ebassguitar

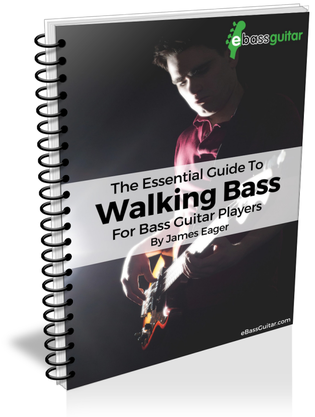
Walking Bass & Jazz
Foundations Guide

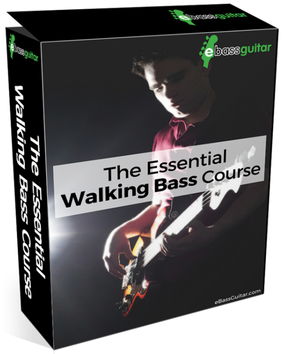
The Easy To Understand Guide To Creating Walking Bass Lines & The Foundational Tunes & Fundamental Grooves Found On A Jazz Jam Session

Walking Bass & Jazz Foundations Guide

- **MODULE 1:** Discover The ‘3M System For Walking Bass’ - 3 Simple Methods To Create Walking Bass Lines
- **MODULE 2:** Learn The 3 Most Common ‘Jazz Chord Structures’ & Forms All Bass Players Need To know Before Going Playing At A Jazz Jam Session
- **MODULE 3:** Discover The 3 Fundamental Grooves Bass Players Will Find At A Jazz Jam Session

Resources



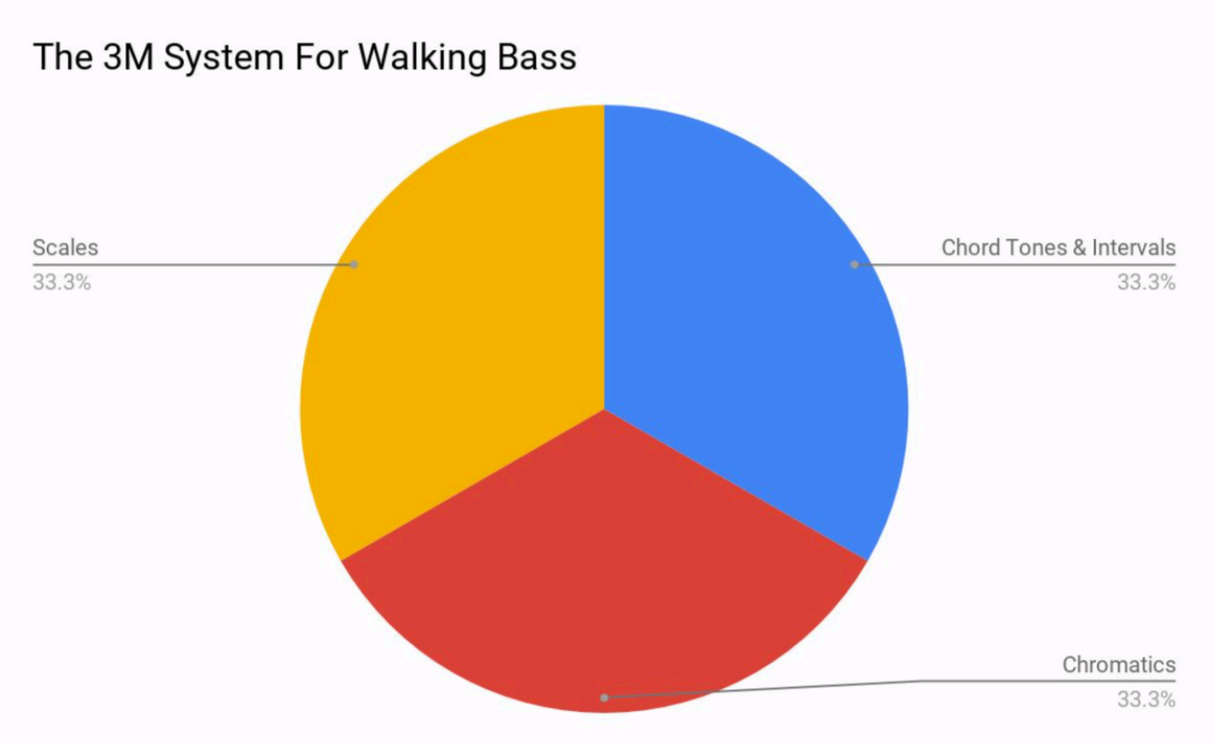


- The Essential Guide To Walking Bass For Bass Players Book
- The Essential Guide To Walking Bass Video Course
- Jazz Jam Backing Track Album Volume 1 & 2

- Available at eBassGuitar.Com

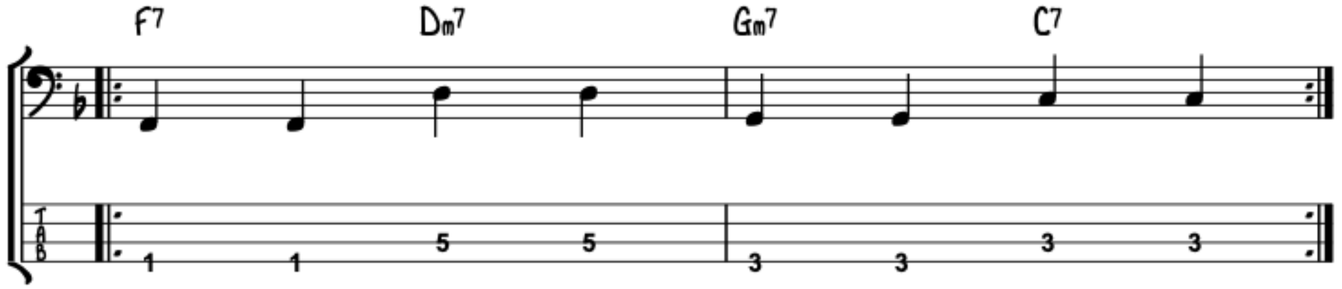
Module 1 | Lesson 1
‘3M System For Walking Bass Line Creation’

