

Practice slowly, to get the notes securely under your fingers. When you feel comfortable with an example, gradually increase the speed.



TRACK 5

YOU GO, SLAV

27

REPEAT SIGN

When a section of music needs to be repeated, a **repeat sign** (:||) is used. When you reach the repeat sign, go back to the beginning and play the section again, ending at the last measure.



TRACK 6

ONE MORE TIME

28

The next group of exercises will use notes on the E and A strings. Go back and review the E string notes if you need to. Use the rake technique—marked with an asterisk (*)—when crossing from the A string down to the E string.

29

This exercise adds F# in measure 6. Use the fingering shown. Take the repeat.



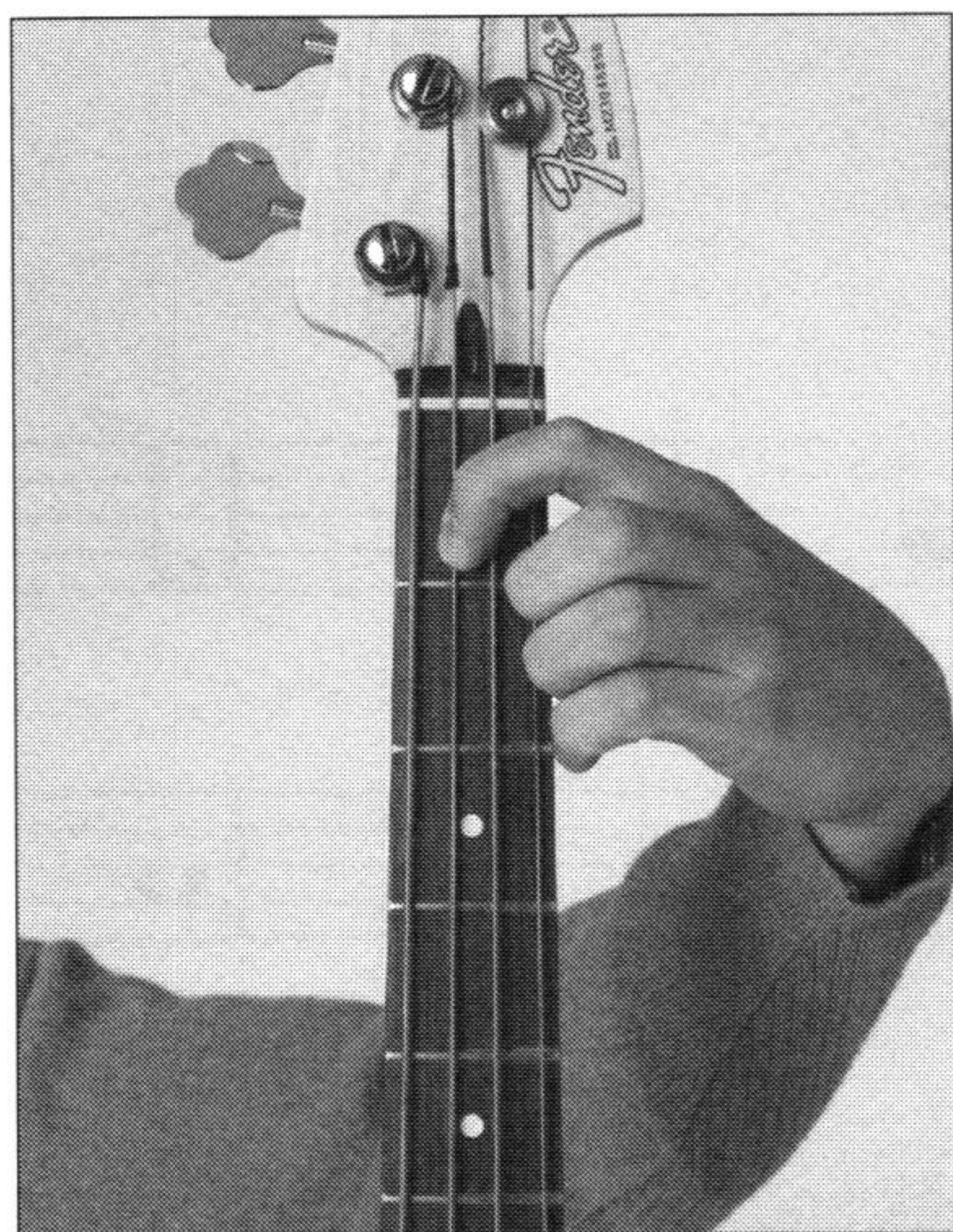
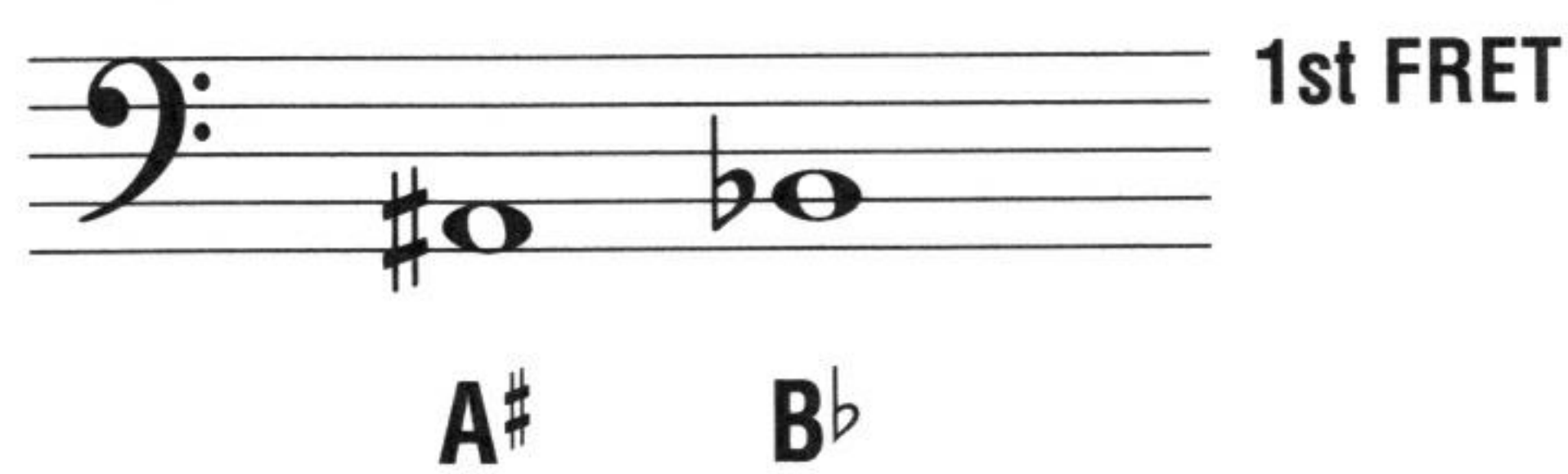
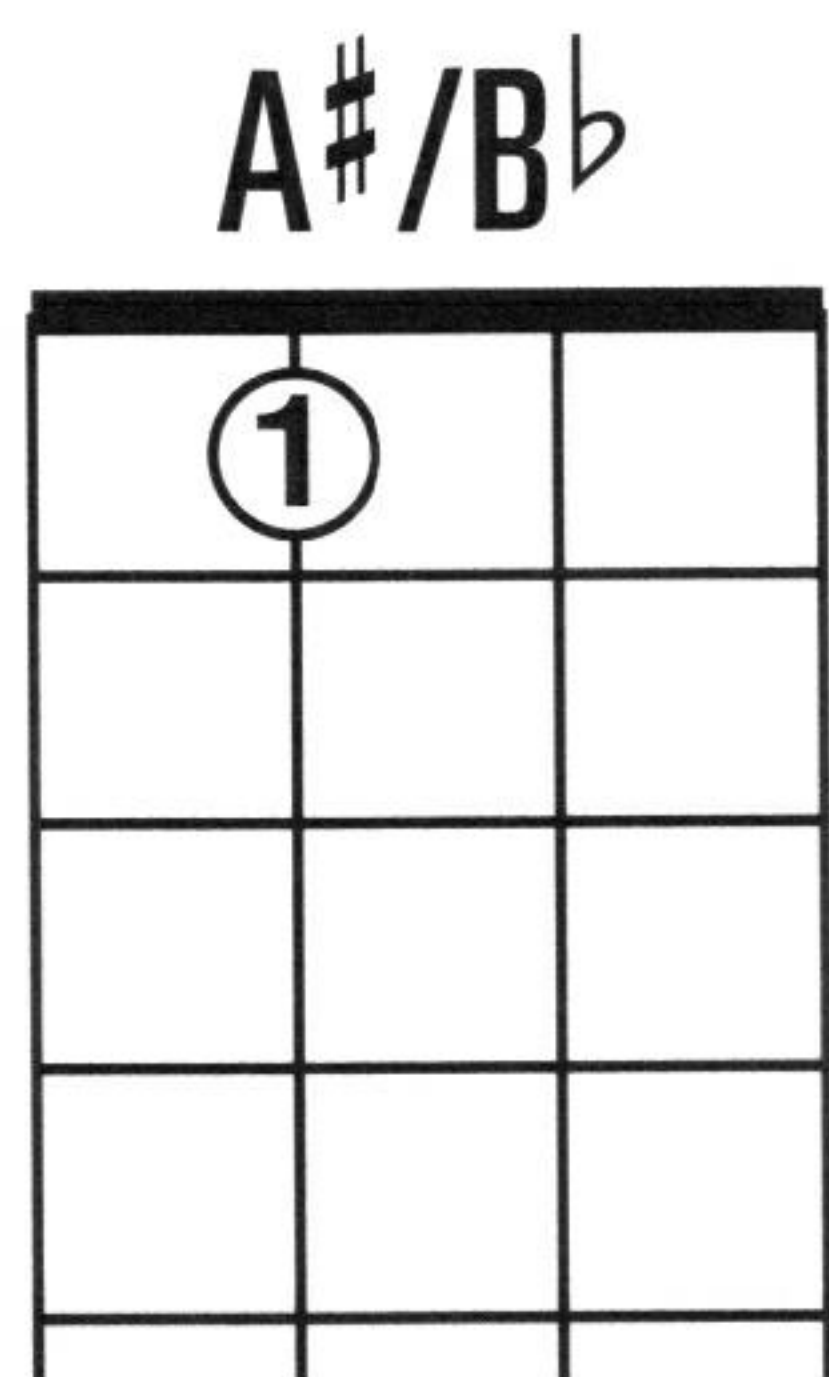
TRACK 7

