .....	30
<i>Bumble Bass</i> .....	31
Eighth Notes.....	32
<i>Eighth Notes on an Open String</i> .....	32
<i>Eighth Notes on Three Open Strings</i> .....	32
<i>Eighth Notes with Fingered Notes</i> .....	32
<i>Quick Time</i> .....	33
<i>Early Rock with Eighths</i> .....	33
<i>Eightude</i> .....	33
Rests .....	34
<i>No Time to Rest</i> .....	35
<i>Quiet Time</i> .....	35
Warm-ups in the Keys of F & B <sub>b</sub> .....	36
Licks in the Keys of F & B <sub>b</sub> .....	37
Second Position .....	38
The Key of G Major.....	38
<i>The G Major Scale</i> .....	38
<i>Good King Wenceslas</i> .....	38
<i>Blues in G</i> .....	38
Reading TAB .....	39
Third Position .....	40
The Key of C Major.....	41
<i>The C Major Scale</i> .....	41
<i>Warm-up in C</i> .....	41
<i>Bass Line for a Rocker</i> .....	41
The Slide.....	42
Accented Notes .....	43
Ties & Syncopation .....	44
Syncopation in the Keys of C, G, F & B <sub>b</sub> .....	45
The Dotted Quarter Note .....	47
<i>Preparatory Drill</i> .....	47
<i>Rock Bass Line in G</i> .....	47
<i>Rock Bass Line in F</i> .....	47
Combining Dotted Quarter Notes, Accents & Slides .....	48
Rock Licks with Syncopation.....	49
High C <sup>#</sup> (or D <sub>b</sub> ) & D.....	50
The Key of D Major.....	51
<i>The D Major Scale</i> .....	51
<i>Joy to the World</i> .....	51
<i>The D Scale in Repeated Notes</i> .....	51
Rock Licks in the Keys of G, C & D .....	52
Heavy Metal Licks in G, C & D.....	53
Sixteenth Notes & the	
<i>Dotted 8th and 16th Note Rhythm</i> .....	54
<i>Shuffle Nos. 1 &amp; 2</i> .....	55
Shuffle Rhythm Bass Lines .....	56
<i>Blues in C</i> .....	56
<i>Jazzy Bass Line in D</i> .....	56
<i>Rockin' Line in F</i> .....	57
<i>Cashin' In</i> .....	57
The Key of A Major.....	58
<i>The A Major Scale</i> .....	58
Incomplete Measures .....	58
<i>Bass Line for a Country Song</i> .....	58
Licks in the Key of A.....	59
The Key of E Major.....	60
<i>The E Major Scale</i> .....	60
<i>E Major Warm-up in <math>\frac{4}{4}</math></i> .....	60
<i>E Major Warm-up in <math>\frac{3}{4}</math></i> .....	60
High D <sup>#</sup> (or E <sub>b</sub> ) & E.....	61
<i>The Two-Octave E Major Scale</i> .....	61
Licks in the Key of E.....	62
Bass Fingerboard Chart.....	63
Certificate of Promotion .....	64