- The Chromatic Method
- The Chord Tone & Interval Method
- The Scalic Method



Each Method Has It’s Own Unique Sound

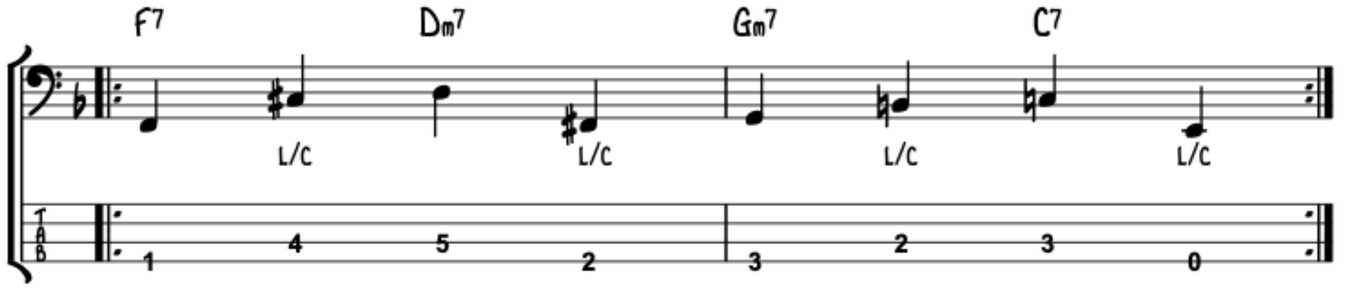
The **I-VI-II-V** Turnaround



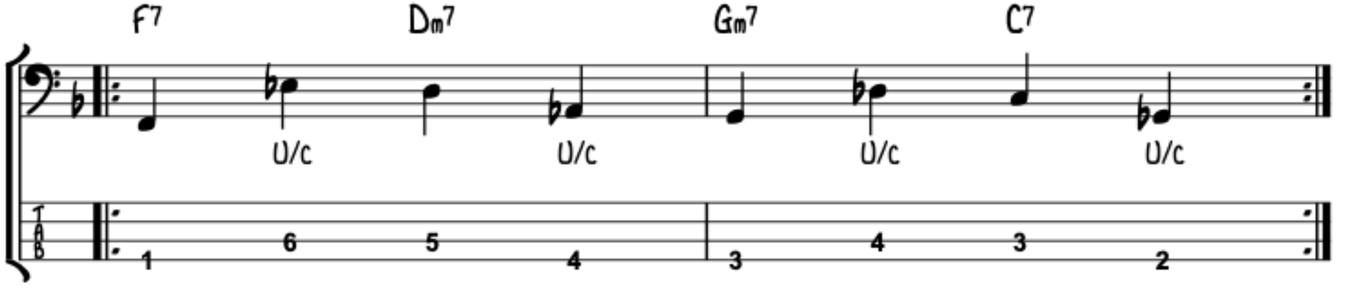
The **Chromatic** Method

Sound: Angular & Jazzy

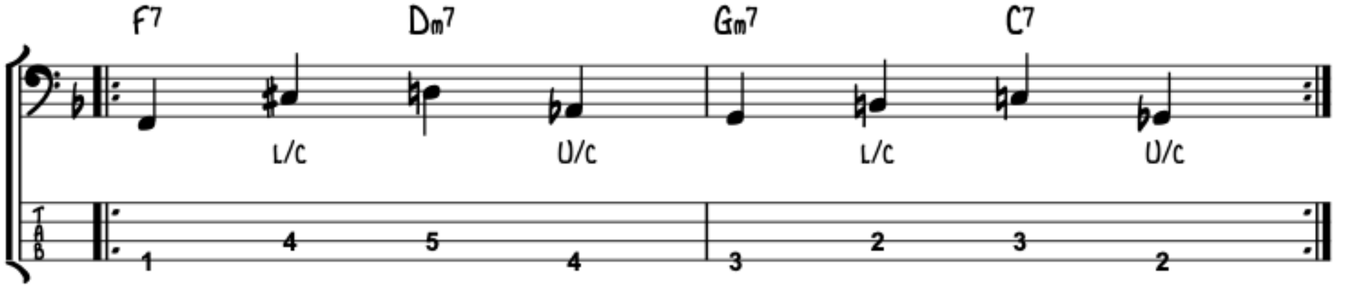
Lower Chromatic Approach



Upper Chromatic Approach



Upper & Lower Chromatic Approach

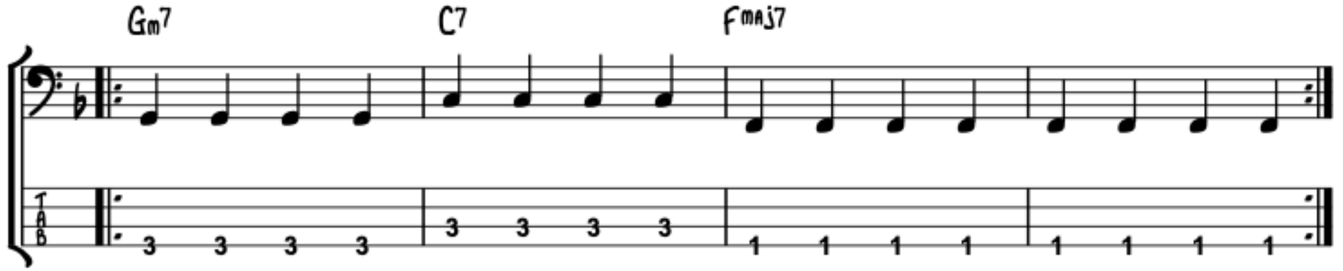


Module 1 | Lesson 2

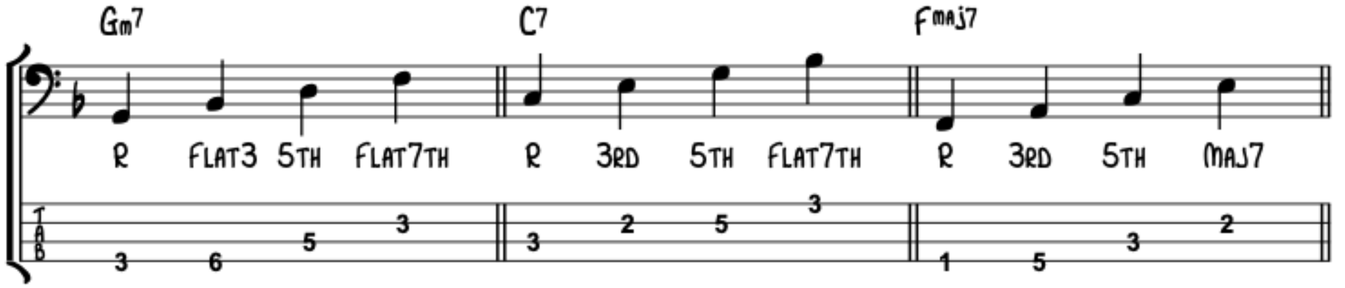