CATTLE CROSSING

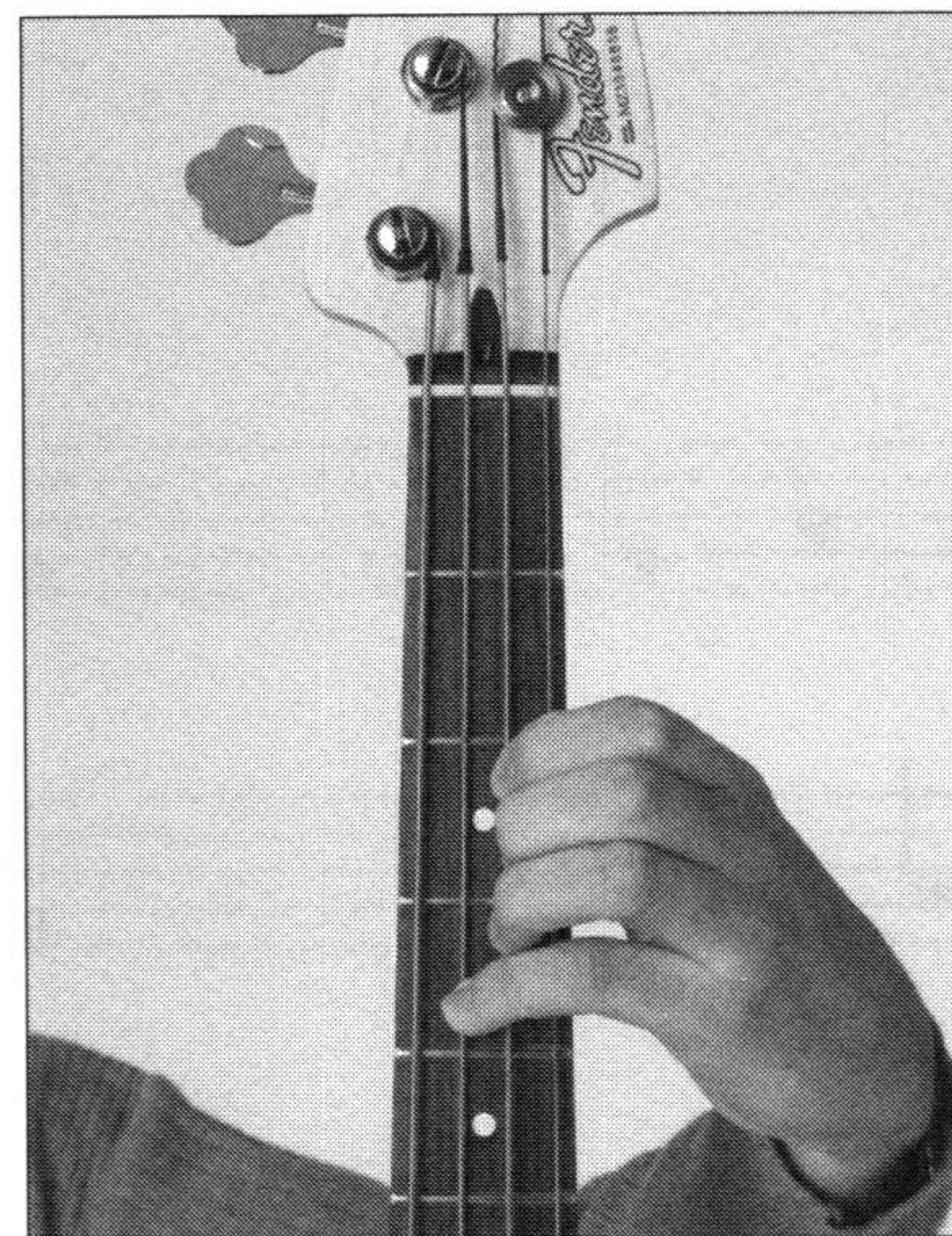
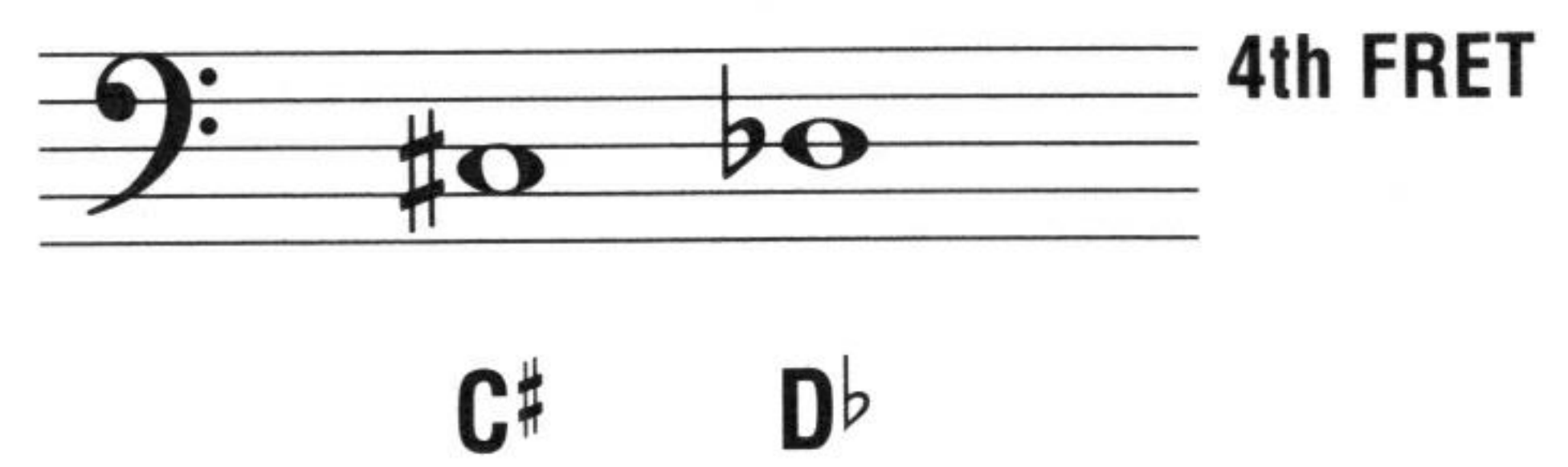
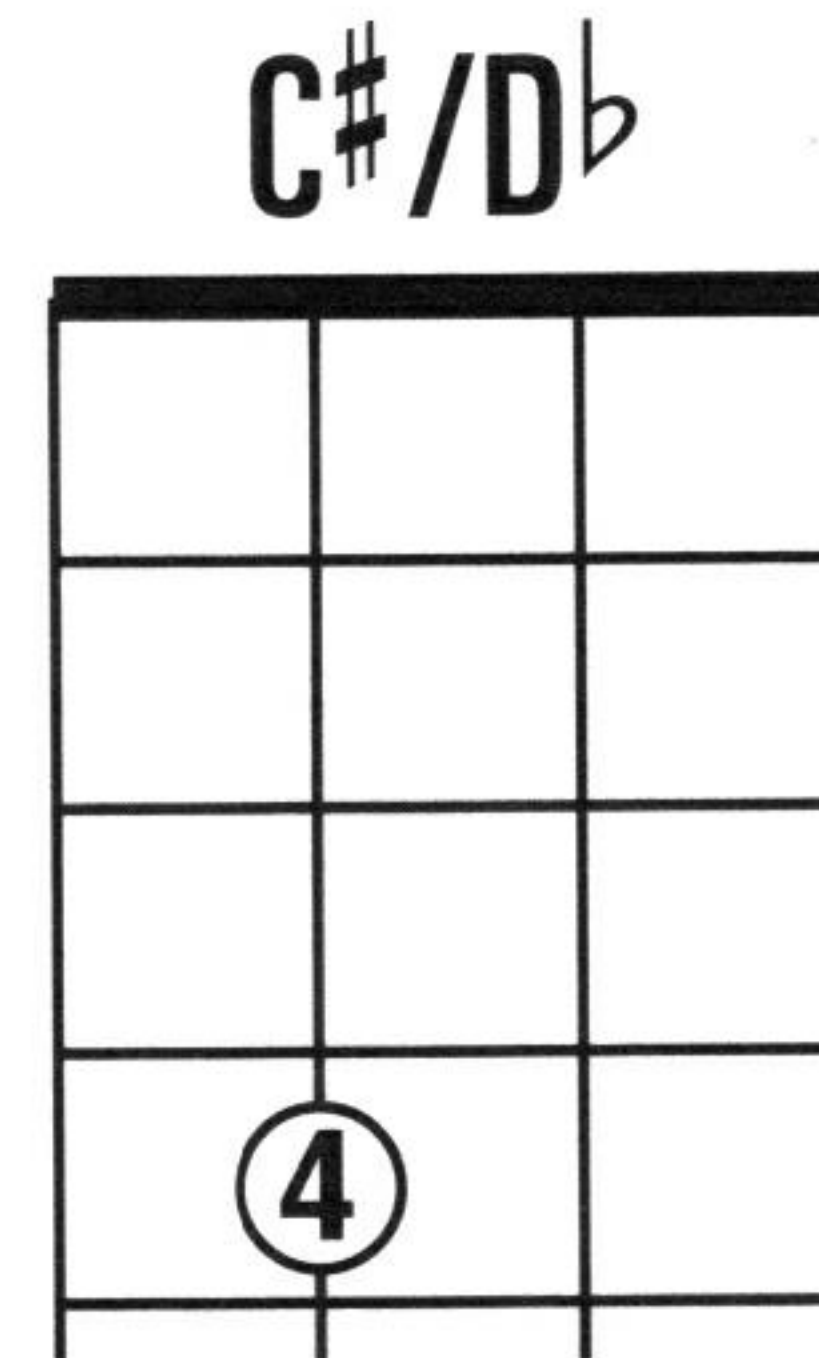
30

MORE NOTES ON THE A STRING

Just like the E string, the A string has notes that occur in between the natural notes.

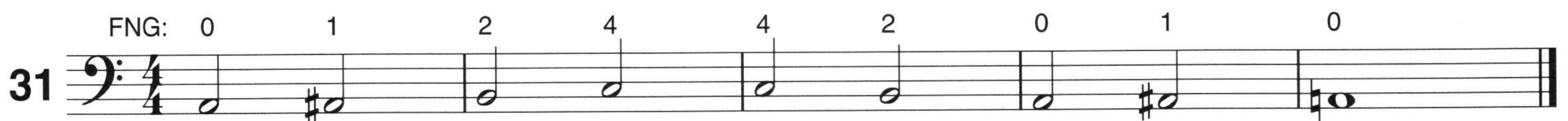


A[#]/B^b is in 1st position



C[#]/D^b is in 2nd position

This example uses A[#] with the first finger. It is in 1st position.



This example is also 1st position; it uses B^b with the first finger.

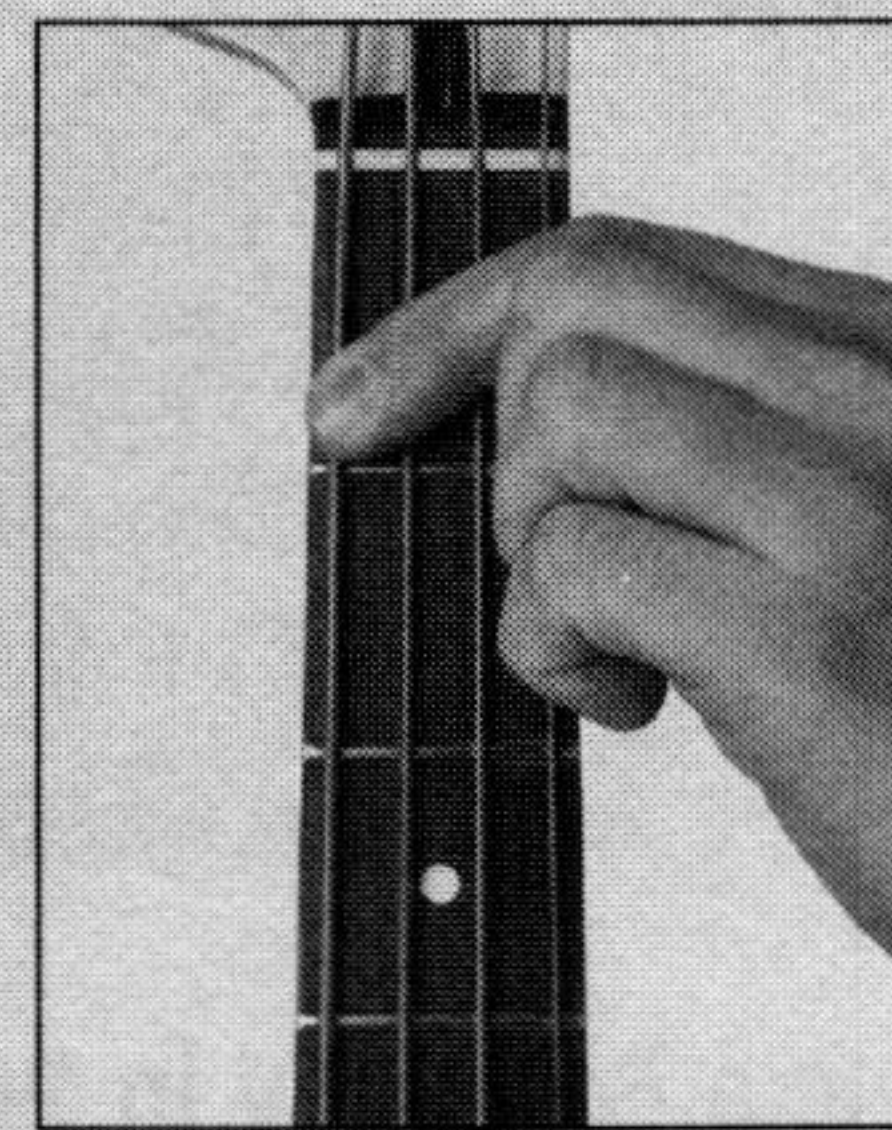
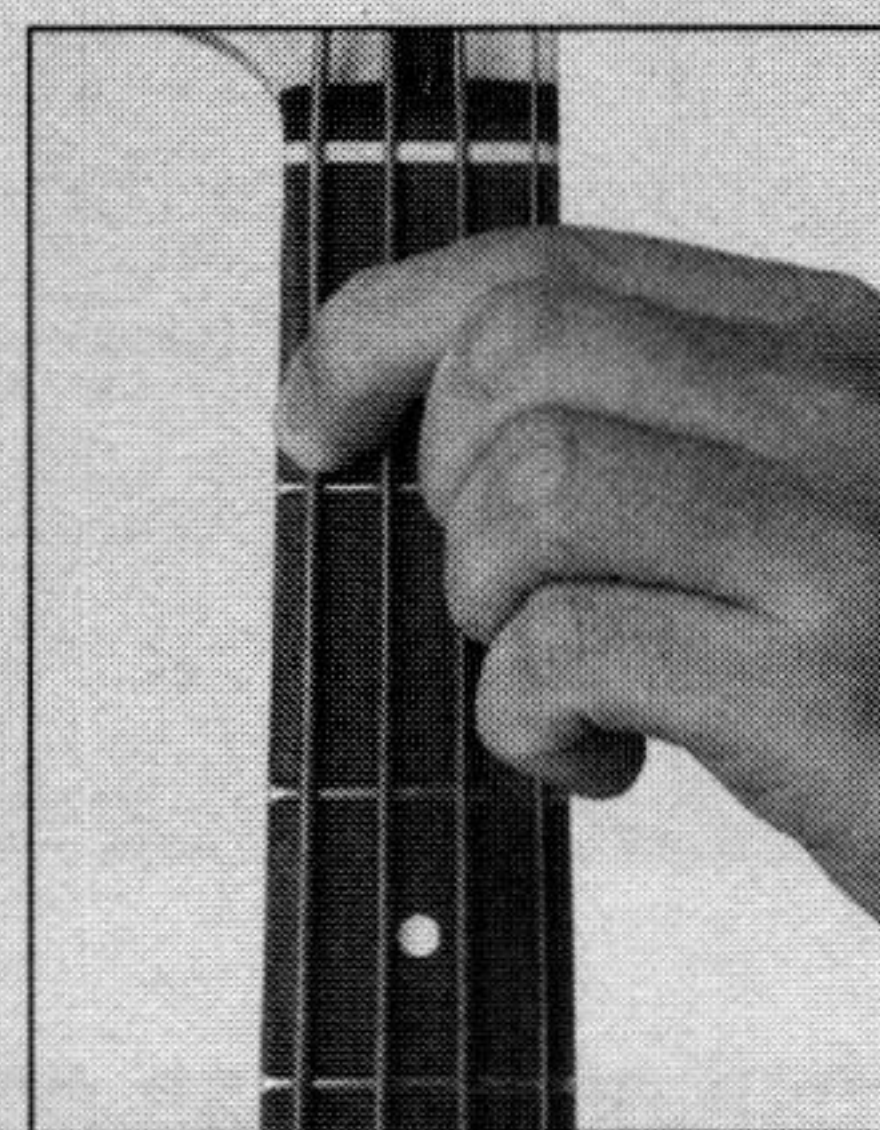


This example is in 2nd position (make sure your first finger is on the 2nd fret).



THE FINGER ROLL

A special technique for the left hand is the **finger roll**. This helps you when playing notes on adjacent strings located at the same fret. The goal is to cross smoothly from one string to the next. To do this when moving from a lower to a higher string, play the note on the lower string using the tip of the finger (with the small knuckle slightly bent); then, flatten the knuckle and roll your finger across, playing the note on the higher string with the pad of the finger.



This example thoroughly works the finger roll on all fingers. Observe the position shifts indicated.



TRACK 8

ROLL IT

34 FNG: 4 4 4 2 2 2 1 1 1 2 2 2

4 4 4 -shift- 4 4 4 -shift- 4 4 4 1 1 1

0 0 0 1 1 1 4 4 4 4

This 2nd position exercise has several string crossings (and uses A^b on the way down from open A). In measures 3 and 4, there are finger rolls between G and C.



