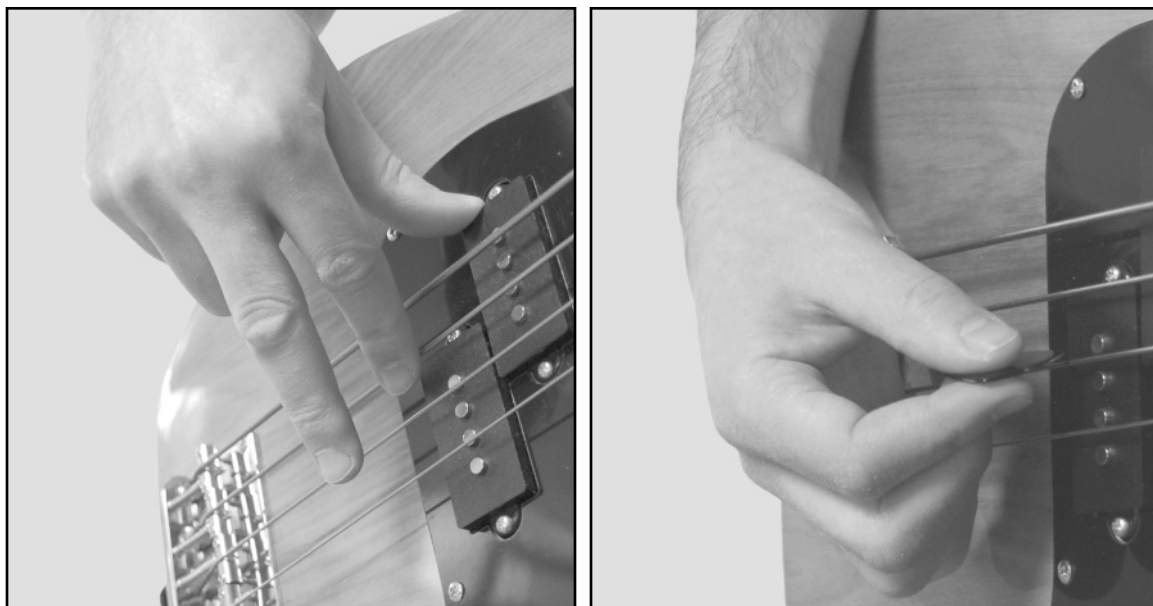


Contents

INTRODUCTION	3	Example 5C	21
TYPES OF BASSES	4	Example 5D	21
Four-String.....	4	PLAYING WITH A DRUMMER	22
Fretless Bass	4	Example 6A – Ballad Pattern.....	22
Five- and Six-String Basses.....	5	Example 6B – Adding 5th	
Strings	5	(G) with Snare	22
PARTS OF THE BASS	6	Example 6C – Variation	22
AMPLIFIERS	7	Example 7 – Country Pattern	24
HOW TO TUNE UP	7	Example 7A – Root with Bass Drum.....	24
Electric Tuners	7	Example 7B – Adding 5th Below	24
Tuning to a Piano or		Example 7C – Combination	24
Electronic Keyboard.....	8	Example 8 – Latin Pattern	25
Tuning the Bass to Itself		Example 8A – Root with	
(Relative Tuning).....	8	Bass Drum/Latin	25
Tuning by Harmonics.....	9	Example 8B – Adding 5th Above.....	25
To Tune Using Harmonics.....	9	Example 8C – Adding 5th Above	
CHANGING STRINGS	9	and Below.....	25
To Replace a String.....	9	Example 9.....	26
NOTE NAMES ON		PLAYIN’ THE BLUES	28
THE FINGERBOARD	10	Example 10.....	28
The Musical Alphabet	10	Example 10A – G7 Blues Pattern	28
MUSIC NOTATION	11	Example 10B – C7 Blues Pattern.....	28
The Staff and Measures.....	11	Example 10C – D7 Blues Pattern	29
Tablature.....	11	Example 10D – Combination	
RHYTHM NOTATION AND		Blues Patterns – Quarter Notes.....	29
TIME SIGNATURES	12	Example 11 – Combination Blues	
PICKING AND		Pattern – Eighth Notes.....	29
RIGHT-HAND TECHNIQUES	13	Example 12 – Complete Blues	30
Example 1 – Open-String Exercise.....	13	Example 13 – Shuffle Blues	31
FRETTING TECHNIQUES	14	Example 14 – 12-Bar Blues.....	32
Example 2 – Fingerboard Exercise.....	15	Example 15.....	33
COMMON BASS LINES	16	SLAP & POP TECHNIQUE	34
The Major Chord	16	Example 16 – The Slap	34
Example 3A – Root Only	17	Example 17 – The Pop	35
Example 3B – Major Arpeggio.....	17	Example 18.....	35
Example 3C – Rhythmic Variation	17	Example 18A – Combining Slap and Pop ...	35
Example 3D – Compilation Arpeggios.....	18	Example 18B – Variation	35
The Minor Chord	18	Example 19.....	36
Example 4 – Am–Dm–Bm–Em Arpeggios	19	Example 19A – Octave Exercise.....	36
Example 4D – Compilation	20	Example 19B – Variation.....	36
Example 5A	20	Example 19C – Combination	37
Example 5B	21	Example 20 – The Hammer-On	38
		Example 21 – The Pull-Off.....	38
		Example 22.....	39
		BASS FINGERBOARD CHART	40