The Chord Tone & Interval Method

Sound: This approach outlines the harmony / sound of the chord

The II-V-I Chord Sequence

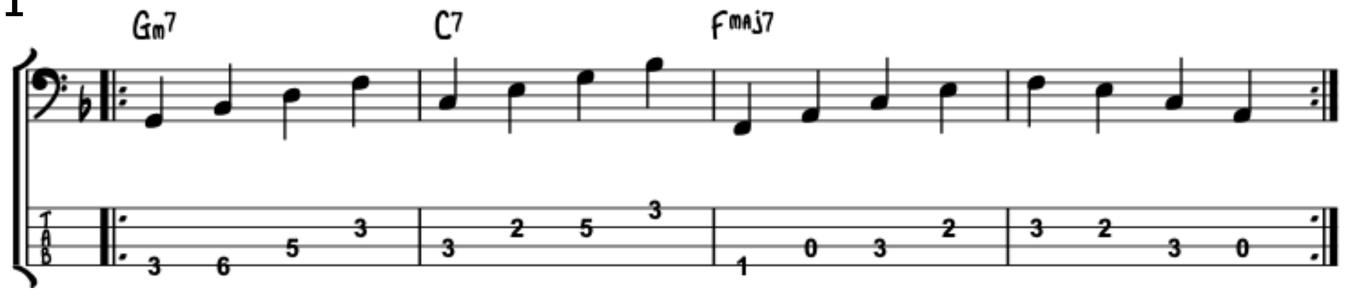


Chord Tones / Arpeggios For The II-V-I

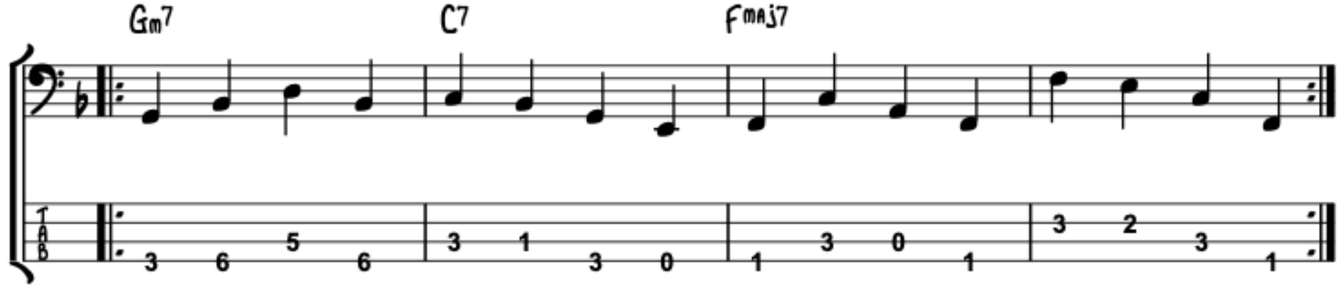


Chord Tones, Arpeggios & Triads In Action

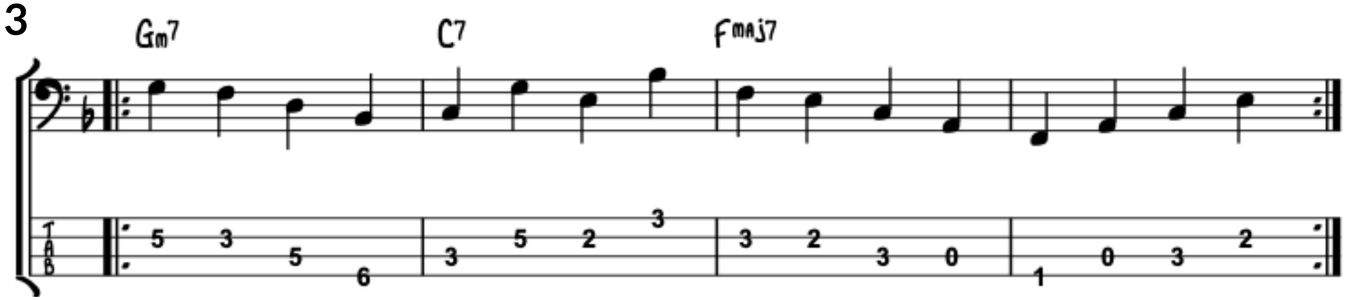
Example 1



Example 2



Example 3

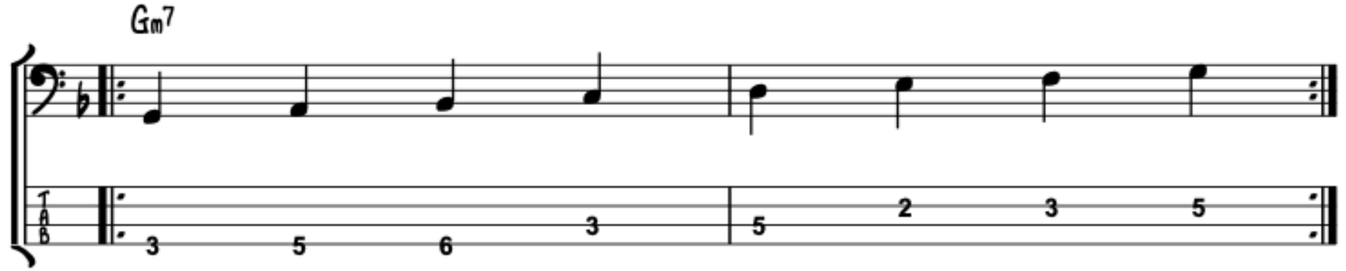


Module 1 | Lesson 3

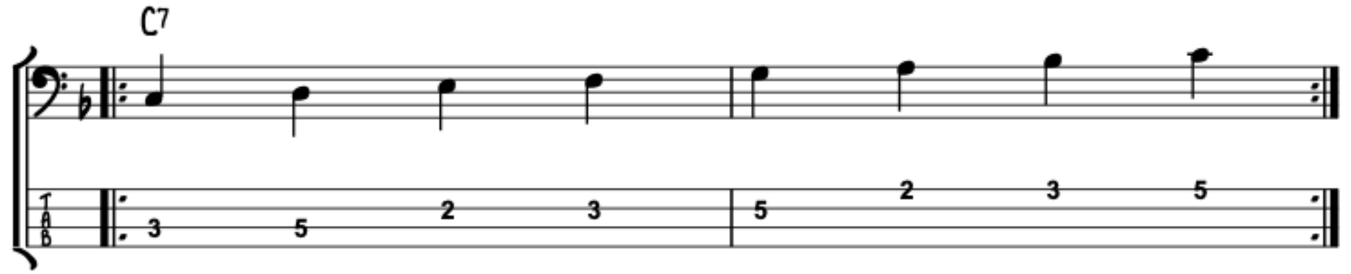
The Scalic Method (II-V-I)

