

Learning the Technique of Playing BASS LINES and CHORDS Simultaneously

1) The bass line is played primarily on the 5th and 6th strings.

You will use the 3rd and 4th strings occasionally, but to emulate the bass guitar the bass line should sound as low as possible.

2) The bass notes are played on the downbeat and the chords on the up beat.

3) The chord is played after every other bass note. This gives the chords a separate rhythm from the bass line. It also gives the illusion of a bass and rhythm guitar playing simultaneously.

4) It is not always necessary to play a full chord employing all six strings; sometimes a two or three-string chord will do.

5) The bass line is played with the thumb instead of with a guitar pick. Using the thumb makes the tone darker and smoother. The strumming of the chords is done with the fingers.

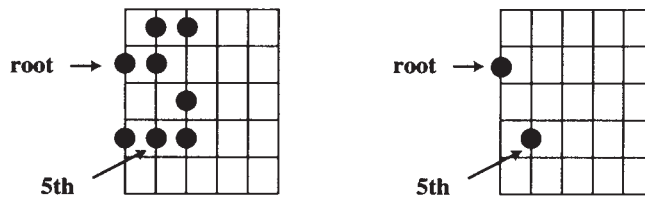
Constructing Walking Bass Solos

Root to the 5th Bass Line

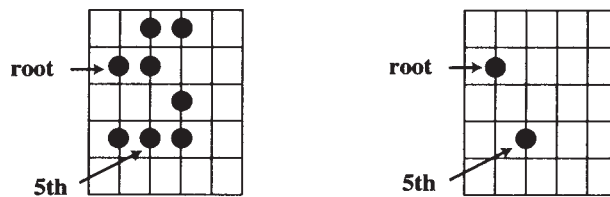
The root and 5th refers to the first and fifth note of the major scale based on the chord you are playing. For example, if you play a D major 7th chord, you can construct a bass line using the first and the fifth note of a D major scale.

Example:

Major scale with the root of the chord on the 6th string

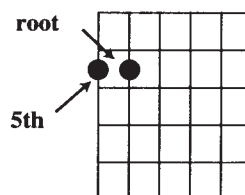


Major scale with the root of the chord on the 5th string



In order to simulate a bass guitar sound, play the bass line on the 6th and 5th strings. Given the above scale pattern, we must take the fifth scale tone (as shown in the 4th string) down an octave and play it on the sixth string:

Root on the 5th string



5th down an octave

Root - 5th over Major 7th



DM7 5fr. CM7 3fr.


DM7 5fr. CM7 3fr.


DM7 5fr. CM7 3fr.


DM7 5fr. CM7 3fr. C#M7 4fr. DM7 5fr.

Root - 5th over Minor 7th Chords

Dm7  **Cm7** 





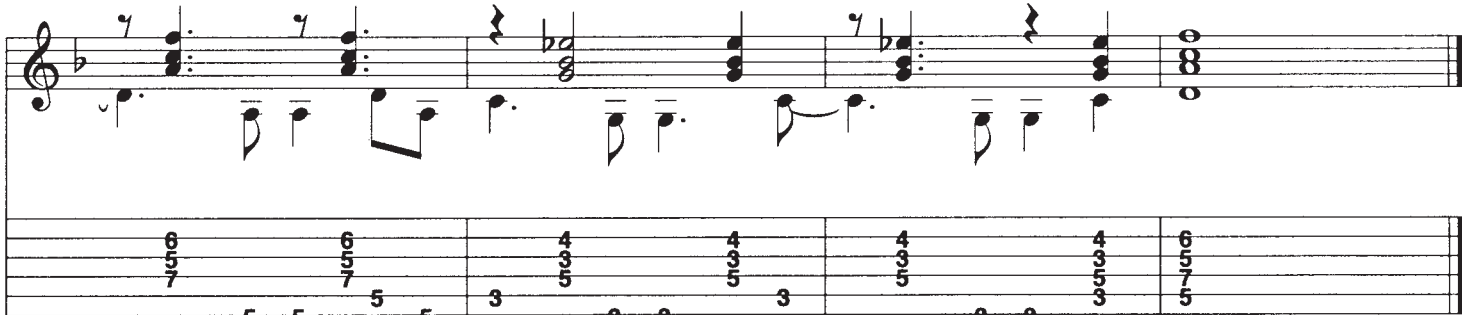
Dm7 



Cm7  **Dm7** 




Cm7  **Cm7** 




Root - 5th over a Dominant 7th Chord

D7  **C7** 







D7 



C7  **D7** 



C7  **C#7**  **D7** 



Root - 5th - Leading Tone

A leading tone is the note above or below the chord you are going to play. For example a leading tone to D would be D-flat or E-flat. Note: Play the leading tone on beat 4 of the measure. Try these exercises:

Root - 5th - Leading Tone over Major 7th Chords



DM7 5fr. CM7 3fr.