TRACK 9

ROLLY

35 FNG: 0 4 1 0 4 2 2 2 2

0 4 0 4 1 0 1 1 0

THE 12-BAR BLUES

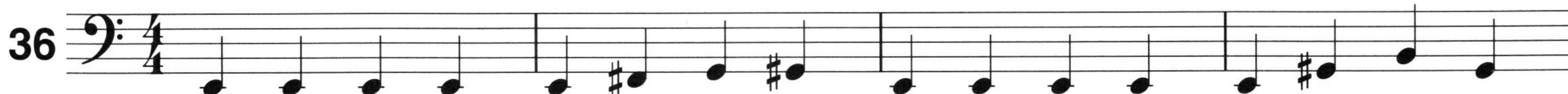
Let's play a longer song form, a **12-bar blues**. This is a common progression in rock, jazz, blues, and many other styles of music. The bass line corresponds directly to **chords** that a guitarist or pianist plays. They will be written above each measure so that your teacher or a friend can play along with you. If you examine the bass line, you will see that when the chord symbol says E7, the bass starts the measure with an E; when the chord changes to A7, the bass plays A; etc. You are playing the *root* of the chord, a very important aspect of functional bass playing.



TRACK 10

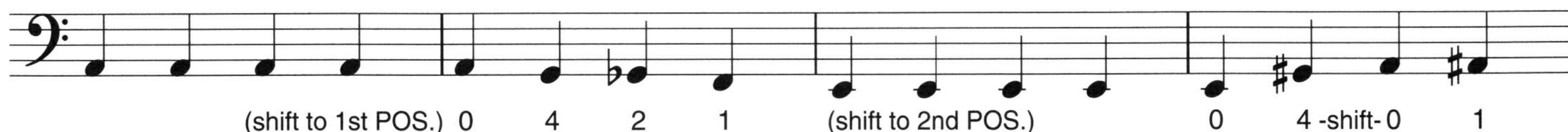
12-BAR BLUES

E7



A7

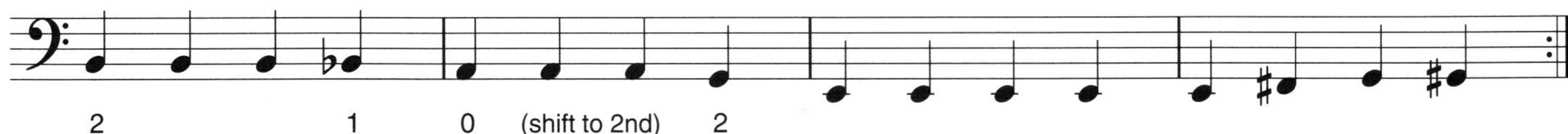
E7



B7

A7

E7



Here is another 12-bar blues. This one changes chords in the 2nd and the 12th measures, a common variation in blues form.