Sound: This approach leads the ear from chord to chord

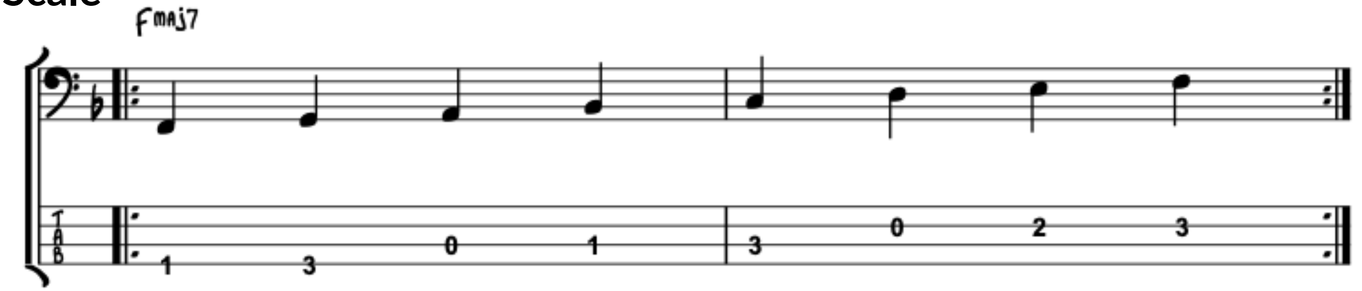
G Minor / Dorian Scale



C7 / Mixolydian Scale

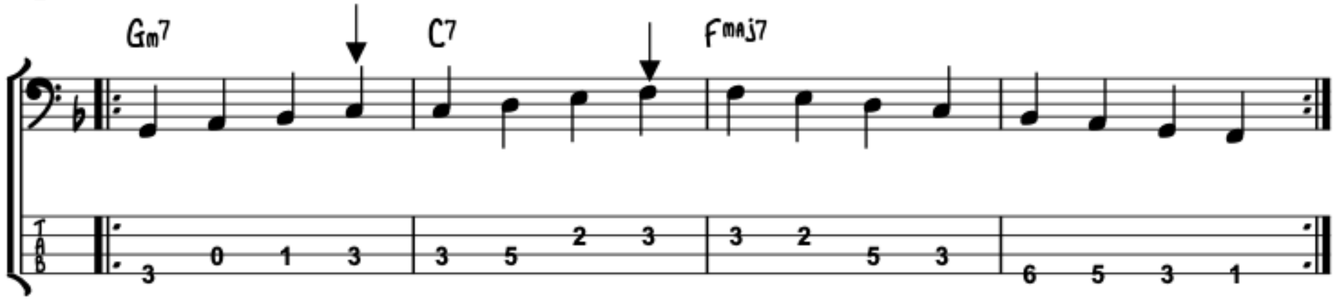


F Major Scale / Ionian Scale

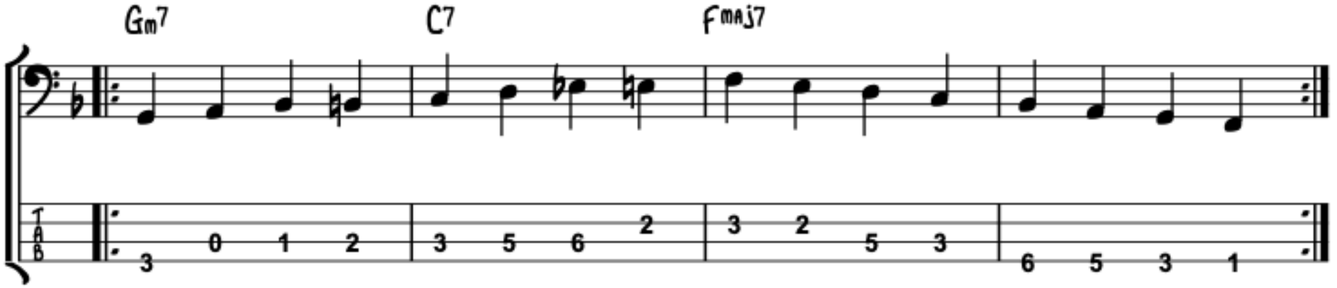


II-V-I Using Scales

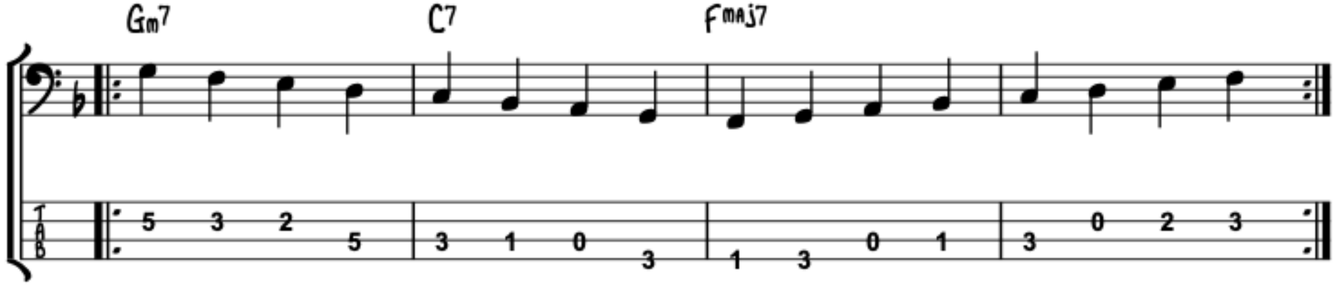
The Issue With Using Scales



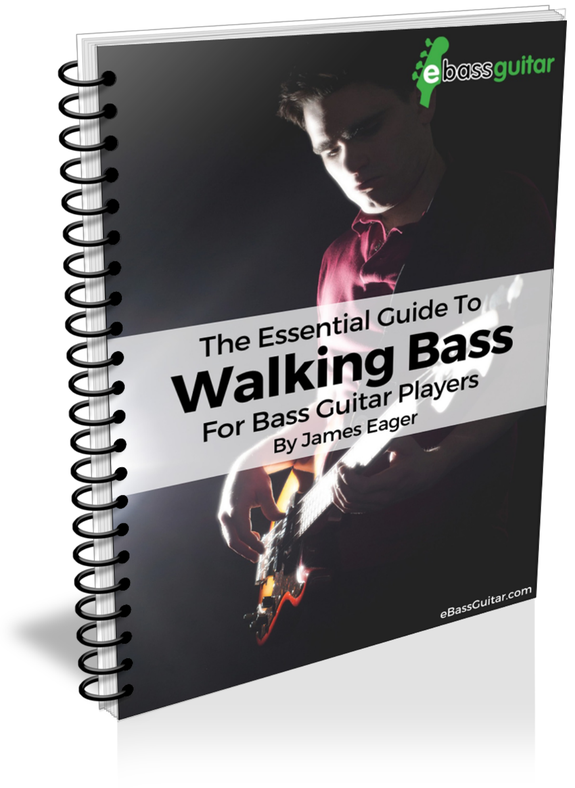
The Chromatic Fix



Inverting The Scale (No Chromatics Required!)



Module 1 - The ‘3m System’ Round Up



- Notice how each Method has it’s own unique sound
- In practice the Methods all interlink
- For more detail check out the Essential Walking Bass Book

Module 2 | Lesson 1
3 Fundamental Jazz Structures

- There are set structures you will see at Jazz Gigs / Jam Sessions or in Jazz / Walking Bass education time and time again.
- Blues Sequence
- 32 Bar AABA Form
- ‘Rhythm Changes’

The 12 Bar **Jazz Blues**

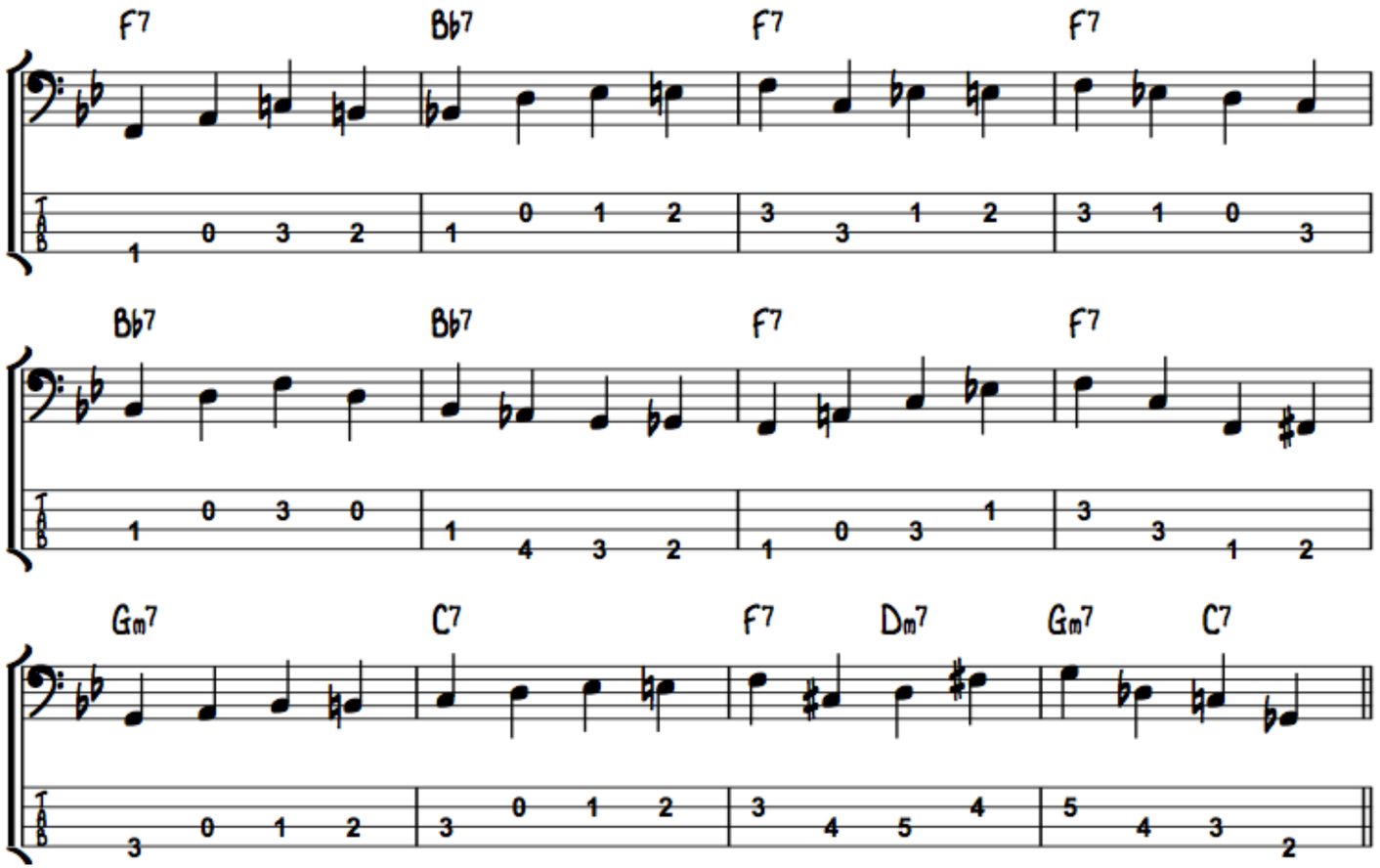
Simple 12 Bar Blues (Rock 'n' Roll)