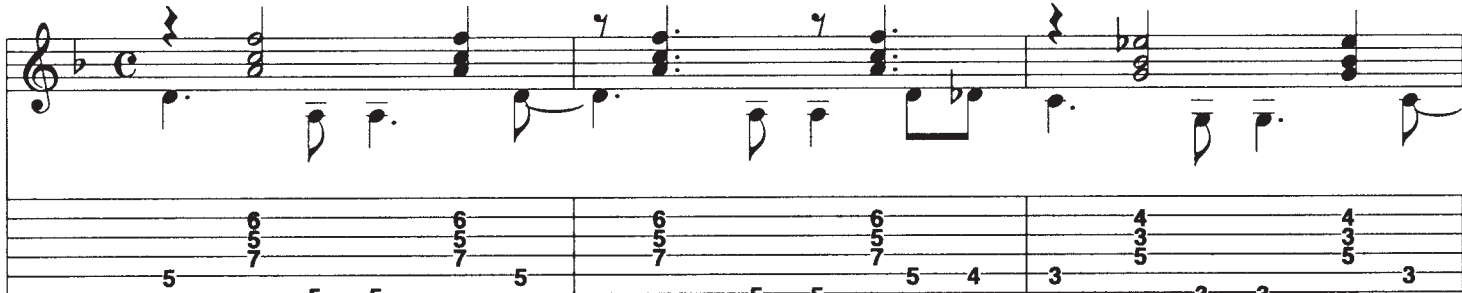
DM7 5fr. CM7 3fr.

DM7 5fr. CM7 3fr.


DM7 5fr. CM7 3fr. C#M7 4fr. DM7 5fr.


Root - 5th - Leading Tone over Minor 7th Chords

Dm7  **Cm7** 



5 5 5 5 5 4 3 3 3

Dm7 






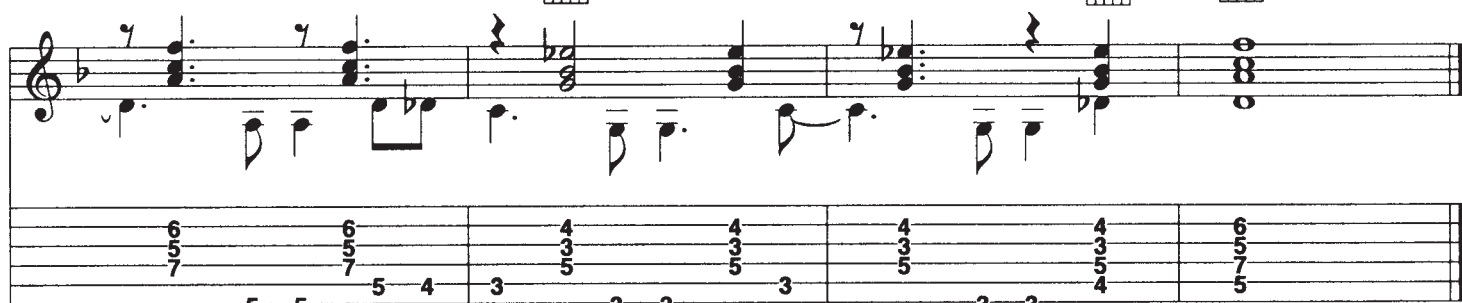
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Cm7  **Dm7** 



3 3 3 3 4 5 5 5 5

Cm7  **Cm7/D \flat**  **Dm7** 




5 5 5 4 3 3 3 4 5


Root - 5th - Leading Tone over Dominant 7th Chords

D7  **C7** 






5 3 5 4 5 5 3 5 4 5 5 3 1 3 2 1 3 2 3

D7 







1 3 3 1 3 2 3 4 5 3 5 4 5 5 3 5 4 5 5 5 4

C7  **D7** 



3 1 3 3 1 3 2 3 4 5 3 5 4 5 5 3 5 4 5

C7  **C#7**  **D7** 



3 5 4 3 5 4 5 4 3 1 3 2 3 1 3 2 3 1 2 3 4 3 3 5 4 5