TRACK 11

A LITTLE HEAVY

F#

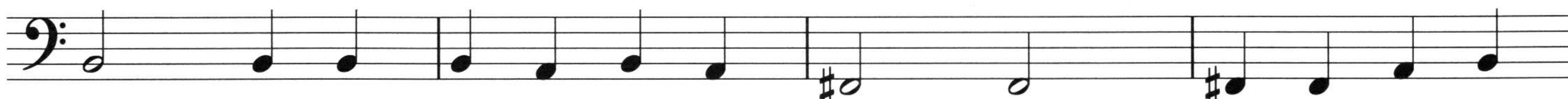
B

F#



B

F#

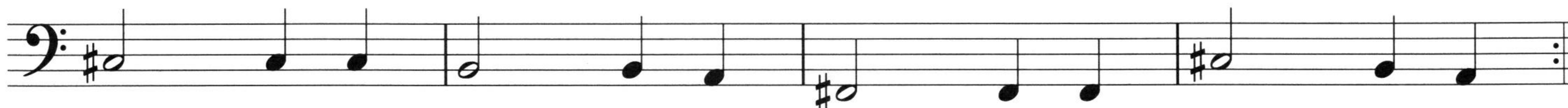


C#

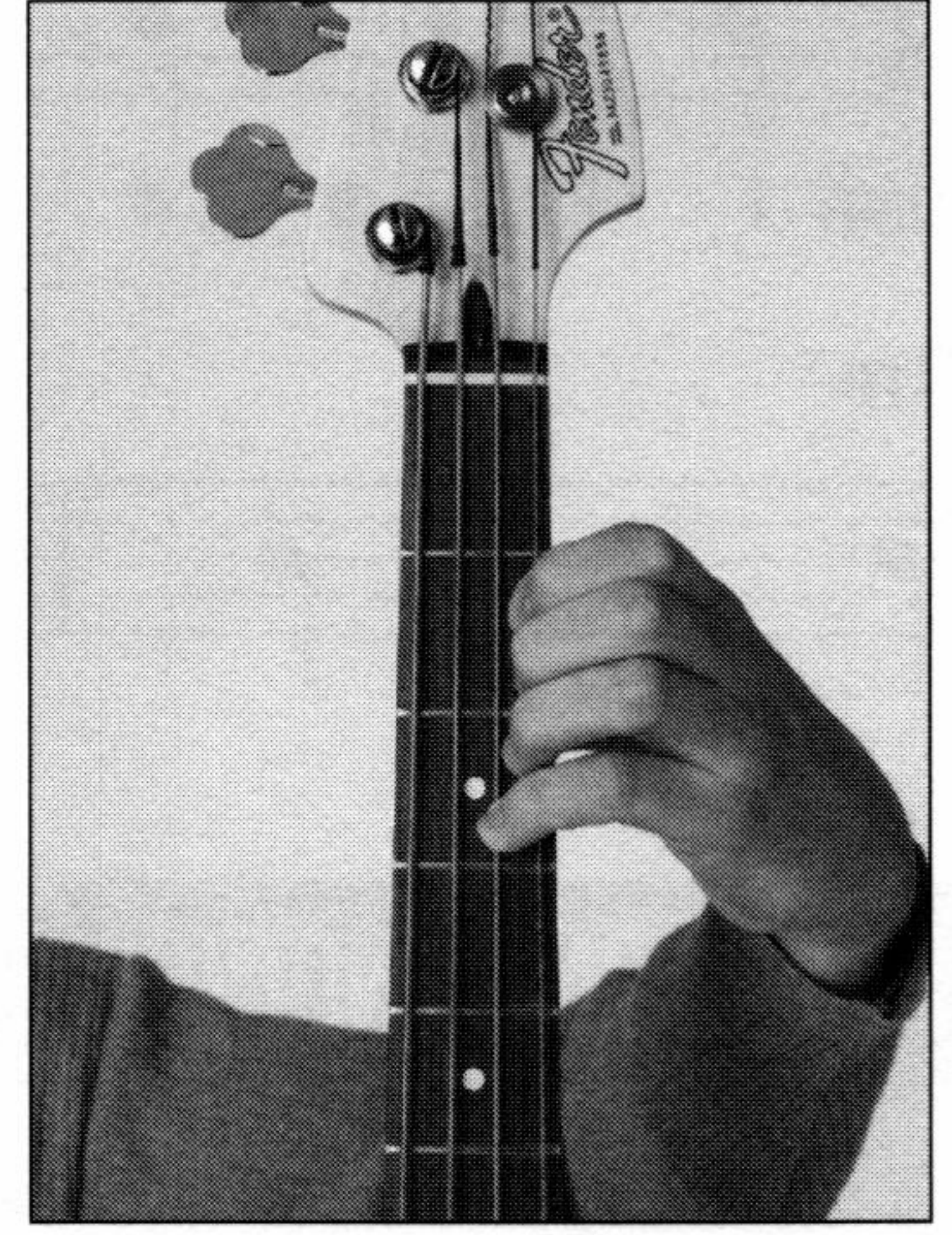
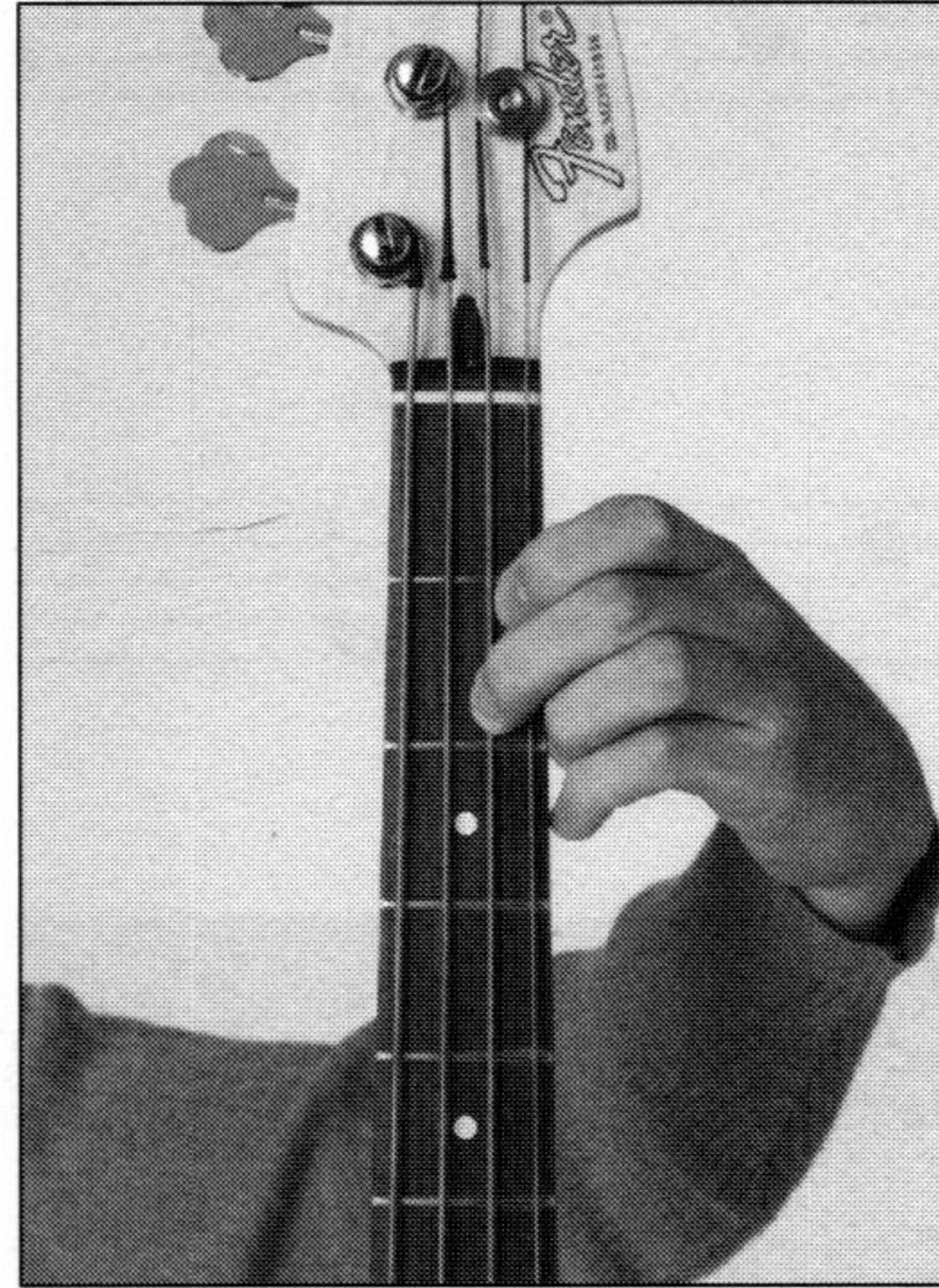
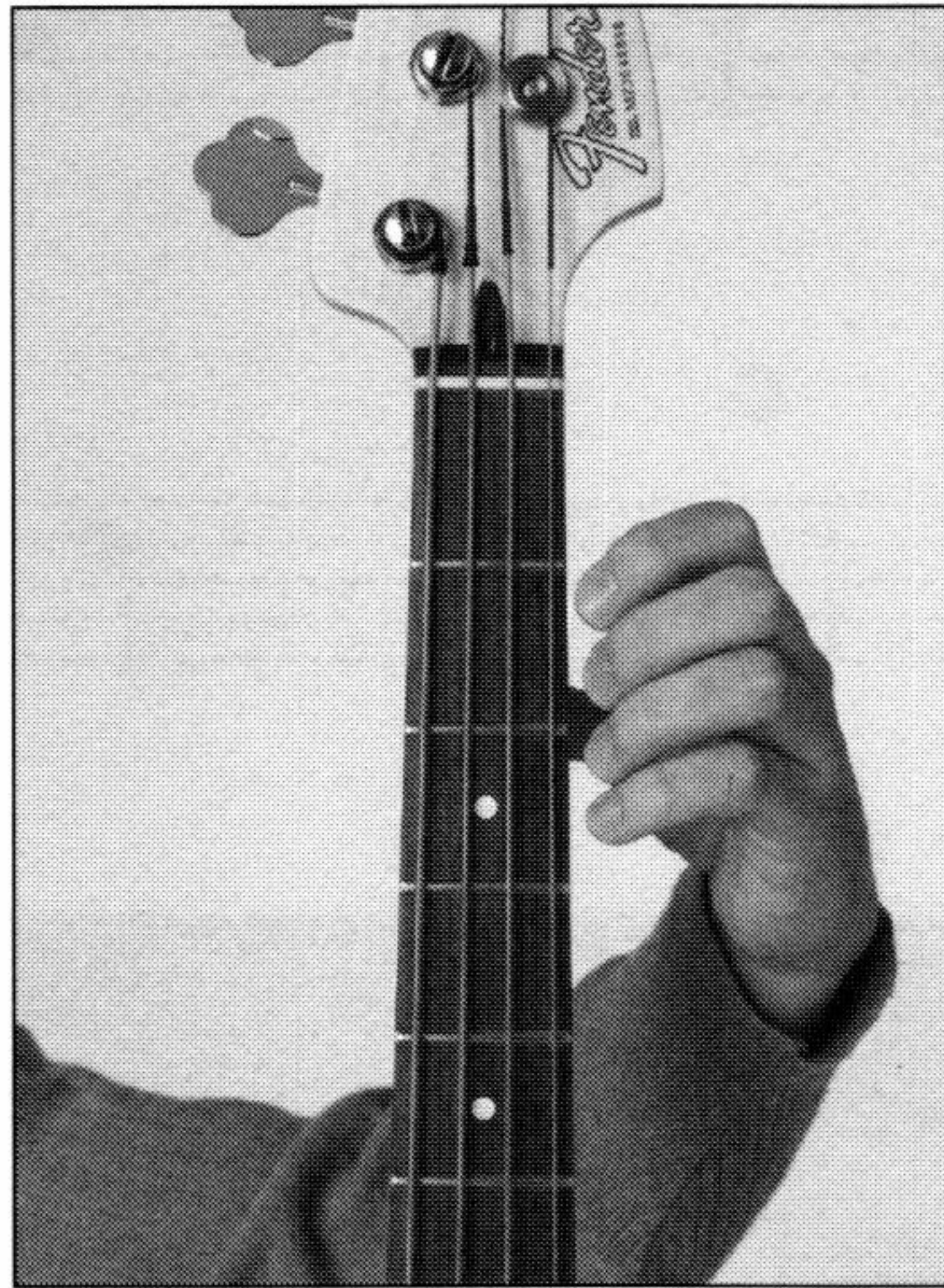
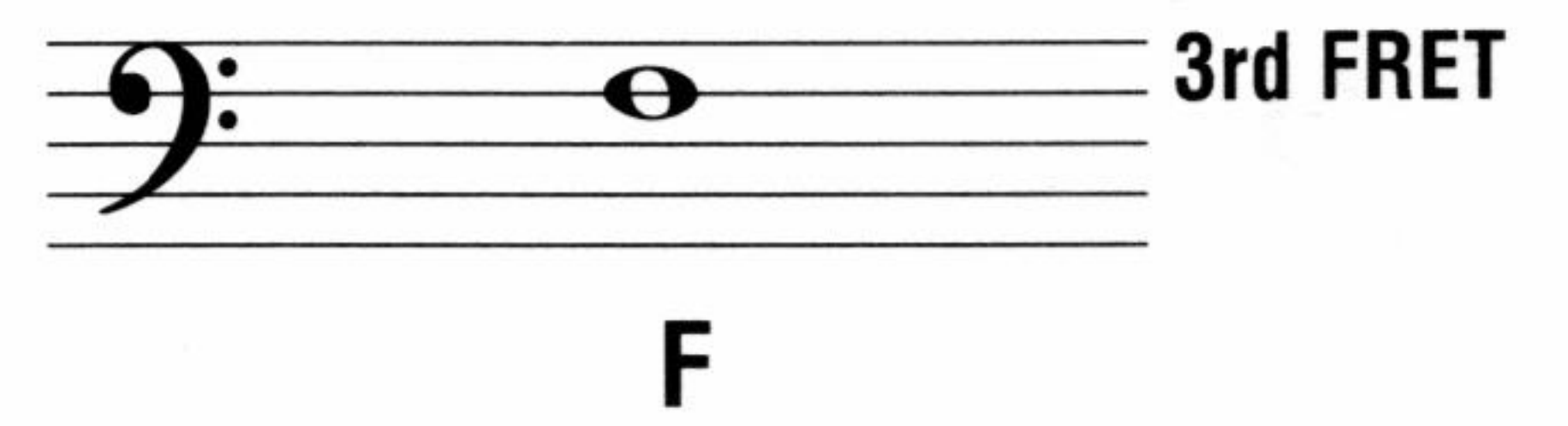
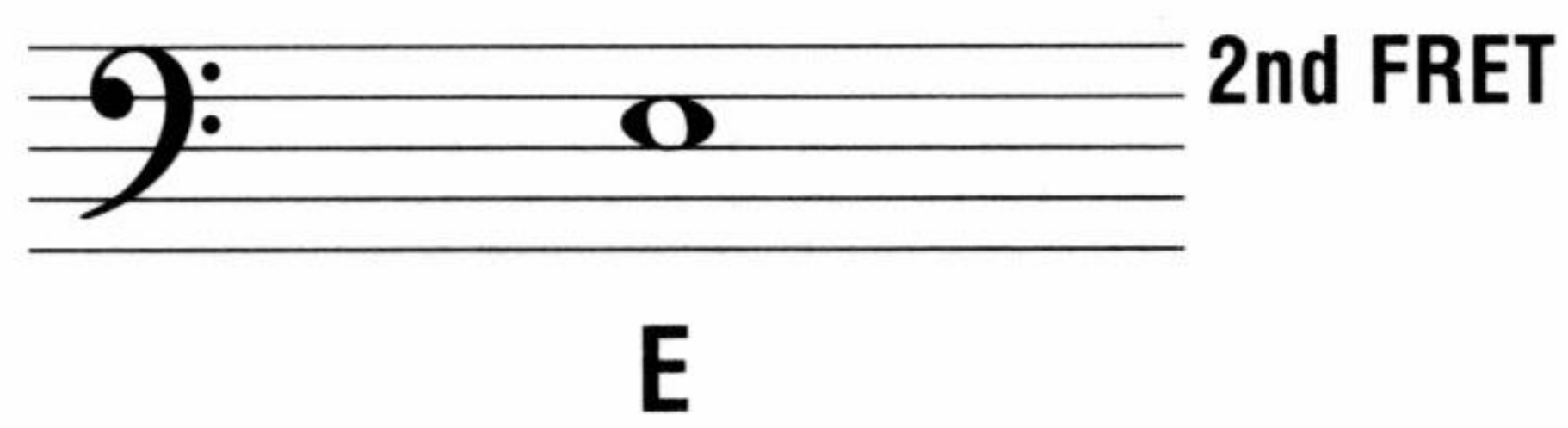
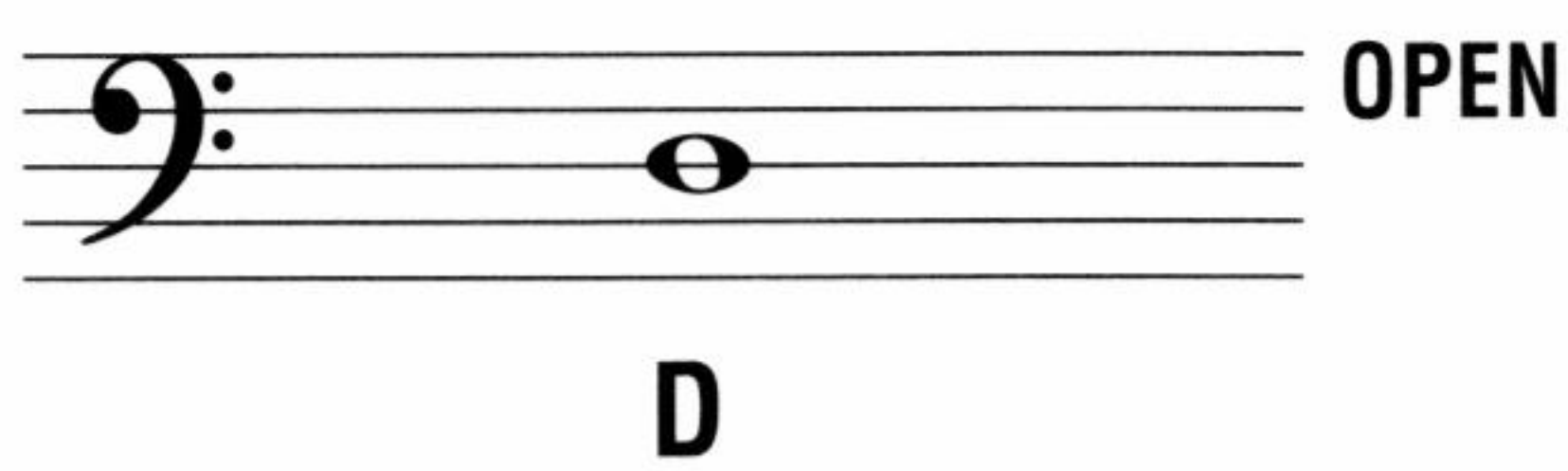
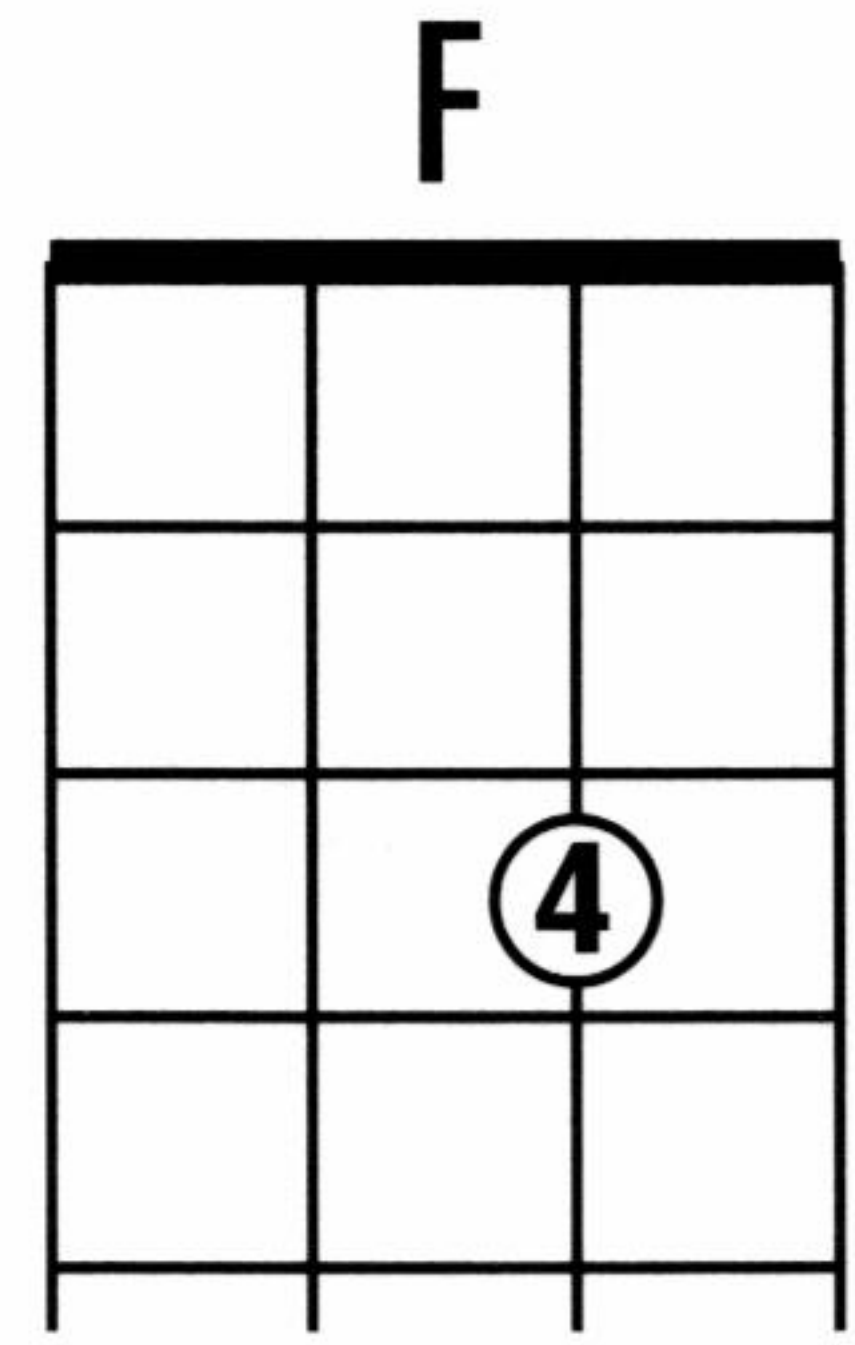
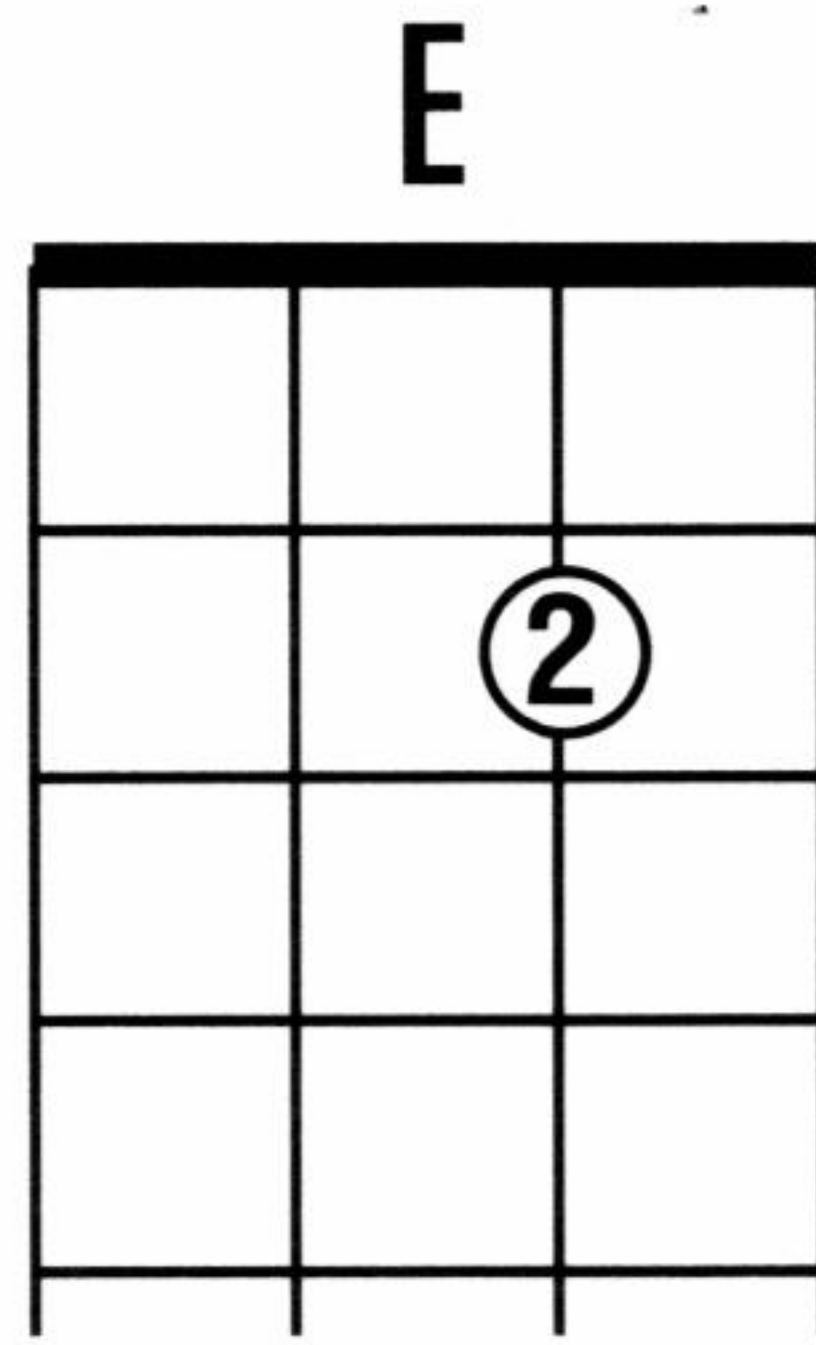
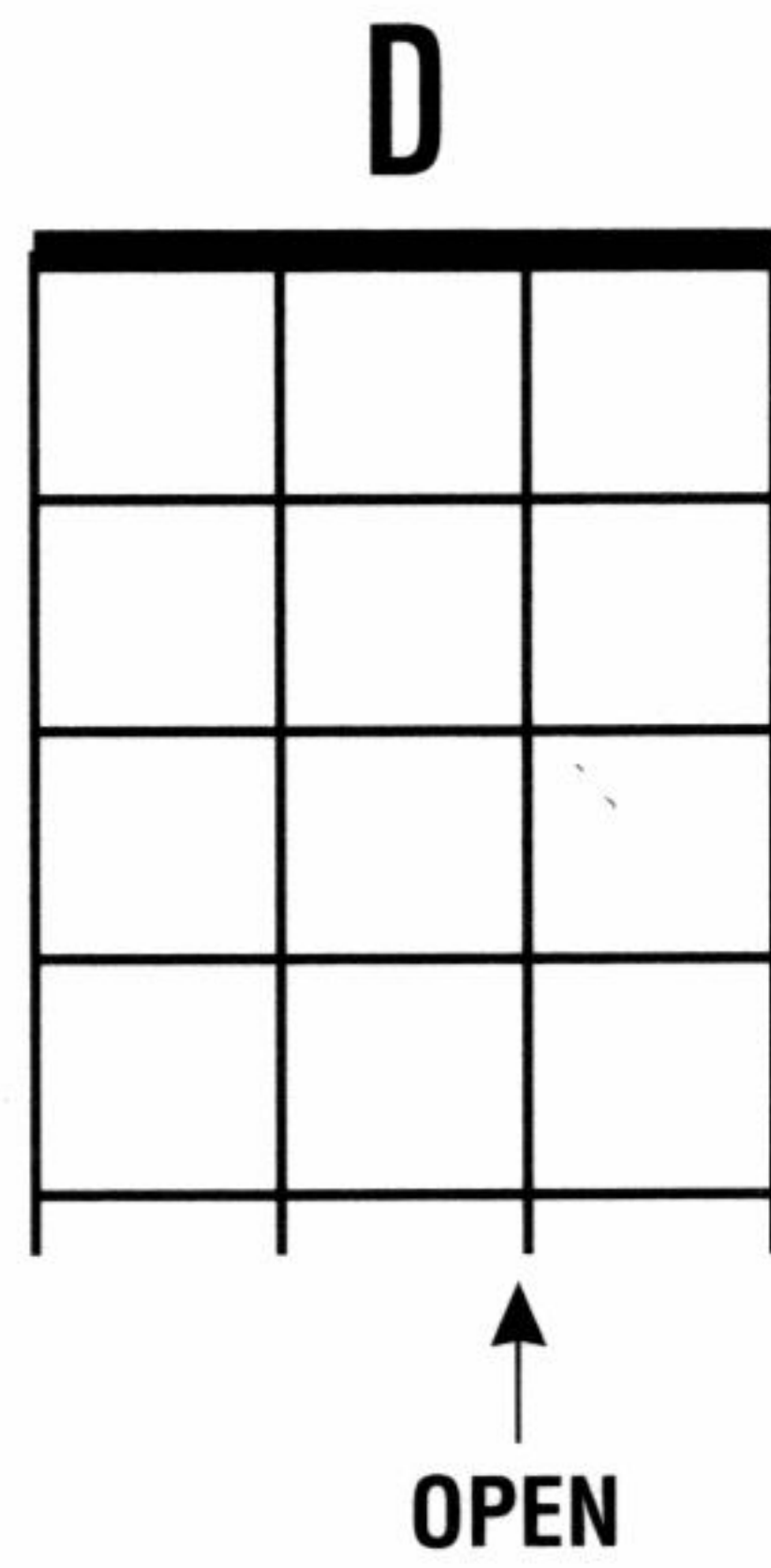
B