||: F7 | % | % | % |
| Bb7 | % | F7 | % |
| C7 | Bb7 | F7 | C7 :||

Creating The Jazz 12 Bar Blues

||: F7 | Bb7 | F7 | % |
| Bb7 | % | F7 | % |
| Gm7 | C7 | F7 Dm7| Gm7 C7 :||

The 12 Bar **Jazz Blues In Practice**



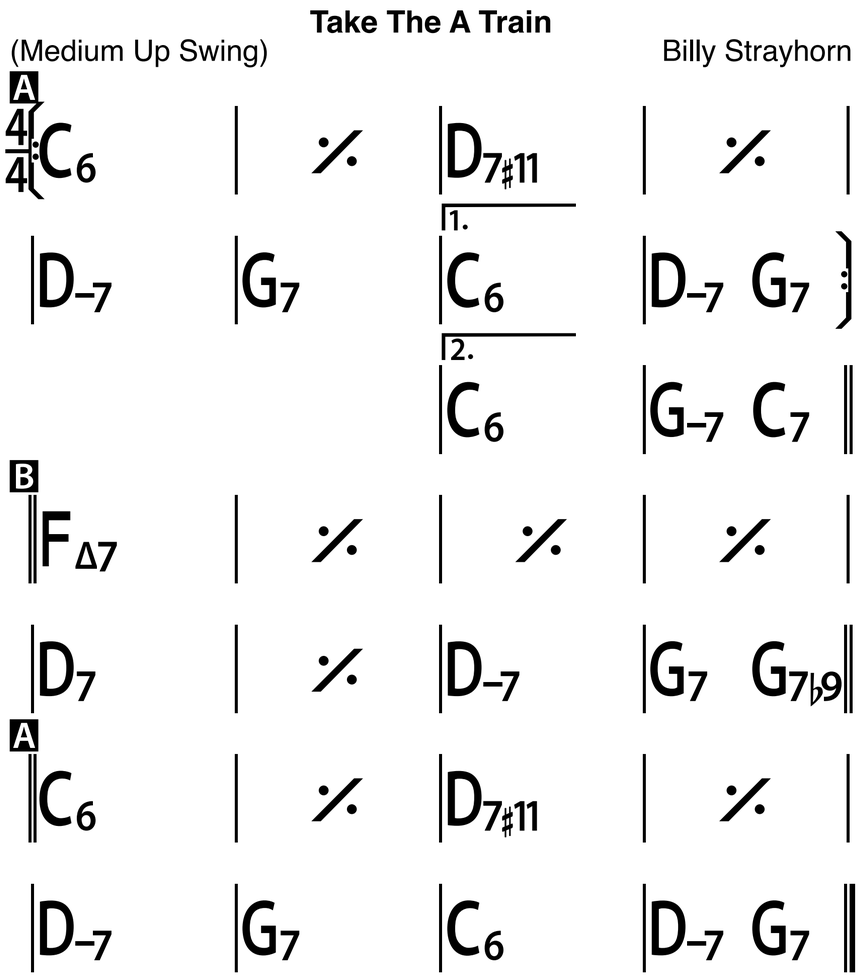
Jazz Blues Wrap Up

- **3 Key Changes To The Blues Sequence**
  - Quick IV Change In Bar 2
  - II-V-I in Bars 9-11
  - Turnaround in Bars 11-12
  - **Example Tunes**:
    - Now's The Time
    - Sandu
    - Billies' Bounce
    - Straight No Chaser
    - Tenor Madness

Module 2 | Lesson 2
The **32 Bar Jazz Chorus** [AABA]

- Jazz Standards tend to use one sequence that is repeated over an over.
- The most common length of sequence is 32 Bars
- This most commonly comprises of an ‘A’ Section and a ‘B’ section
- The most common structure is A - A - B - A
- Many of these originate from show tunes

Lesson 5 -
The **32 Bar Jazz Chorus** [AABA]



32 Bar Jazz Chorus Wrap Up

- **Songs that use the AABA form**
  - Don’t Get Around Much Anymore
  - Perdido
  - Satin Doll
  - Girl From Ipanema
  - Jazz Standards also use 16 bar sequences too.
  - Other structures to explore: A-B-A-C | A-B | A-B-C-D

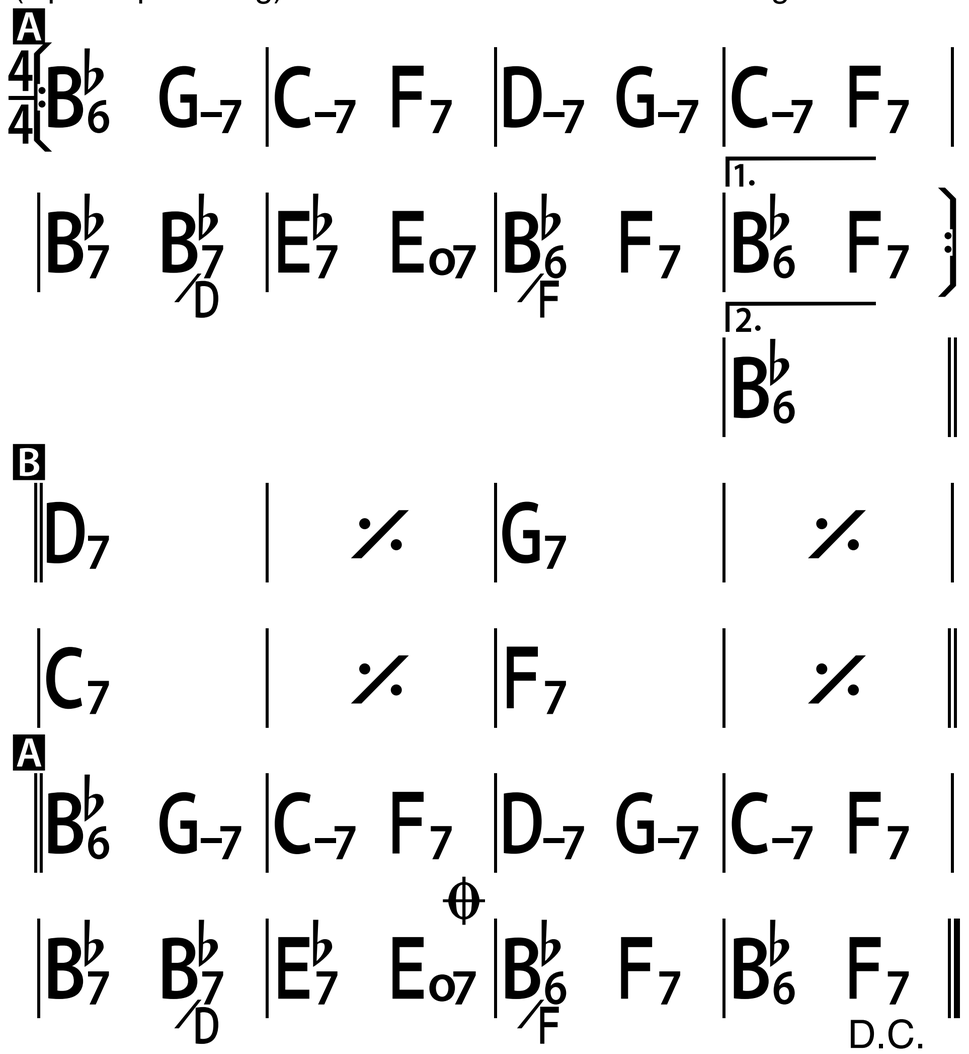
Module 2 | Lesson 3
Rhythm Changes

- **Rhythm Changes** is the chord sequence from George Gershwin's 'I Got Rhythm'
- Jazz Tunes often use this chord sequence with other melodies
- If a song is based on Rhythm Changes, all you need to know is the Key and you are good to go.
- It's another A-A-B-A form

Rhythm Changes

I Got Rhythm

(Up Tempo Swing) George Gershwin



Rhythm Changes Wrap Up

- **Rhythm Changes Can Simplified into two sequences**
  - A Section: I -VI - II -V (2 beats Each)
  - B Section: III - VI - V - I (2 Bars Each)
- **Jazz Tunes Based On Rhythm Changes**
  - Anthropology
  - Oleo
  - Scrapple From The Apple
  - Lester Leaps In
  - Moose The Mooche

Module 3 | Lesson 1
The 3 Fundamental Grooves

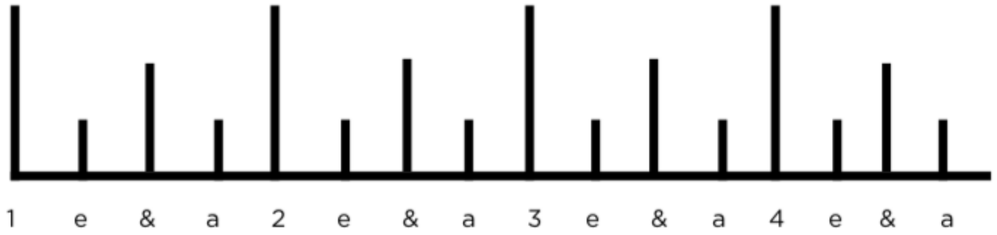
- The 3 Questions:
  - What Key?
  - What Feel? (or Groove)
  - What else do I need to know?

