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Track 1

The compact disc will make learning with this book easier and more enjoyable. This symbol will appear next to every example that is on the CD. Use the CD to help ensure that you are capturing the feel of the examples, interpreting the rhythms correctly, and so on. Use your balance control to take the bass out of the mix, so that you can play along with the guitarist by yourself. The track numbers below the symbols correspond directly to the example you want to hear. Track 1 will help you tune to the CD. Have fun!

Eighth Notes

So far, we've covered whole notes, half notes, and quarter notes. An *eighth note* is half a beat long, so two eighth notes equal one beat.

AN EIGHTH NOTE

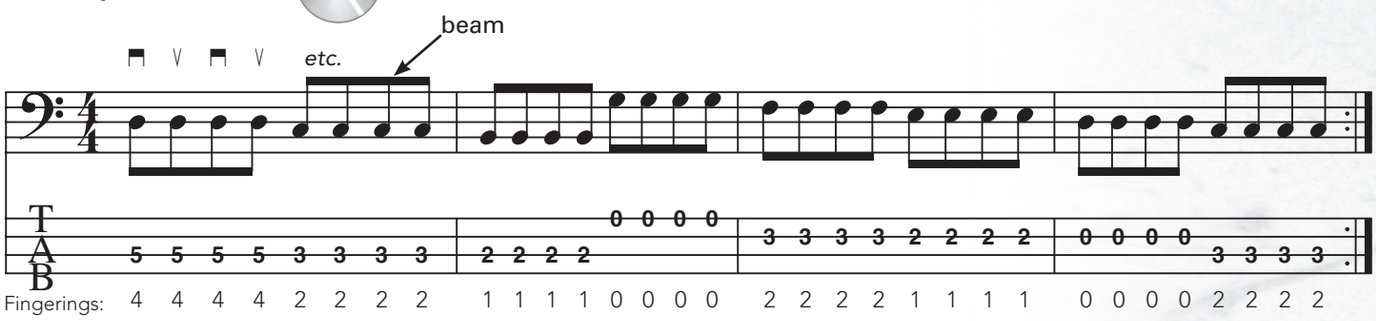
= ½ beat

Eighth-note bass lines are a staple in rock music. Despite their seemingly easy construction, they can be tricky to play effectively. When practicing eighth-note patterns, it's important to think of going forward and not letting the lines get bogged down. As always, practice with a metronome or drum machine. Always play with what I call "attitude." Drive the music—give it life. Remember, you're the bass player—play like it!

Notice that when eighth notes occur in succession, they are beamed together.