F#

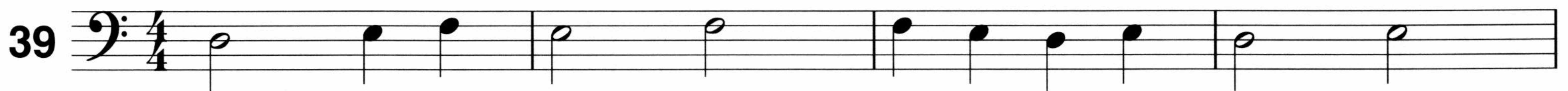
C#



NOTES ON THE D STRING



When playing on the D string, remember to drop your right-hand thumb to the E string to keep it muted. Pull straight across with the finger and into the A string. Pick style players: concentrate on your pick accuracy and touch. Don't play the D string too hard.





TRACK 12

PRIVATE EYE

40

This 1st position example crosses the A and D strings. The chord names are included so others can play along. You are playing the root when each chord changes. The symbol “Dm” is for a D minor chord. **Minor chords** sound dark while **major chords** (without the “m”) sound happy and bright. Listen for the difference. Watch out for the finger roll in the last measure.



TRACK 13

MINOR LEAGUE

41

Dm C B $\flat$ C

COUNT: 1 2 - 3 4

Dm F A C

1ST and 2ND ENDINGS

The next song has a **1st** and **2nd ending** (indicated with brackets and the numbers “1” and “2”). Play through the 1st ending like a standard repeat sign, and go back to the beginning. The second time through, skip the entire 1st ending and go directly to the 2nd ending section.



This example starts and ends on D; it outlines the sound of the **key** of D. D is the **tonic** or “home base” of the piece. Notice how the bass is not always playing the root when the chords change. You can play other notes that belong to the chord. (This will be explained in depth in Book 2.)



TRACK 14

D-LITE

42

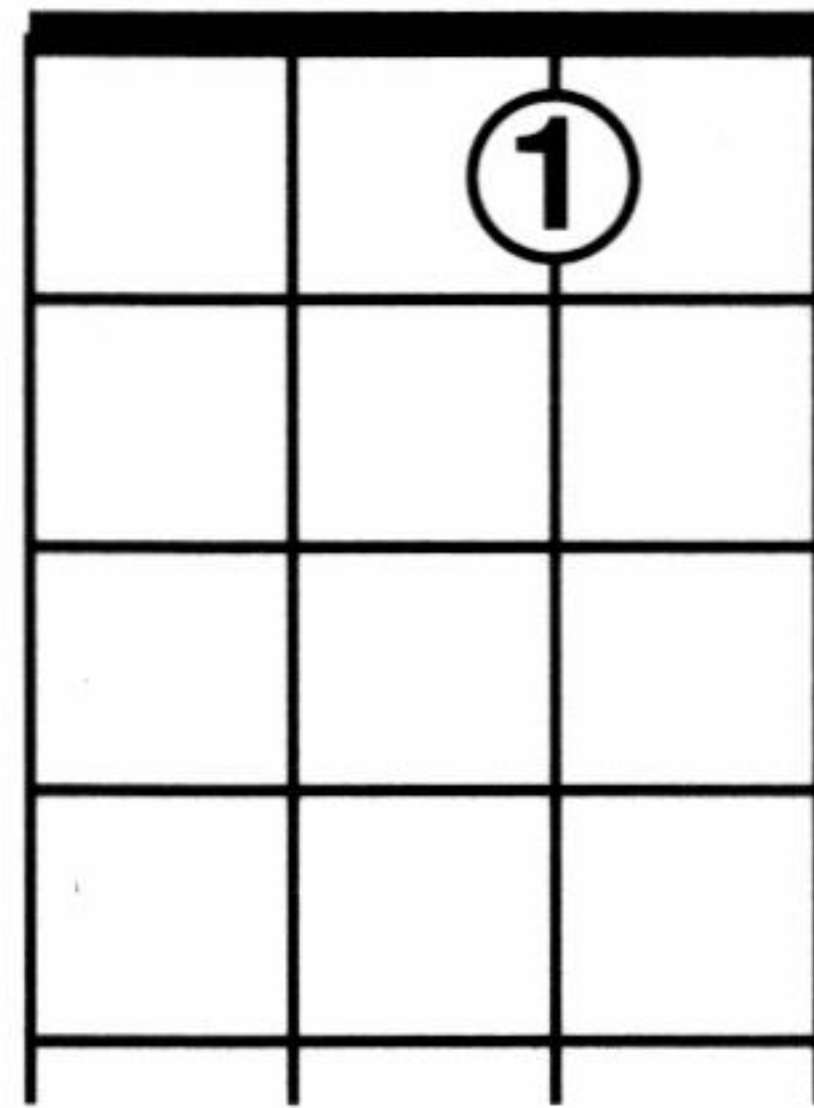
D A G D G A D A D Em

1. 2.