Module 3 | Lesson 1
The 3 Fundamental Grooves

Quarter Note - Jazz / Swing

8th Note - Rock / Latin

16th Note - Funk

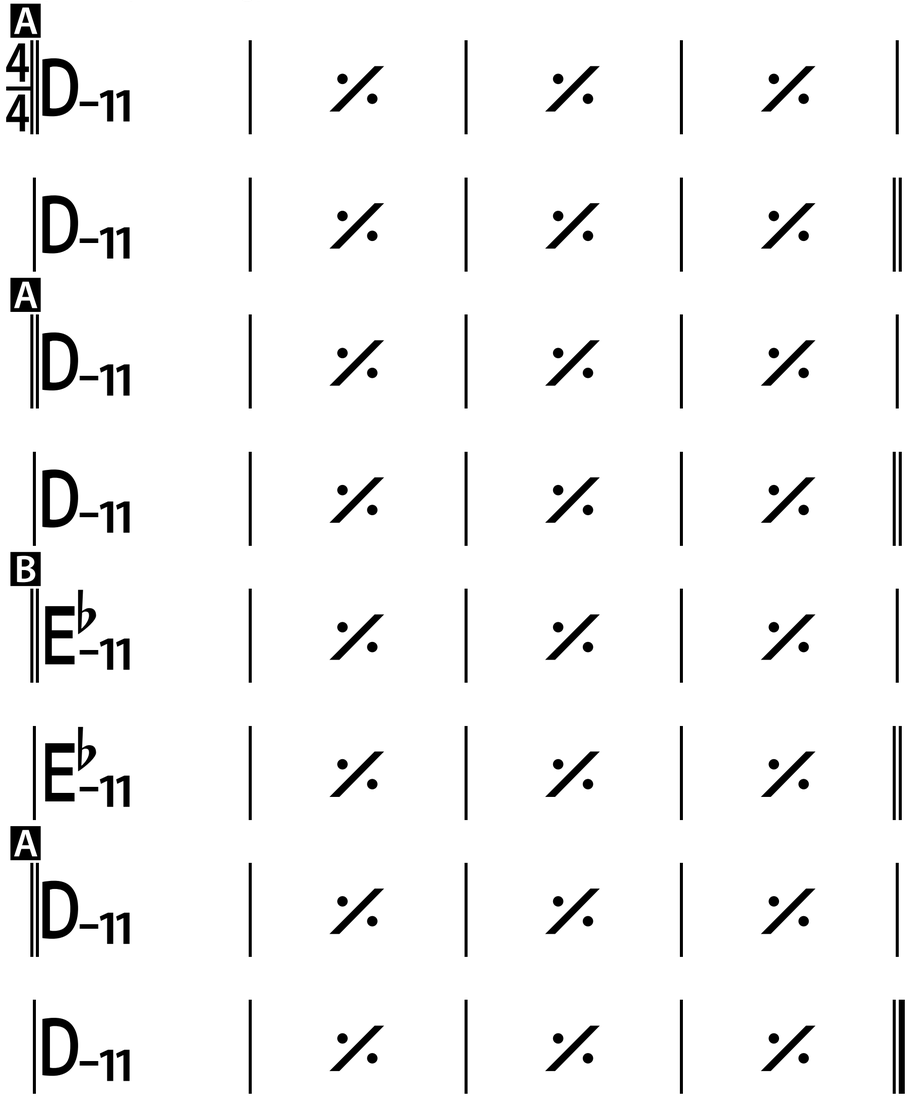


Quarter Note - Modal Jazz

- The 3 Questions:
  - Key Dm
  - Fast Swing
  - AABA Modal

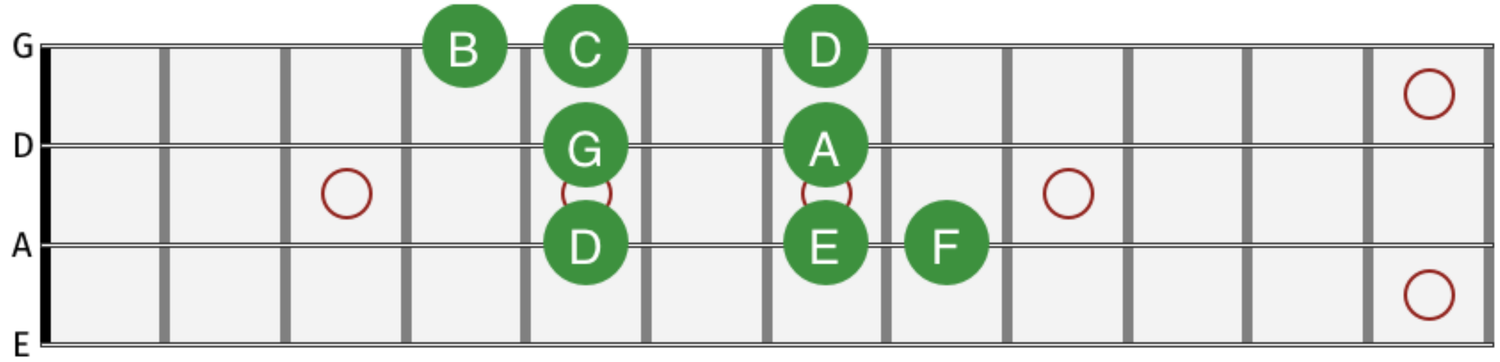
So What

(Up Tempo Swing) Miles Davis

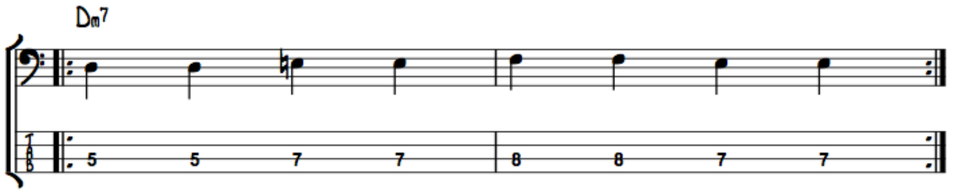


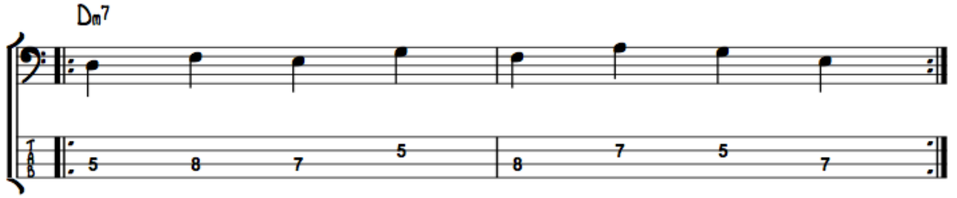
Quarter Note - Modal Jazz

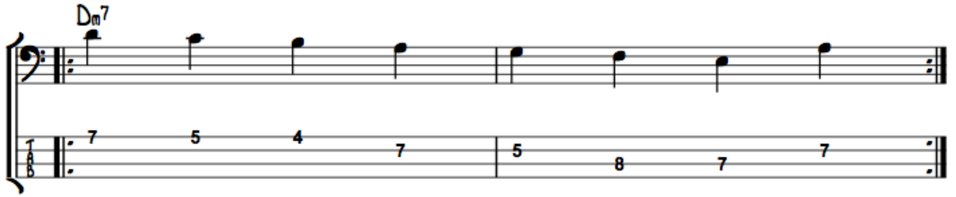
D Dorian Scale



Bass Line Ideas:







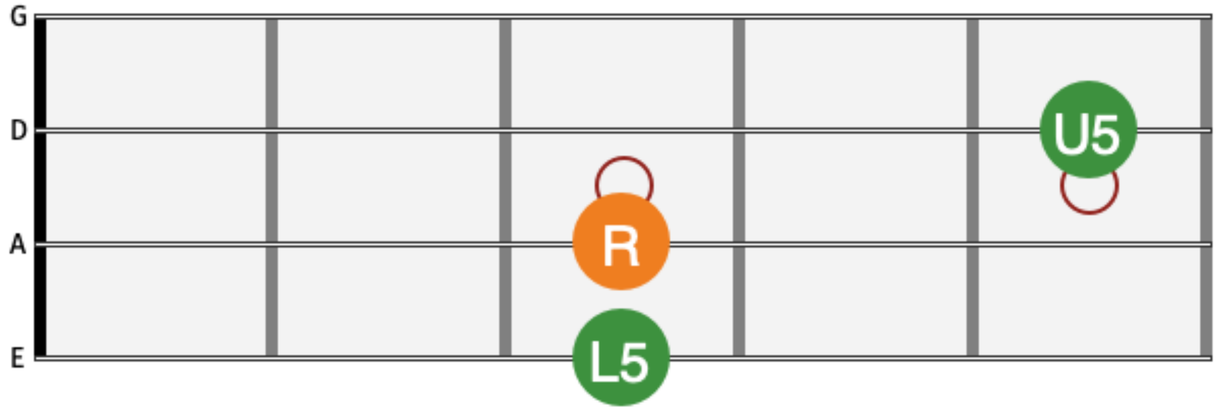
Module 3 | Lesson 2
8th Note Groove

- Straight Feel
- Bossa Nova
- Foundation is Roots & 5th

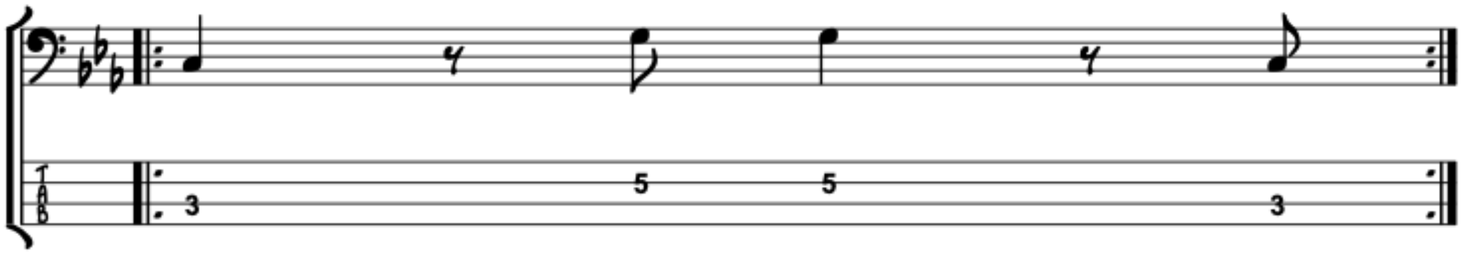
8th Note - Rock / Latin

Lesson 8 -
8th Note Groove

Roots & 5th On The Bass



Classic Bossa Bass Line

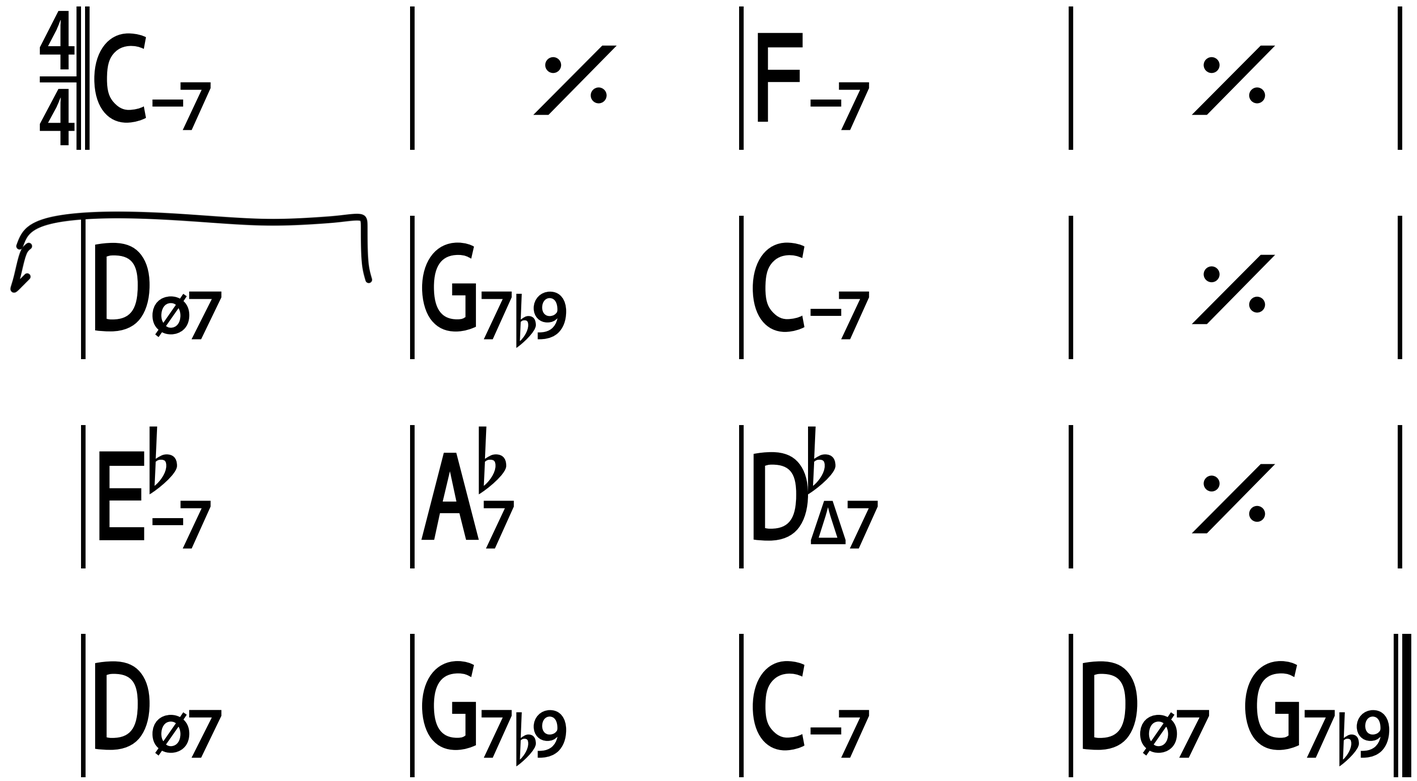


8th Note Groove

- The 3 Questions:
  - Key Cm
  - Bossa Feel
  - 16 Bar Sequence

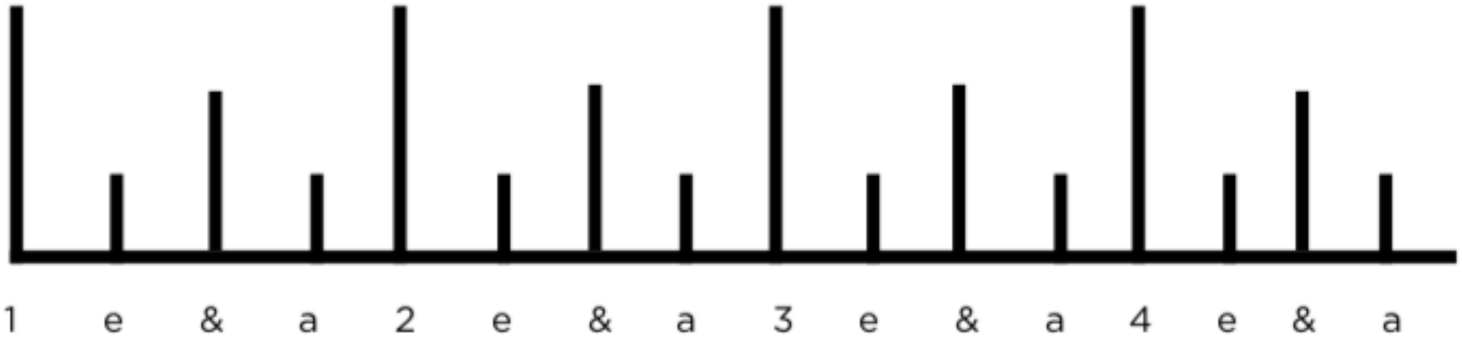
Blue Bossa

(Bossa Nova) Kenny Dorham

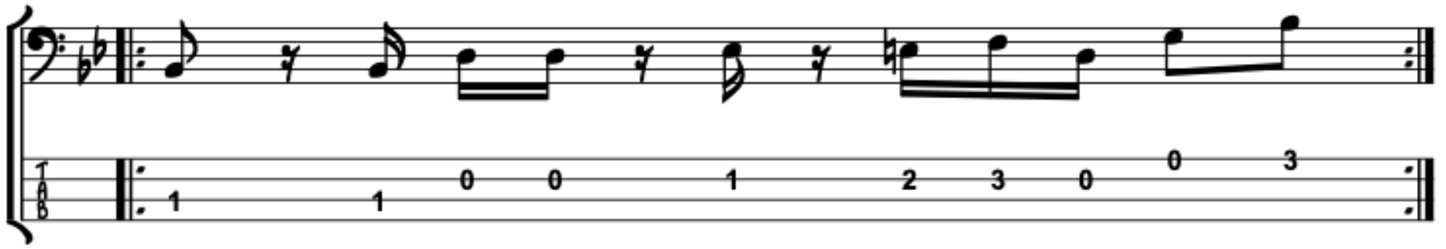


Module 3 | Lesson 3
16th Note Groove

16th Note - Funk