Example No. 21

Track 12



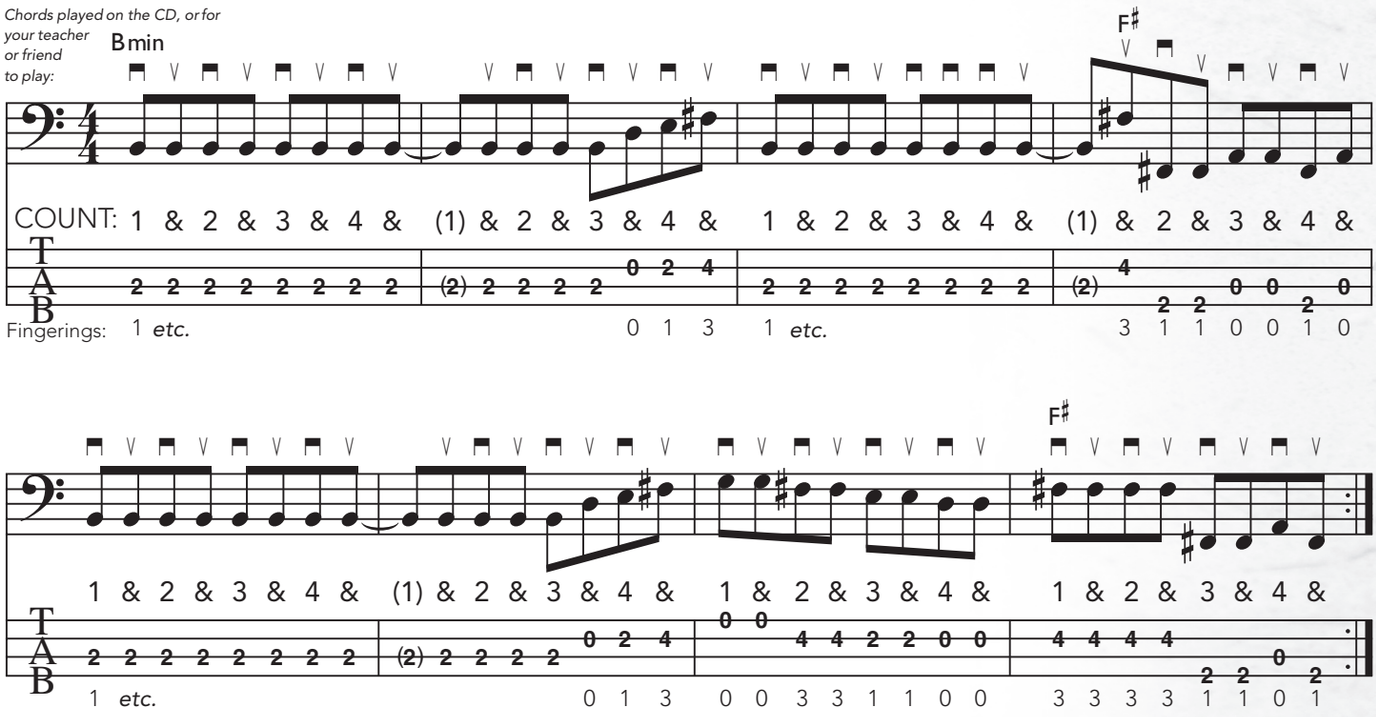
On the surface, these lines seem easy. Technically, they are. Musically...now that's another story. If you need inspiration, listen to any Rolling Stones or Van Halen tune.

Here's a line that uses ties across the bar lines. This produces a very cool bass line.