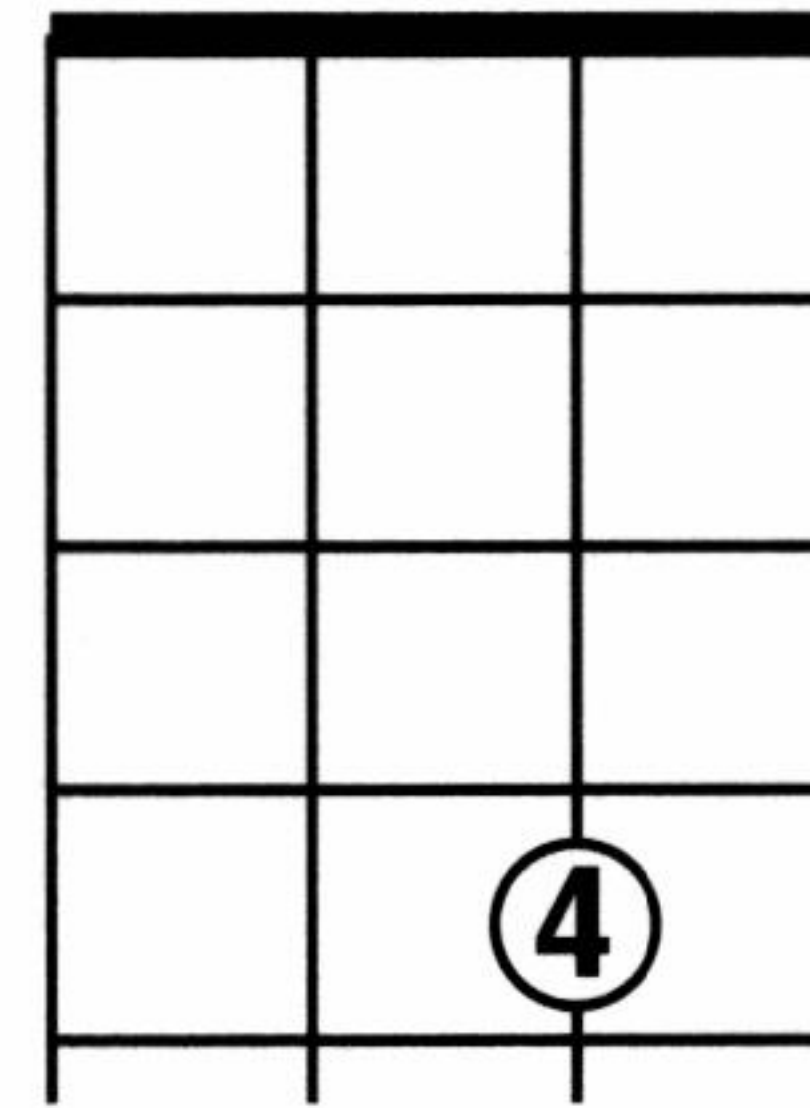
A D G A D G A D

MORE NOTES ON THE D STRING

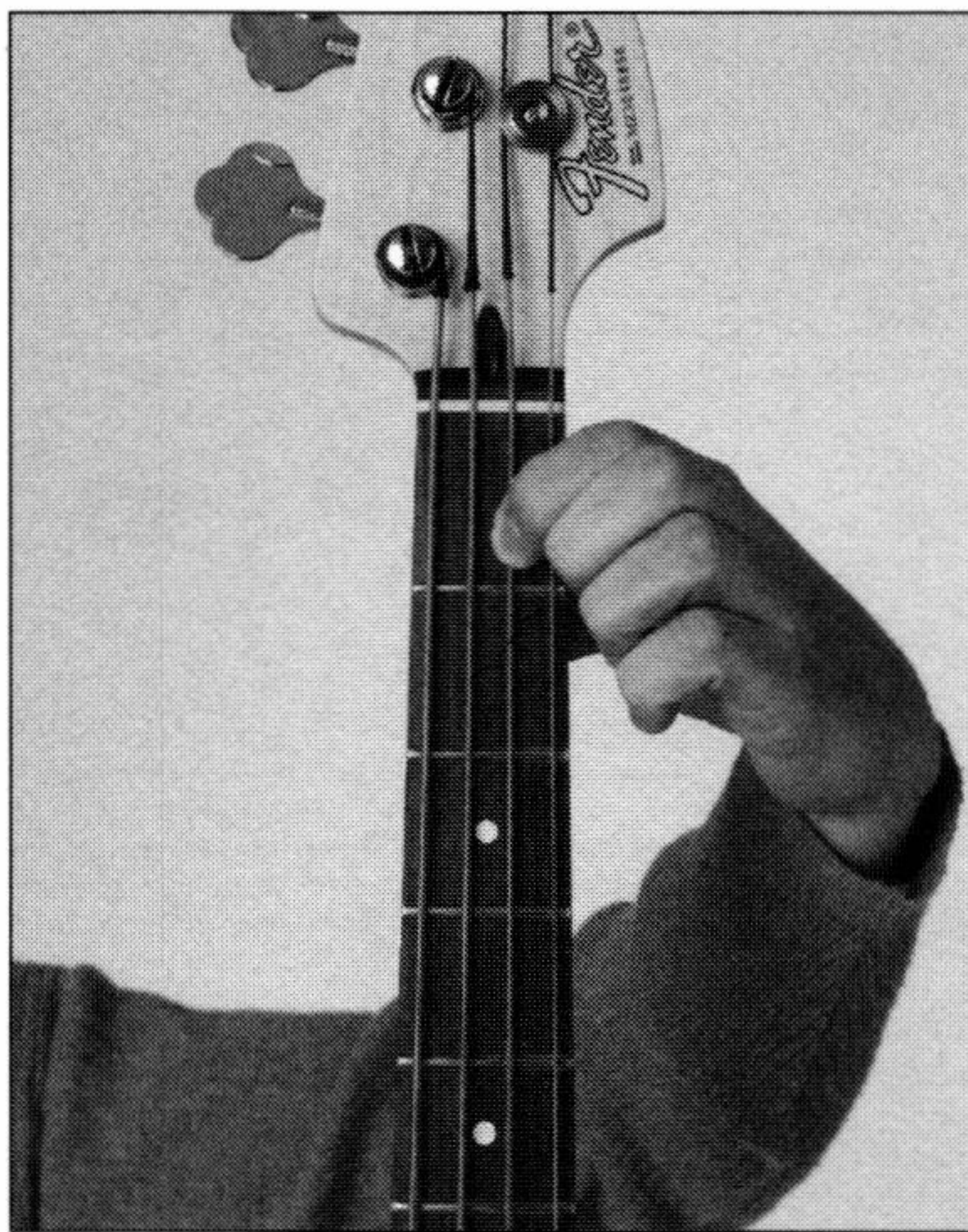
D[#]/E^b



F[#]/G^b

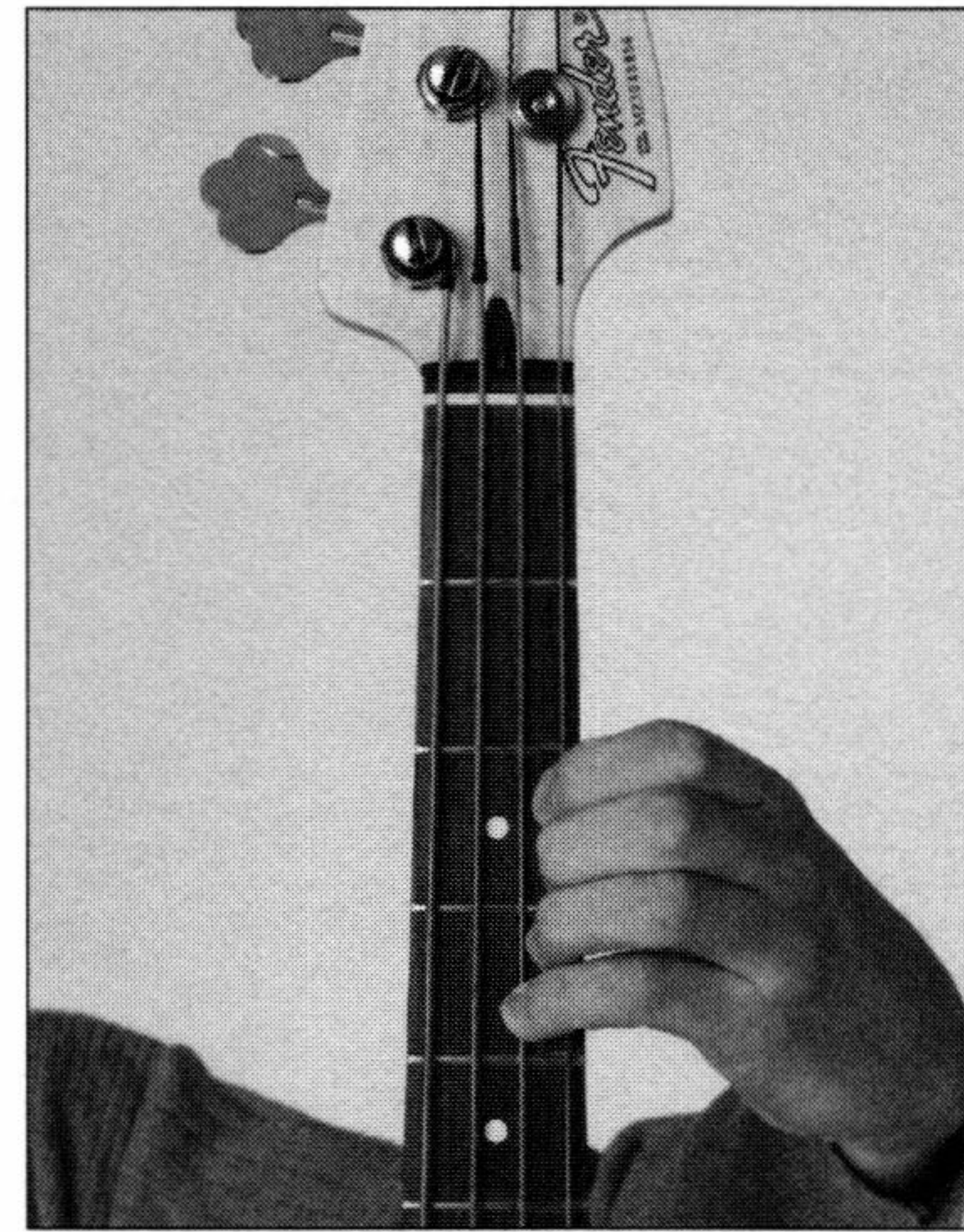


D[#] E^b



D[#]/E^b is in 1st position

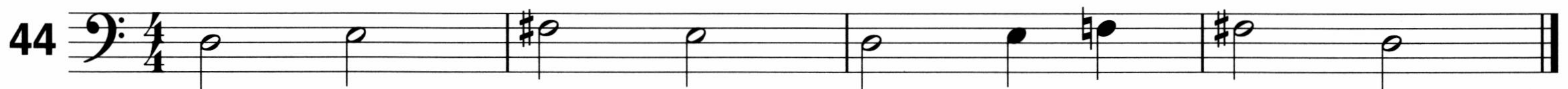
F[#] G^b



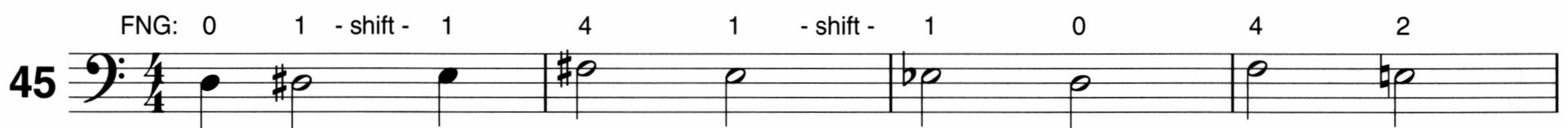
F[#]/G^b is in 2nd position



Remember to start in 2nd position.



This example shifts between 1st and 2nd position.



FNG: 0 1 - shift - 1 4 1 - shift - 1 0 4 2

0 - shift - 1 2 4 1 4 0 - shift - 2 1 0



THREE-STRING REVIEW

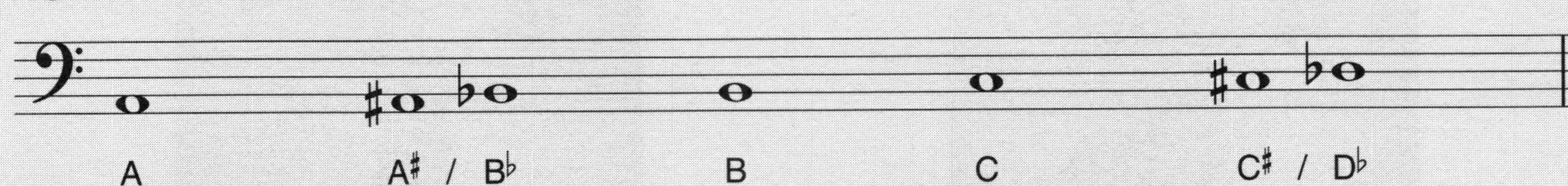
Here are all the notes you have learned so far. Review each note and solidify your understanding of where it is played on the fingerboard and how it is written on the staff.

D	D [#] /E ^b	E	F	F [#] /G ^b
A	A [#] /B ^b	B	C	C [#] /D ^b
E	F	F [#] /G ^b	G	G [#] /A ^b

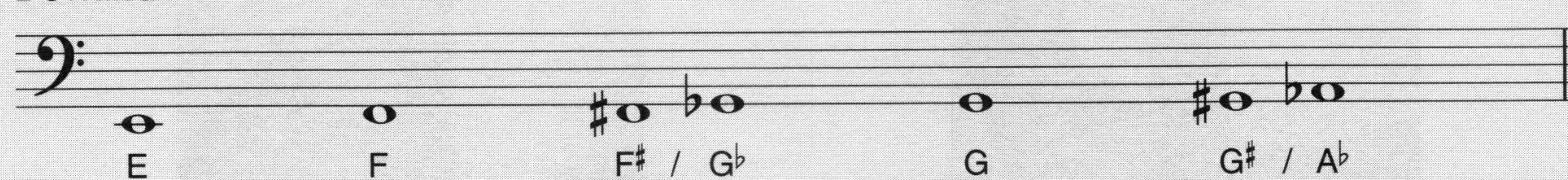
D STRING



A STRING



E STRING



This 2nd position example crosses the three strings you've learned so far. Make sure to follow the 1st and 2nd endings.