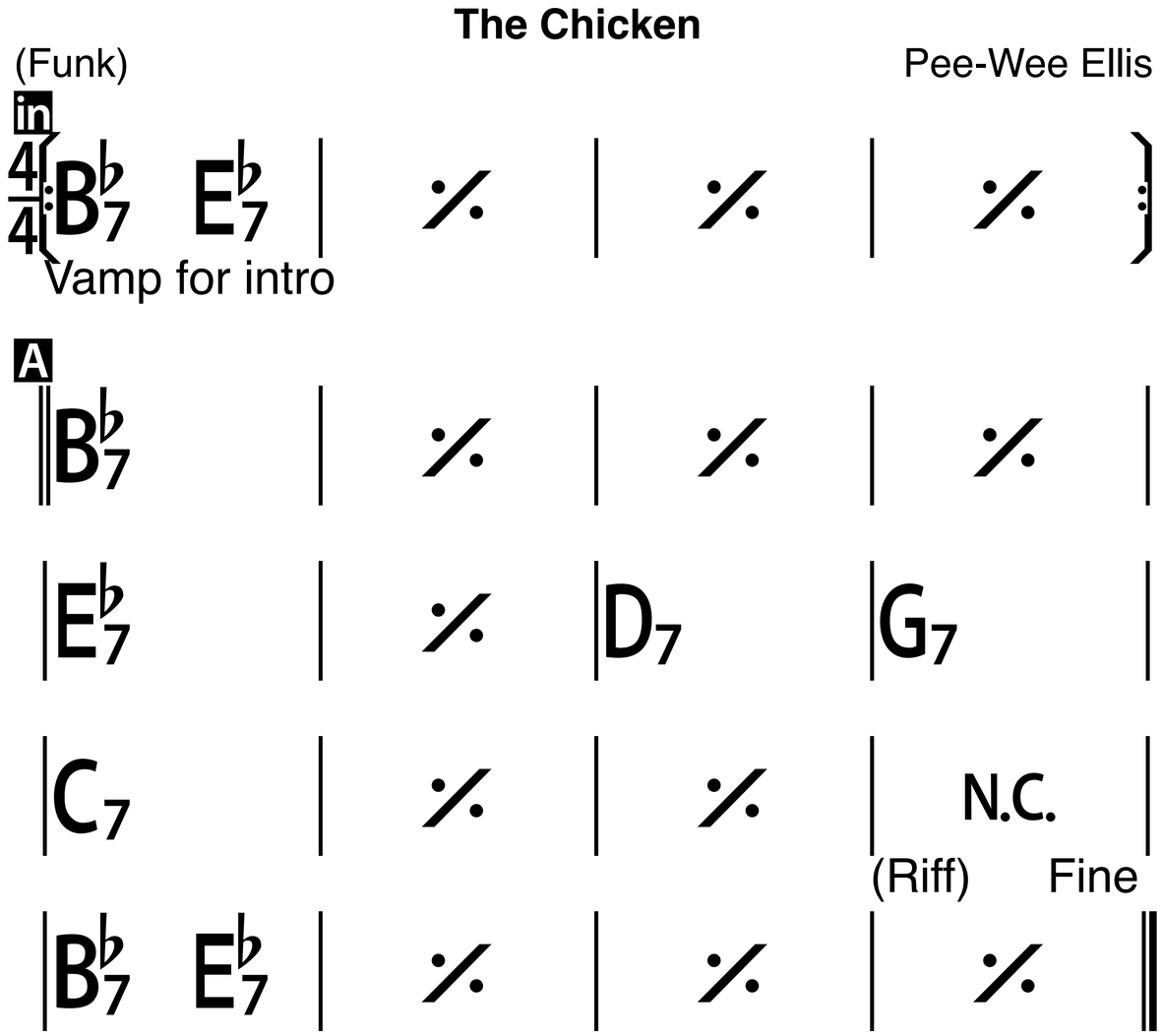


Core Bass Line For 'The Chicken'



The Chicken

- The 3 Questions:
  - Key Bb
  - Funk Feel
  - 16 Bar Form With Unison Phrase



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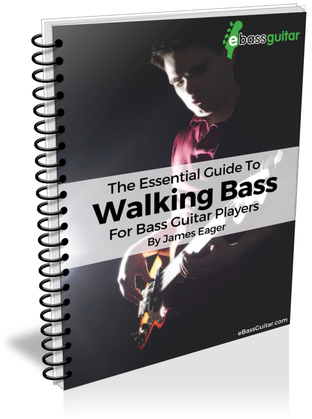
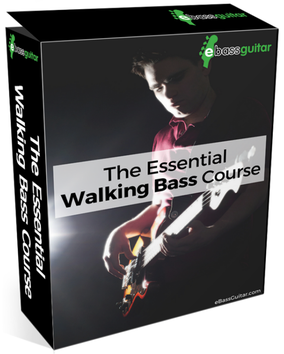
Resources





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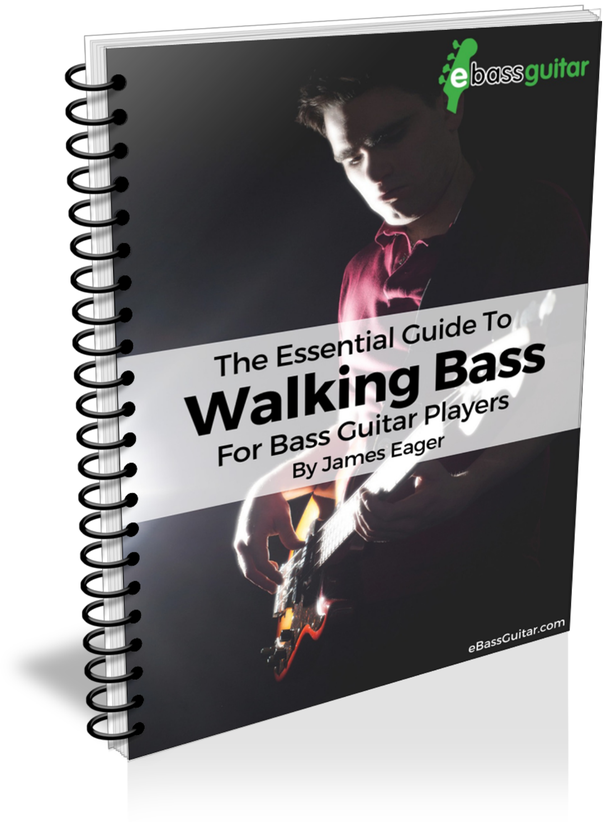
The **Essential Guide To Walking Bass** For Bass Guitar Book



- Deep Dive Into The ‘3m System For Walking Bass’
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