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Rock House

LEARN BASS

The Method For a New Generation

1

The Rock House Method

By John McCarthy

“For over 30 years my method has brought music learning success to millions of musicians around the world. My method has proven itself to work, now you can prove it to yourself.”

John McCarthy

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Presents

Learn Bass 1

The Method for a New Generation

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Words from the Author

Playing music is a rewarding art form that will last you a lifetime, I discovered that fact shortly after I was given my first instrument. I have spent my career sharing the passion I have for music with others. With my teaching method, I truly believe you too will enjoy years of fun and will pass on the passion you discover. If you follow the method step-by-step you will be successful and enjoy playing bass for years to come. When I designed The Rock House Method, my mission was to create the most complete and fun way to learn. I accomplished this by developing and systematically arranging a modern method based on the needs and social demands of today's players. I not only tell you where to put your fingers, I show you ways to use what you learn so that you can make music right from the start. I know it is hard to imagine, but even the all-time greats started somewhere, there was a time when they too didn't even know what a chord was. As you progress as a bass player, keep your mind open to all styles of music. Set-up a practice schedule that you can manage, be consistent, challenge yourself and realize everyone learns at a different rate. Be patient, persistent and remember music is supposed to be fun!

NOW, GET EXCITED, this is it. YOU are going to play bass!

John McCarthy

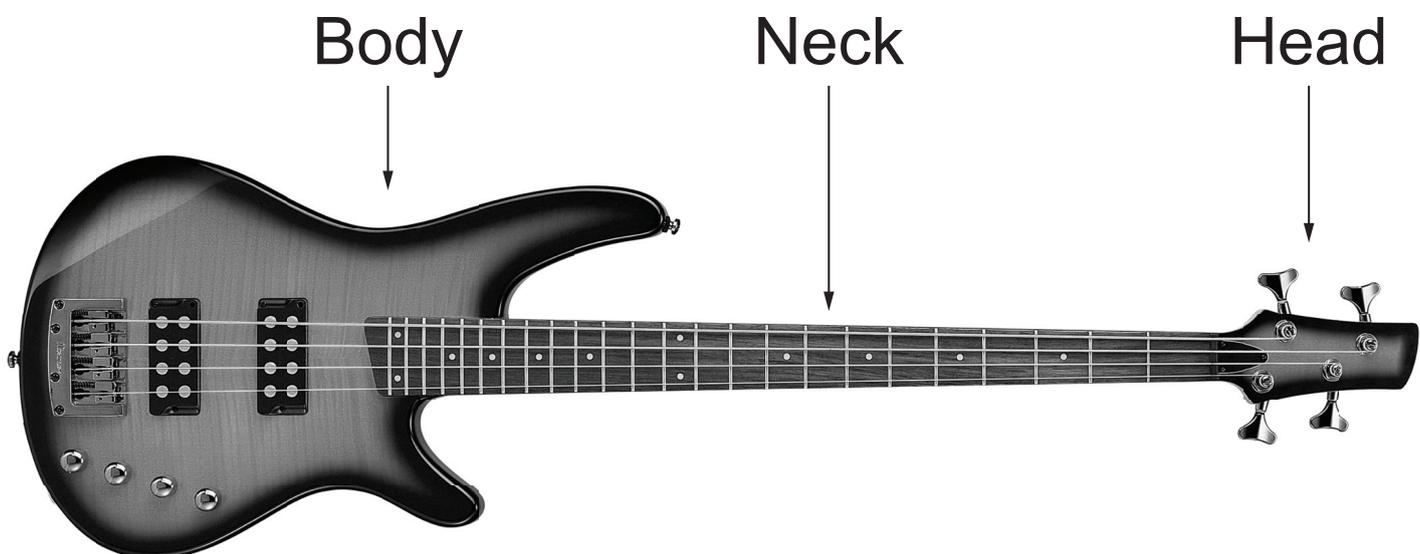
Quick Start Video

Download this free video from our On Demand System at RockHouseSchool.com. It will help guide you through the important first steps of getting started with your bass.

Parts of the Bass



A bass is made up of three main sections: the body, the neck and the headstock. All of the other parts of the bass are mounted on these three sections.



The bridge is the assembly that anchors the strings to the body. Pickups are also mounted to the body and work like little microphones that pick up the sound from the strings. A cable is plugged into the bass's input jack to send the signal into the amp. Most bass guitars will also have a pickup selector switch along with volume and tone knobs. A strap can be attached to the strap buttons to play the bass standing up.

The metal bars that go across the neck are called frets. The dots between certain frets are called position markers and help you know where your hand is on the neck while playing. At the end of the neck is the nut which guides the strings onto the headstock and keeps them in place. On the headstock, the strings are wound around the tuning posts, and the tuners (also called machine heads) are used to tune the strings to pitch.



Your First Bass Line

Get excited! It's time to learn your first bass line. This bass line is played using alternate plucking in steady quarter notes. Follow the tablature below and be sure to use the proper finger for each note. Once you can play this without hesitation play it along with the backing track to create a full band sound.

Time Signatures

Time signatures are written at the beginning of a piece of music. The sole function of a time signature is to tell you how to count the music you are about to play. The top number tells you how many beats there are in each measure and the bottom number tells what type of beat is receiving the count.

- 4** = Number of beats per measure.
- 4** = A quarter note receiving one beat.

Indicates four beats per measure.