TRACK 15

CROSSIN' THREE

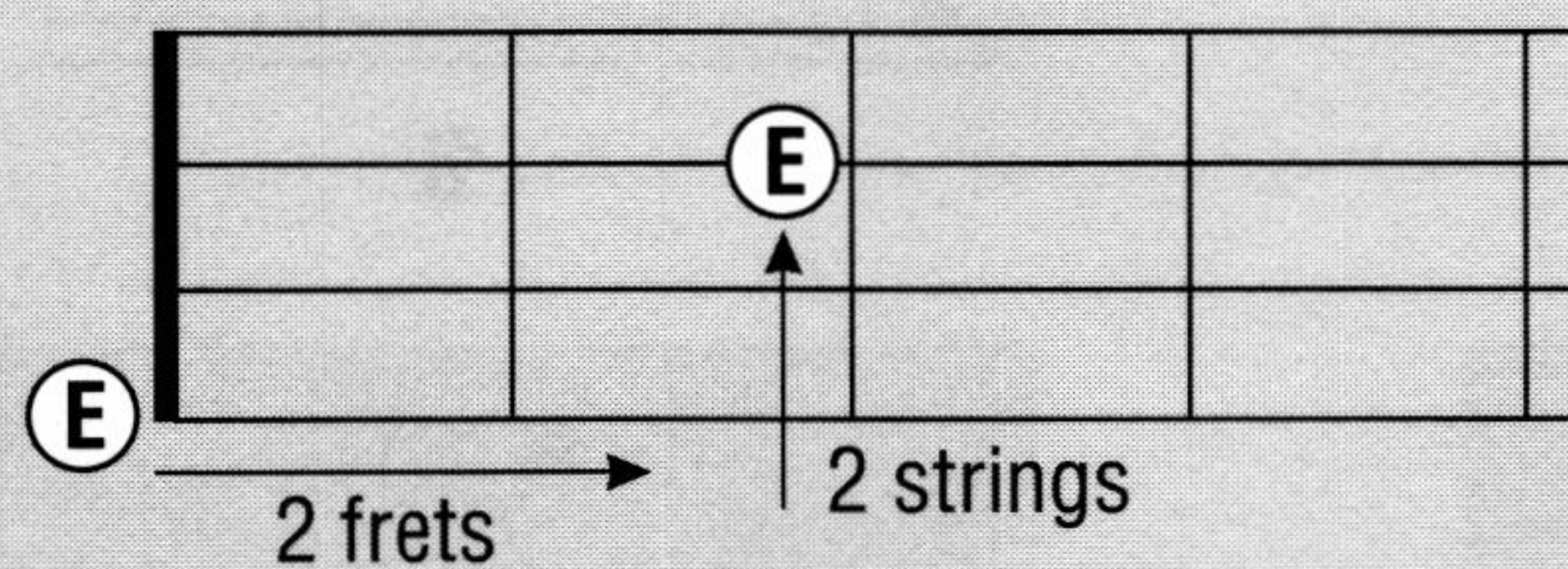


THE OCTAVE

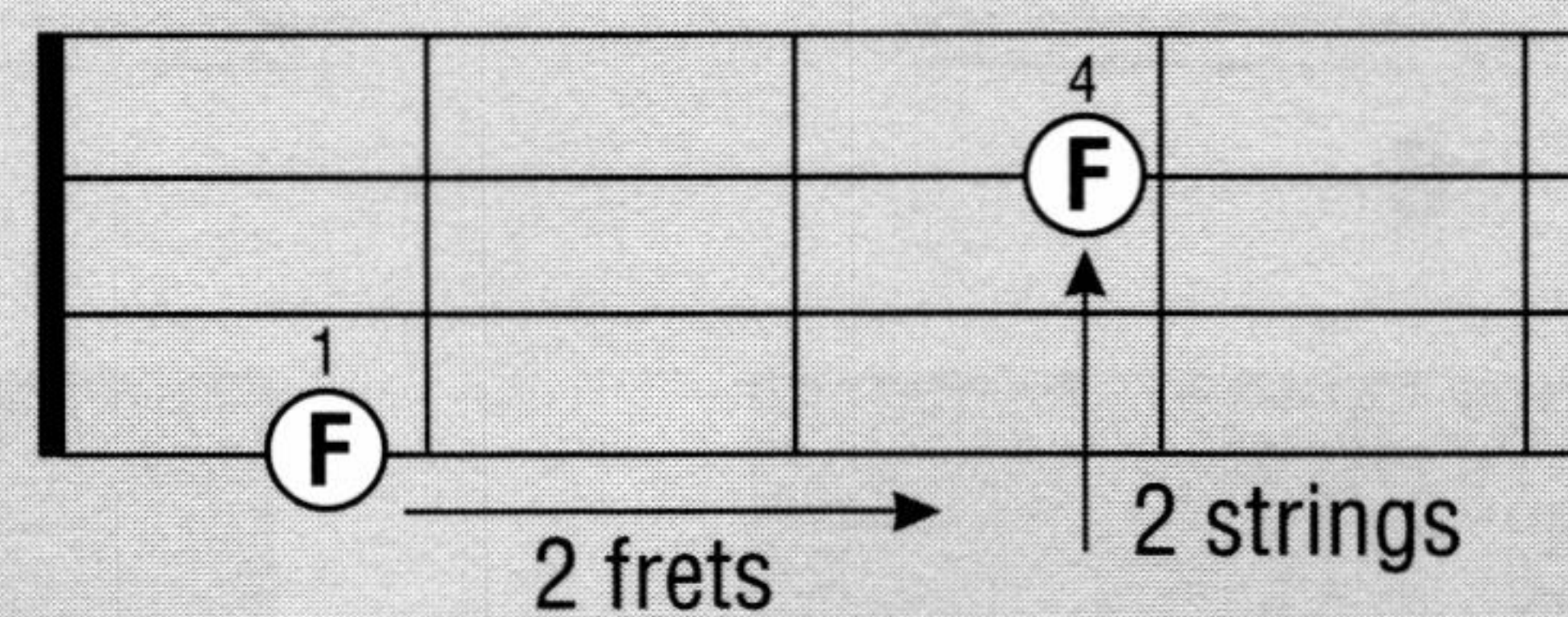
It's time to look at a musical pattern that is very common in bass playing, the "octave." An **octave** is the same note up or down eight letters in the musical alphabet. For instance, the last two notes in the previous example were both E, but one was high, and one was low—that is an octave.

								octave	
musical alphabet -								E	F
								G	A
								B	C
								D	E
								1	2
								3	4
								5	6
								7	8

The octave follows a physical pattern on the fingerboard. From any note on the E (or A) string, move up 2 frets, and across 2 strings. This pattern is consistent throughout the fingerboard.



Fingering an octave (without an open string) requires you to play the low note with the first finger, and the high note with the fourth finger.



For fingerstyle, use your index finger (i) for the low note of an octave and your middle finger (m) for the higher note.

This example uses the octave shape. For fingerstyle, make sure to drop the right thumb onto the E string when making the jump across to play the D string. This example also shifts up with the first finger to 2nd position. Shifting around the octave shape is a very common practice in bass playing.