In the Style of Van Halen

Example No. 22

Track 13

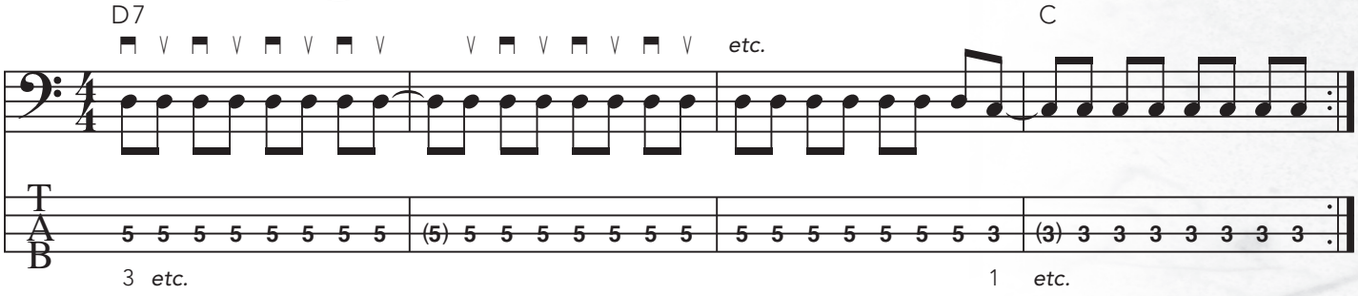


BUILDING BASS LINES

Roots and 5ths

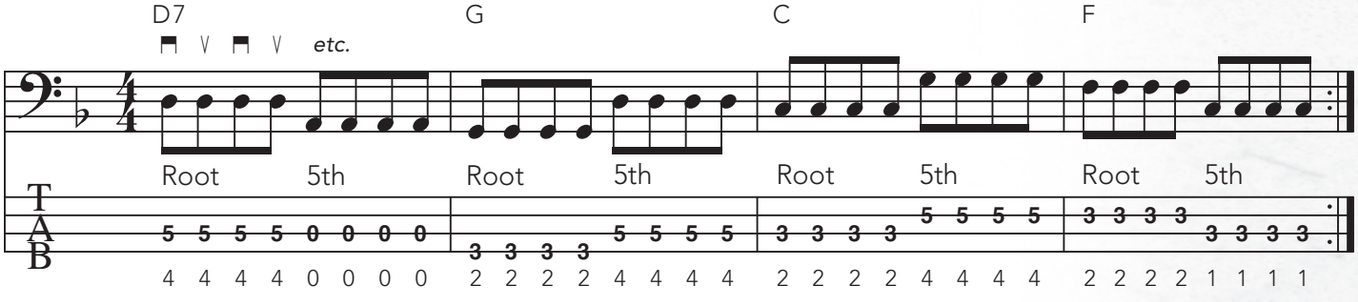
In learning to build your own bass lines, it's best to start with the fundamentals, so let's start with some basic lines. The first involves root motion. In other words, only the root of each chord is played. At a rock gig, you could do this all night long and be slammin'. Many of rock's best bass lines consist of nothing more than the root of each chord being played in eighth notes.

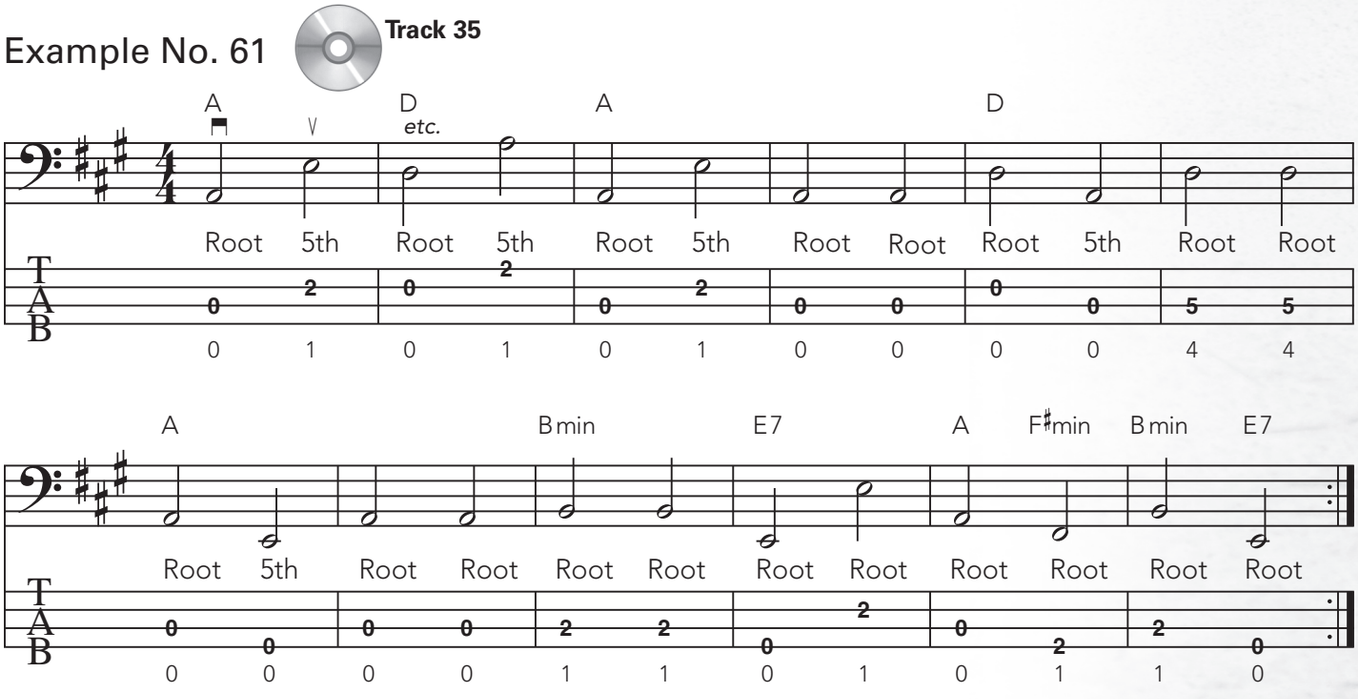
Example No. 59 **Track 33**



Adding the 5th of the chord makes this line more interesting.

Example No. 60 **Track 34**



Example 61 uses both concepts.

Example No. 61 **Track 35**