Four beats per measure. Also known as "common time."

Rests



The following examples contain your first rests. A rests is a period of silence. Like whole, half and quarter notes you keep time only there is no sound. See what each rest looks like below:

Whole Rest 4 Beats	Half Rest 2 Beats	Quarter Rest 1 Beat	Eighth Rest 1/2 Beat
Count: 1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

Rhythm – Playing Eighth Notes

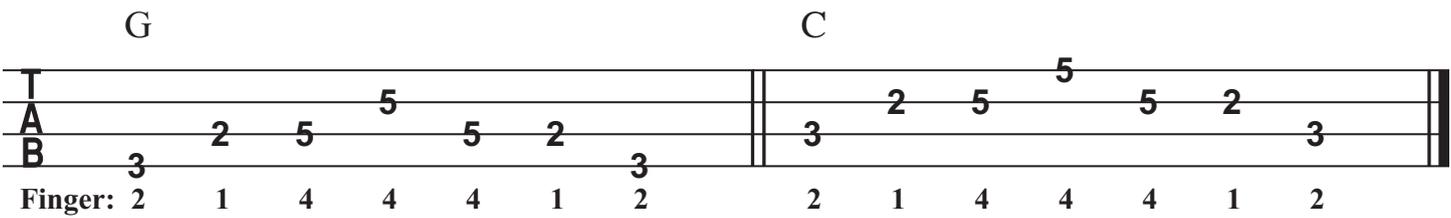
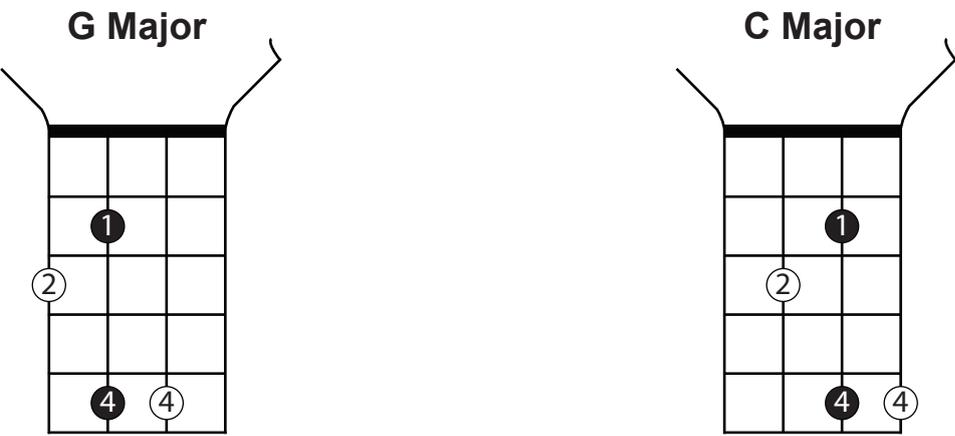


When playing eighth notes in a bass line you can create syncopated rhythms. These rhythms contain notes played on the up beat or “&” count. In example 1 you will play notes on the 1 – 3 – & counts along with the drum backing track.

In example 2 you will play on the 1 count followed by three up beat notes played on the “&” counts. This creates a very syncopated rhythm.

Major Triads

A triad is the three notes that make a chord. Many bass lines are written using triad patterns. In this lesson you will learn a common major triad pattern. These are movable triad patterns and by just playing the same pattern at other frets you will change keys. Often when playing with a guitar or keyboard player you can follow the chords they play with the triad of the same key. This is a great way to begin creating bass lines.

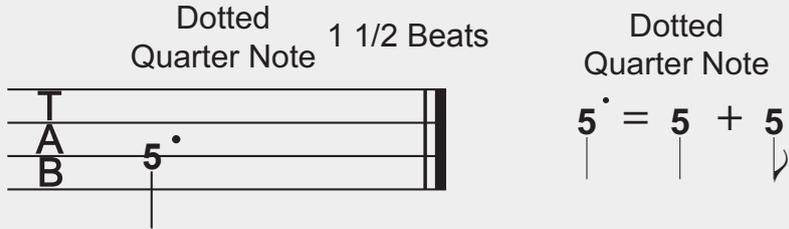


MUSIC ASSIGNMENT

Take the triad shapes from this lesson and move them around the neck. You need to become familiar playing these anywhere on the neck. Remember that the first note is the name of the triad.

Dotted Quarter Notes

The dot after a note increases the duration of the note by half of its original value. A dotted quarter note would receive 1 1/2 beats or counts.





Slap & Pop Exercise

In this example you will slap the open E string and pop the open G string. Once you have the bass line so you can play it smoothly play it along with the backing track.

TAB: 4/4, 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0

 Count: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

 S P S P | S P S P



Applying the Slap & Pop Technique

Now let's apply the slap & pop technique into a song. Below is a simple song that will incorporate three octave shapes. Play each separately first then put them together with the backing track. This song is played with a swing or shuffle feel so pay close attention to the backing track for the rhythms timing.

Example 1

TAB: 4/4, 0 2 3 5 7 | 0 2 3 5 7

 S P S P S P | S P S P S P

 Finger: 1 1 4 1 4 | 1 1 4 1 4

Example 2

TAB: 4/4, 0 2 3 5 7 | 0 2 3 5 7

 S P S P S P | S P S P S P

 Finger: 1 1 4 1 4 | 1 1 4 1 4