47

FNG: 0 2 2 0 1 4 4 1 - shift -

1 4 4 1 - shift - 1 4 4 1 0 2



TRACK 16

OCTA GONE

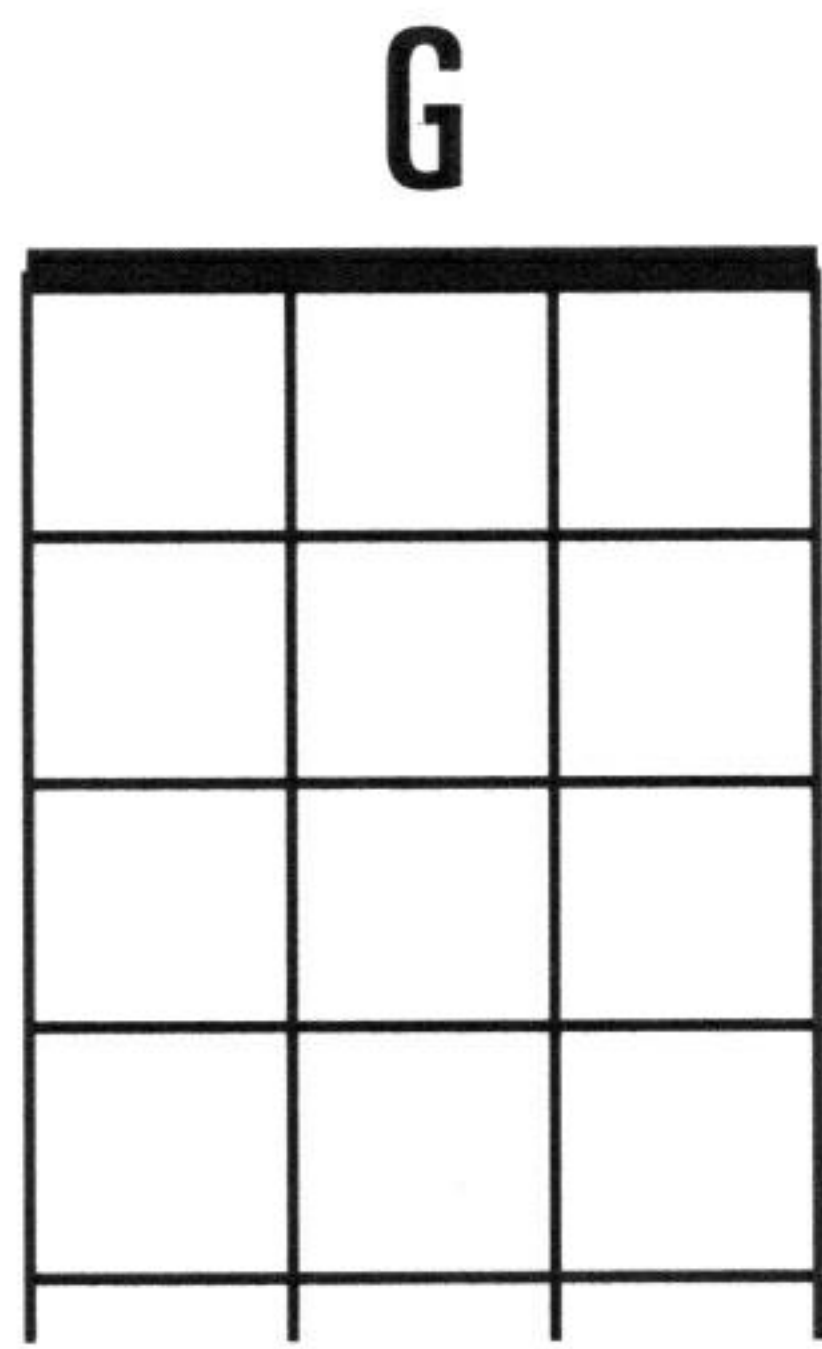
48

FNG: 1 1 4 1 1 4 1 1 4 4

1. 0 0 1 0

2. 0 1 4 1

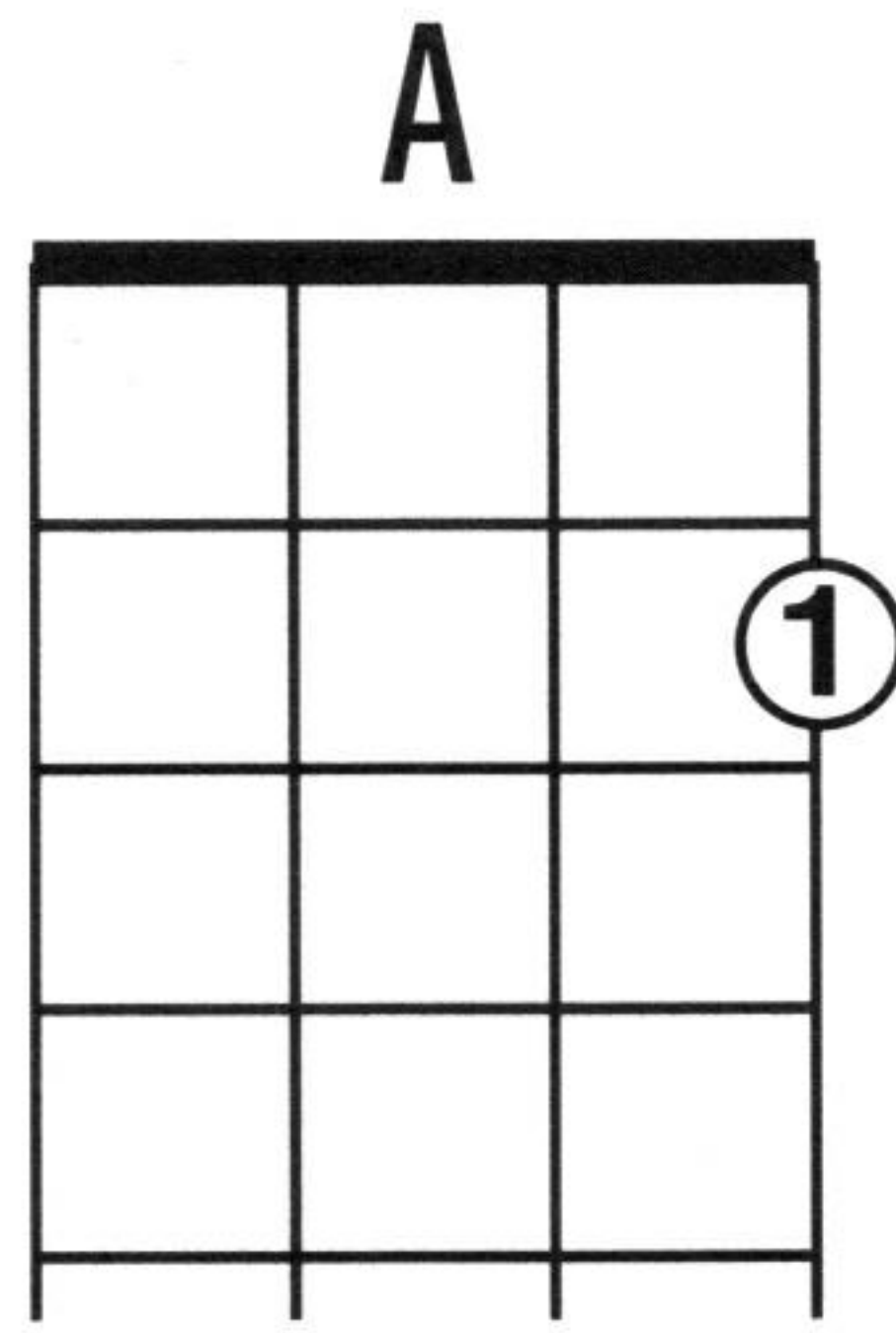
NOTES ON THE G STRING



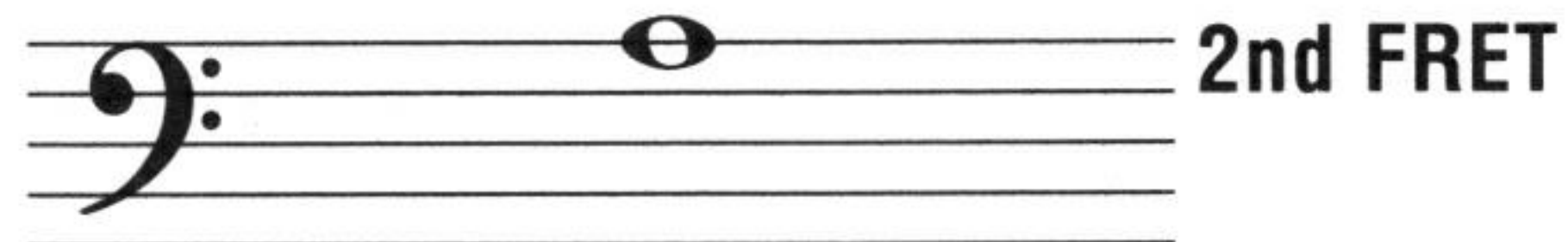
↑
OPEN



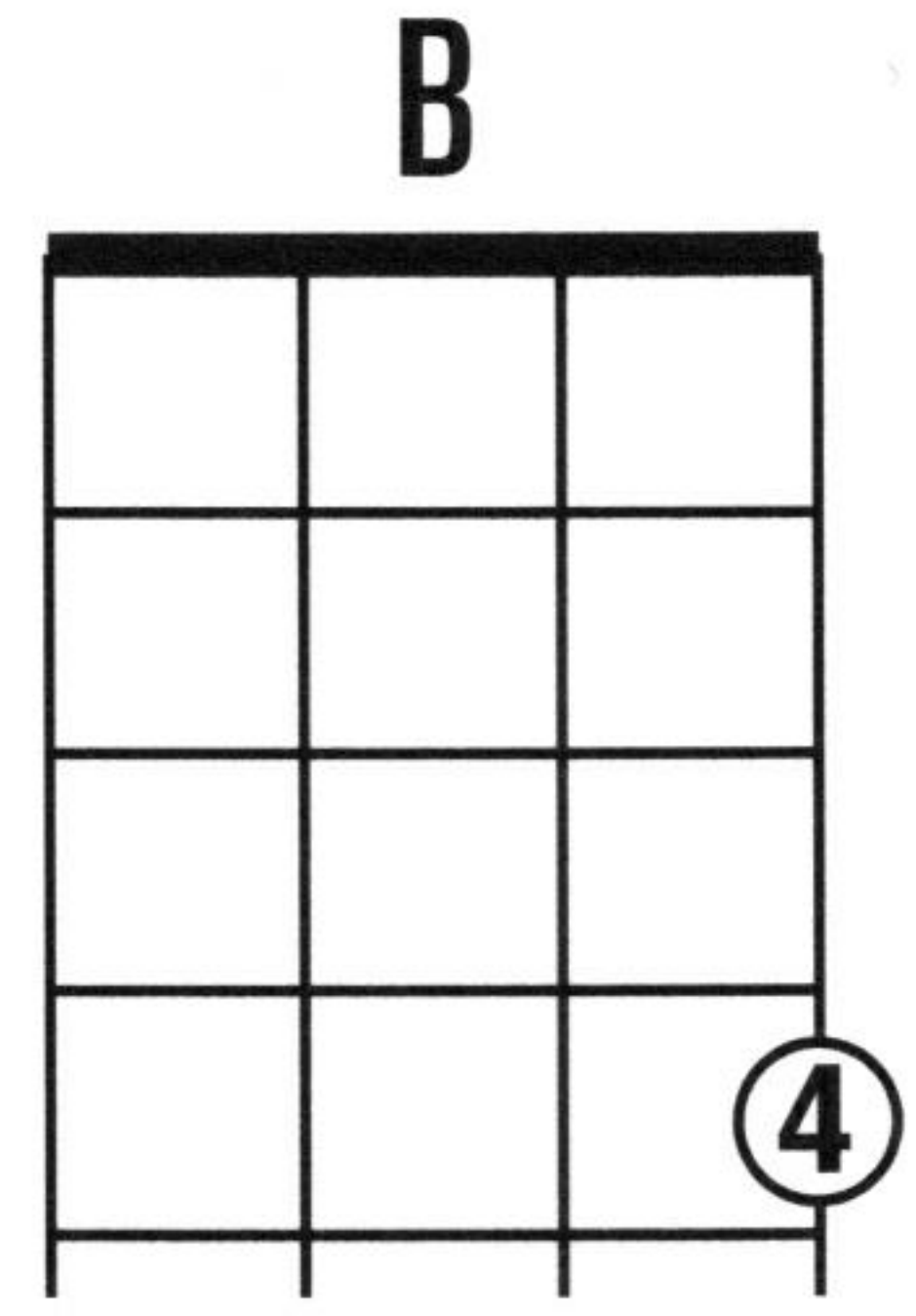
G



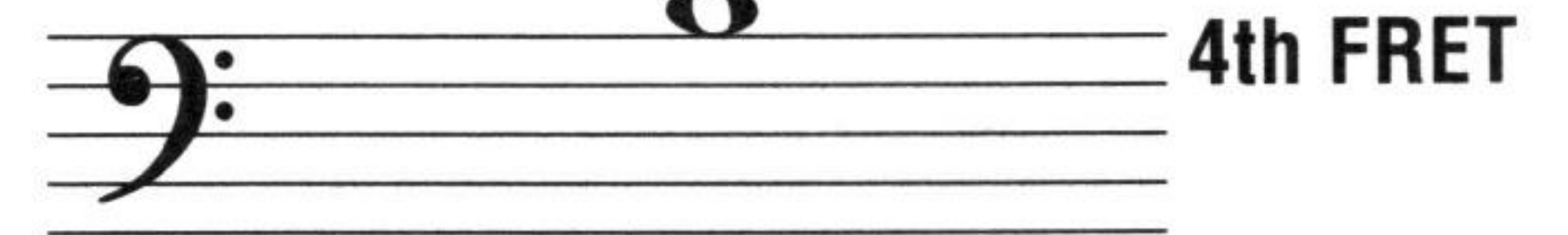
①



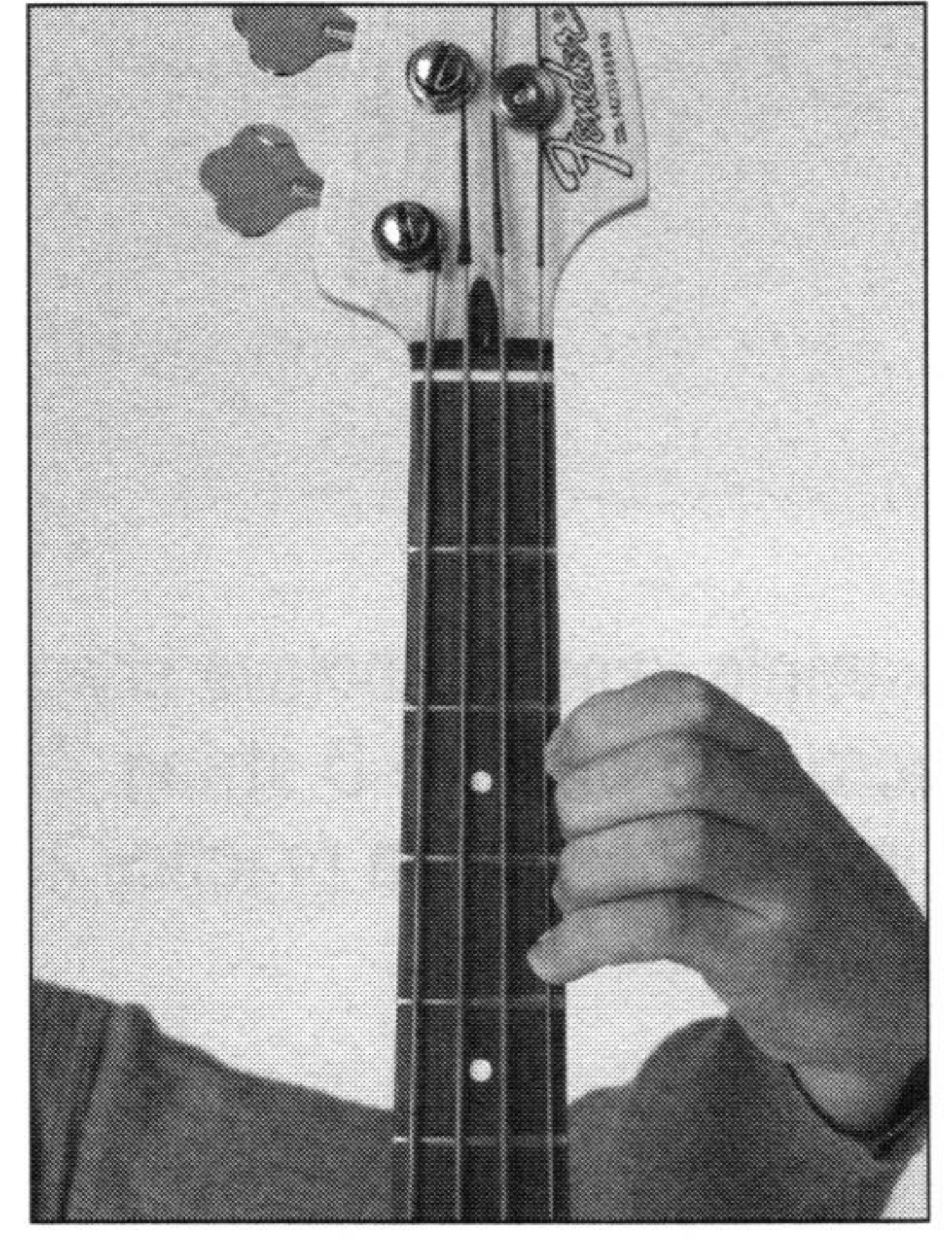
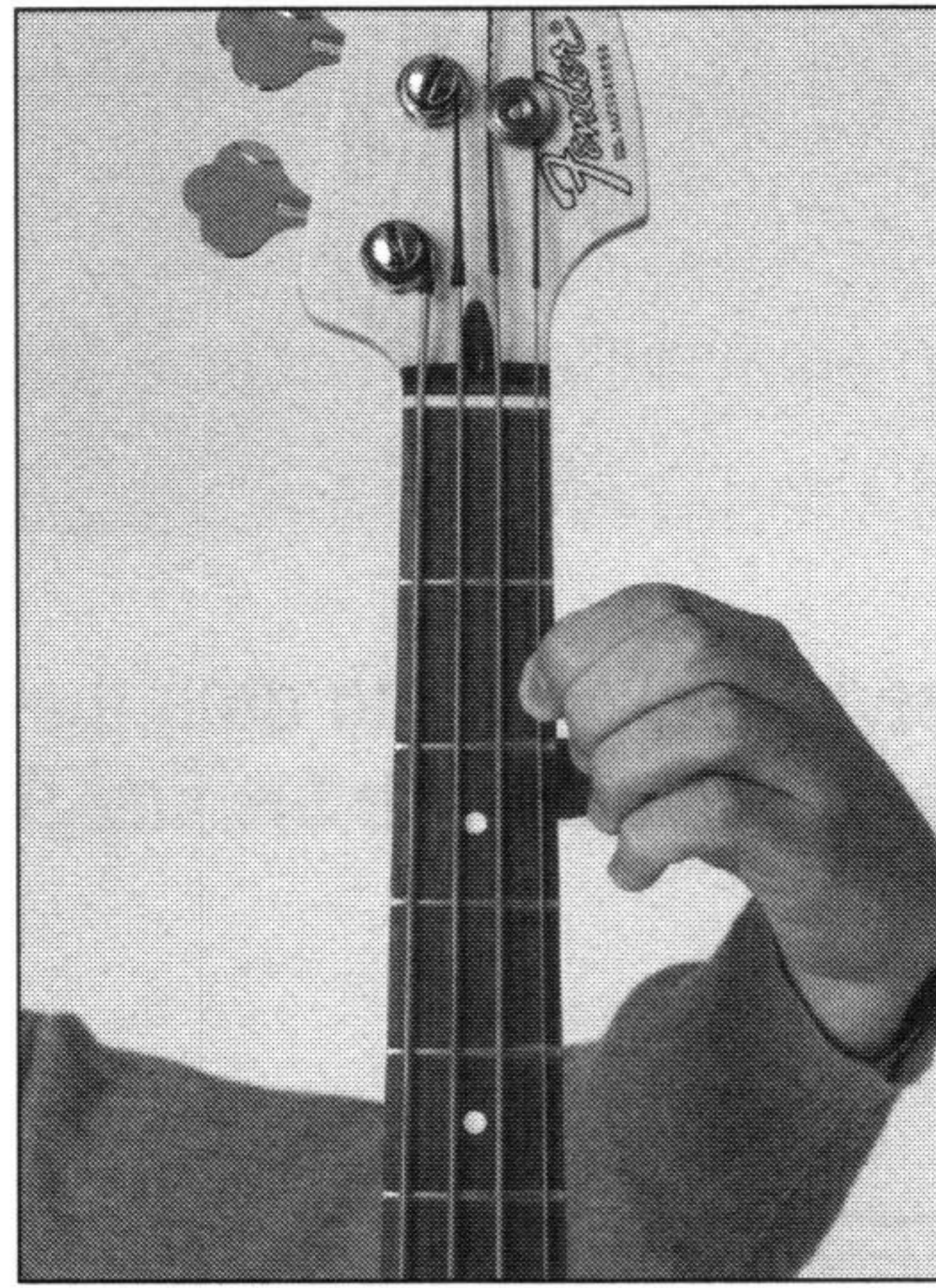
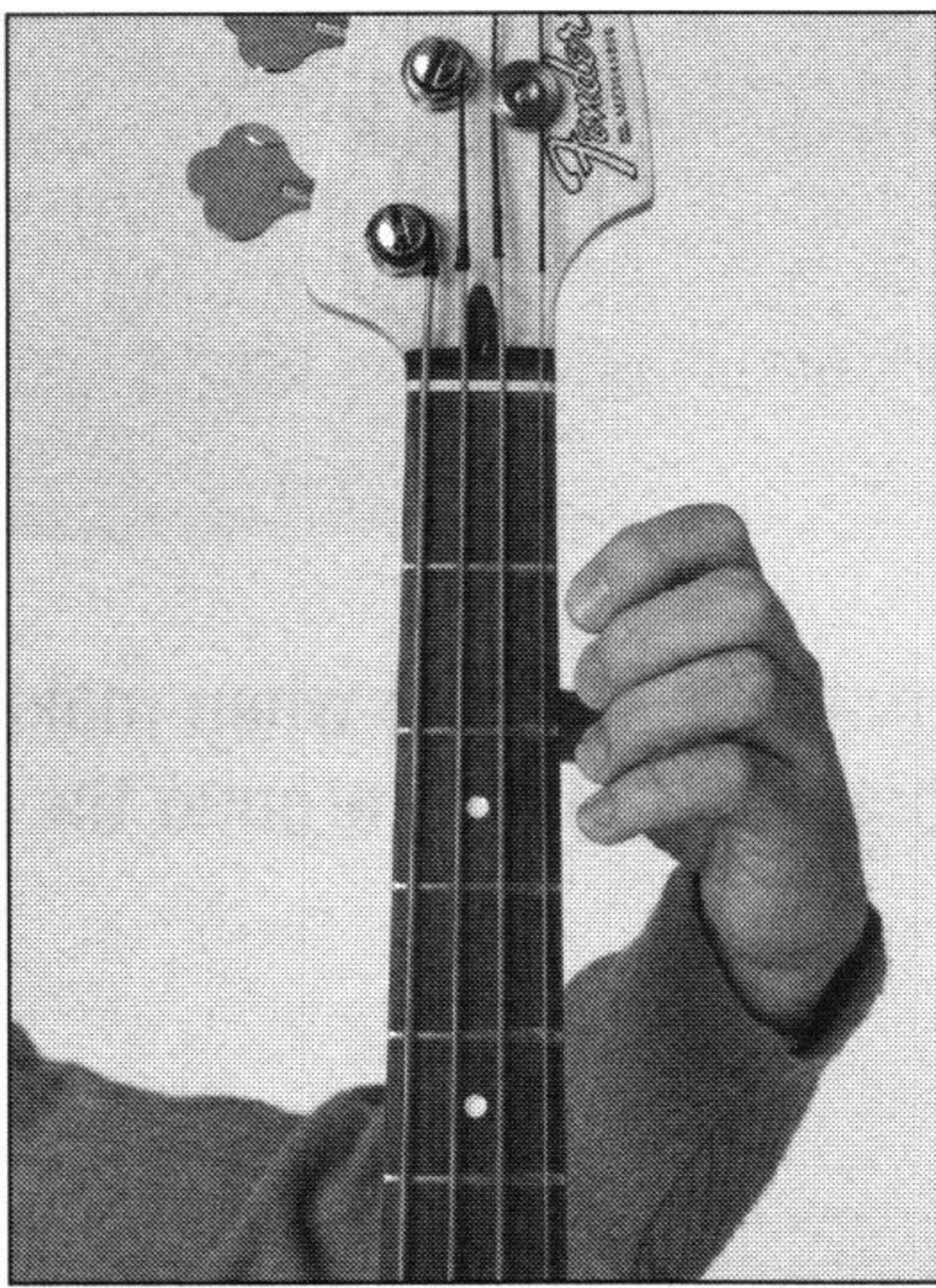
A



④



B



These notes are in 2nd position.

When playing on the G string, make sure your right thumb drops to the A string (muting the bottom two open strings).