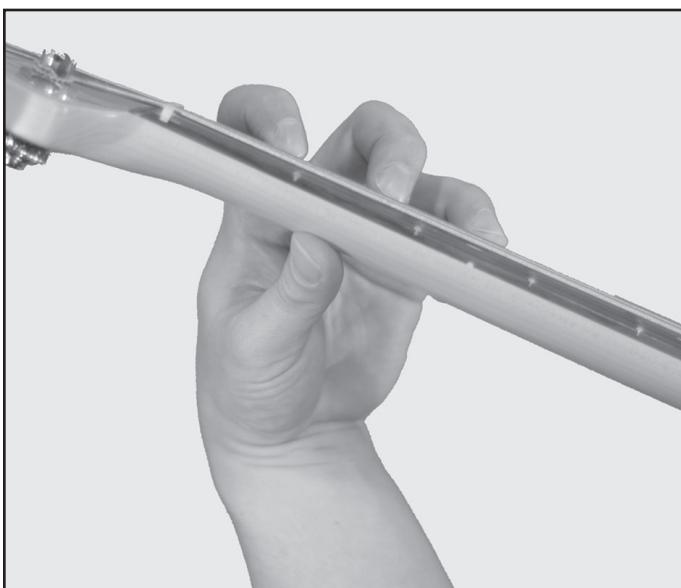
# The Left Hand

## Proper Hand Position

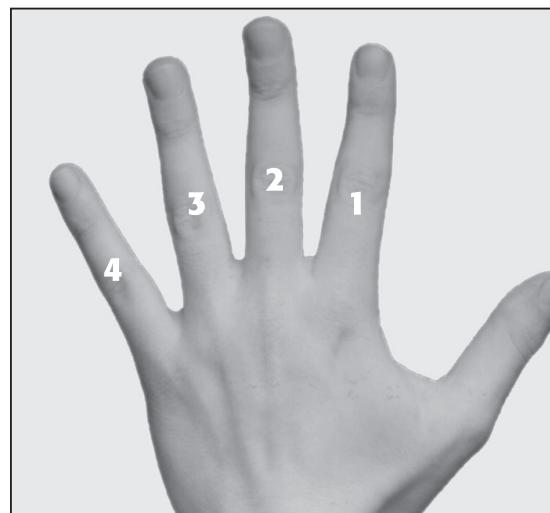
Learning to use your left-hand fingers starts with a good hand position. Place your hand so your thumb rests comfortably in the middle of the back of the neck. Position your fingers on the front of the neck as if you are gently squeezing a ball between them and your thumb. Keep your elbow in and your fingers curved.



Keep your elbow in and fingers curved.



Position your fingers as if gently squeezing a ball between them and your thumb.



Numbers of the left-hand fingers.

# Notes on the First String G



**OPEN STRING**

Finger: ○ (open)



**G**



**2nd FRET**

Finger: 2



**A**

## Playing Quarter Notes



**Quarter Notes**

The musical notation shows a repeating pattern of quarter notes (open circles) and eighth notes (filled circles). Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 'o' for the first note of each measure, '2' for the second note of each measure, and '1' for the first note of the third measure. Below the staff, the count '1 2 3 4' is repeated three times, followed by '(etc.)'.

A double bar line indicates the end of a piece.

## Playing Half Notes



**Half Notes**

The musical notation shows a repeating pattern of half notes (open circles). Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 'o' for the first note of each measure, '2' for the second note of each measure, and '1' for the first note of the third measure. Below the staff, the count '1 2 3 4' is repeated three times, followed by '(etc.)'.

## Playing Dotted Half Notes



**Dotted Half Notes**

The musical notation shows a repeating pattern of dotted half notes (open circles). Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 'o' for the first note of each measure, '2.' for the second note of each measure, and '1' for the first note of the third measure. Below the staff, the count '1 2 3 4' is repeated three times, followed by '(etc.)'.

## Playing Whole Notes

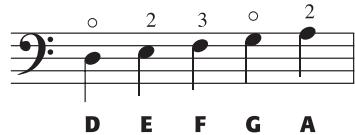


**Whole Notes**

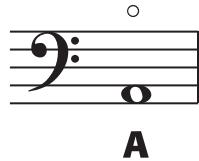
The musical notation shows a repeating pattern of whole notes (open circles). Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 'o' for the first note of each measure, '2' for the second note of each measure, and '1' for the first note of the third measure. Below the staff, the count '1 2 3 4' is repeated three times, followed by '(etc.)'.