Picking and Right-Hand Techniques

There are basically two ways to pluck the string: one is to use an actual pick, and the other is to play with two fingers of the right hand: the index and middle fingers. The pick gives a brighter sound with more attack and can be manipulated easier at faster tempos. The two-finger method is the most common, producing a warm and distinctive sound. When using this method, anchor your thumb to the bass, usually to the pickup. It is also important to alternate the right-hand attack, either by picking down and up with the pick (indicated \blacksquare and \blacktriangledown) or alternating the index and middle fingers (indicated i and m).



EXAMPLE I – OPEN-STRING EXERCISE

Track 7

This exercise concentrates on the right hand exclusively. Mute the strings with your left hand by gently holding the strings without actually fretting them. Remember to alternate the picking in the right hand.

i m i m
 $\blacksquare \blacktriangledown \blacksquare \blacktriangledown$

T
A
B

Common Bass Lines



Let's talk about how to create some common bass lines. First of all, in many musical situations, the one note the bass player plays the most is the *root* of whatever chord is being played at the time. The root of a chord is the note on which the chord is built, and is where the chord gets its name (the root of a C chord is C).

Occasionally, bass players want to play some other notes to add color to their bass lines, so they turn to other chord tones besides the root, called *arpeggios*, to find which notes to use. An arpeggio is made up from the notes of a chord played one at a time. Let's start with the arpeggio of a very common chord type: the major chord.



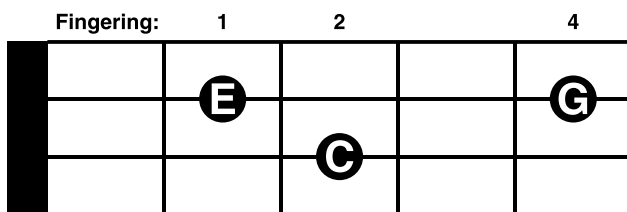
THE MAJOR CHORD

The notes of a major arpeggio are the root, the third, and the fifth. The third of a C major chord is three notes up the C major scale (C–D–E) and the fifth is five notes up the C major scale (C–D–E–F–G).

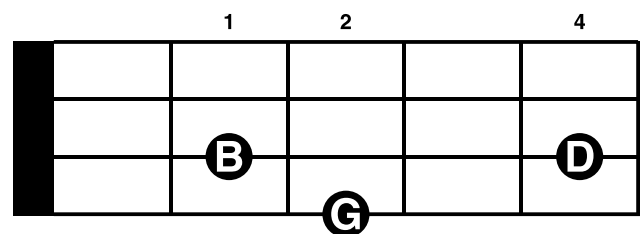
C Major Scale:	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
C Major Chord:	C		E		G			
	1		3		5			

An easy way to play the major arpeggio is to play the root with the 2nd finger of the fretting hand. That makes the third easily reachable using the 1st finger, and the 4th finger can easily grab the fifth. This is great because you can move this arpeggio around just by knowing the root of the chord you're playing against. Practice this arpeggio pattern over C and then transpose it to G and D.

C Major Arpeggio



G Major Arpeggio



D Major Arpeggio