# Notes on the Third String A

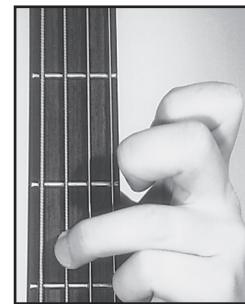
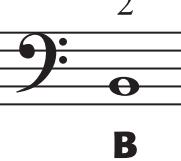
## NOTES YOU'VE LEARNED SO FAR



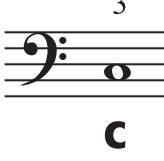
OPEN STRING



2nd FRET



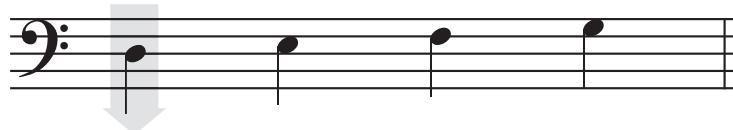
3rd FRET



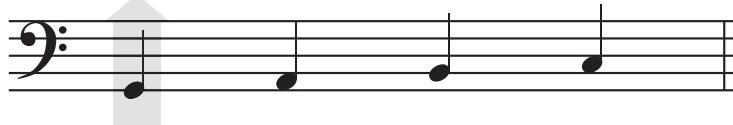
## Up-Stems & Down-Stems

Until now, all notes have been written with the stems pointing down. To make music look neater, down-stems *and* up-stems are used:

**Notes above or on the middle line have stems pointing down.**



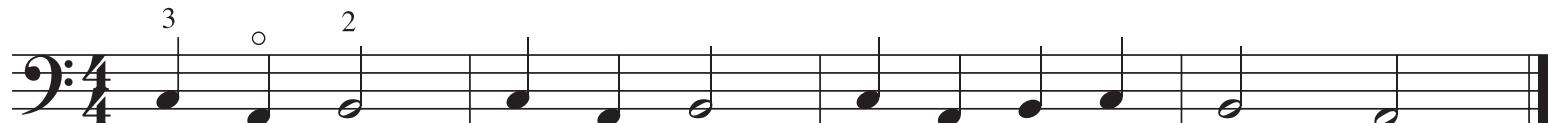
**Notes below the middle line have stems pointing up.**



## A Few New Notes



## Lookin' Up



## Quick Time



CHORDS: D

A

Bm

G

D

A

Bm

G

Music staff showing a sequence of eighth notes and sixteenth notes across eight measures. The chords are D, A, Bm, G, D, A, Bm, G.

D

A

Bm

G

D

A

D

Continuation of the eighth-note pattern from the previous staff, ending with a fermata over the last note.

When you are fingerpicking and moving quickly from a higher string to a lower string,  
try using the same finger (*i* or *m*) to play both strings.

## Early Rock with Eighths



CHORDS: F

Dm

B♭

C

*i**m**i**i*

F

Dm

B♭

*i**i*

Music staff showing a pattern of eighth notes and sixteenth notes. The chords are F, Dm, B♭, C, i, m, i, i, F, Dm, B♭, i, i.

F

Dm

B♭

C

*i**i*

F

C

*i**i*

F

Continuation of the eighth-note pattern from the previous staff, ending with a fermata over the last note.

## Eightude



CHORDS:

B♭

*i**m**i**i*

E♭

Dm

Gm

F

*i**m**i**i*

B♭

*i**m**i*

E♭

*B*

C

F

Music staff showing a complex eighth-note pattern. The chords are B♭, i, m, i, i, E♭, Dm, Gm, F, i, m, i, i, B♭, i, m, i, m, m, E♭, B♭, C, F.

B♭

E♭

Edim

F<sup>7</sup>

B♭

Gm

*i**i**m**i**i*

Cm

B♭

F

*i**m**m*

Continuation of the eighth-note pattern from the previous staff, ending with a fermata over the last note.

# Rock Licks in the Keys of G, C & D

## Rock Lick in G No. 1



CHORDS: G

Alt. { 0 2      1 >  
 2 > - 3 > #

Alt. { 0 5      4 5 6 7      Alt. { 0 5

## Rock Lick in G No. 2



CHORDS: G

Alt. { 0 2      1 > 2 > 3 > #3 > 4 > 1 > Alt. { 2 0

Alt. { 0 5      4 4 5 5 6 6 7 7 4      Alt. { 0 5

## Rock Lick in C



CHORDS: C

1 3 2 > 4 > 3 1 >

T A B 3 5 5 7 5 5 | 3

## Rock Lick in D



CHORDS: D

4 > 3 > 3 > 1 > 0 >

T A B 0 0 7 0 6 0 4 2 | 0