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Rock House

LEARN BASS

The Method For a New Generation

2

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 2

The Method for a New Generation

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Table of Contents

Digital eBook	4	Drop D Bass Line	37
The Rock House Method		Bass Chords	38
Learning System	5	Vibrato	39
Icon Key	5	Hammer Ons and Pedal Tones	40
Minor Pentatonic Scales Key of “E”	6	The Mexican Snake Song	40
Single Note Patterns Key of “E”	8	Riff Oriented Bass Lines	41
The Finger Drag	10	Playing with the Guitar	42
E Minor Pentatonic Scale Groove	10	Syncopated Sixteenths	42
Connecting the Scale Patterns: Pentatonic .	11	The ii-V-I Progression	44
Hammer Ons	12	Combining Major and Minor Triads	44
Pull Offs	13	Natural Minor Scales:	
Hammer Ons in a Bass Line	14	Key of G positions 1, 2 & 3	45
Pull Offs in a Bass Line	14	Natural Minor Triplet Pattern	46
Minor Blues Progression	15	Combining Triads with Scales	47
Root Notes	16	Natural Harmonics	48
The Major Scale Formula	17	Complete Bass Progression	49
Major Scale One Octave Patterns	18	G Blues Scales	50
Major Scale Four String Patterns	20	G Blues Scale Groove	52
Walking Bass Lines	22	G Minor Hammer On Groove	52
Exercise Routine	23	The Gallop Rhythm	53
Following the Root Notes	24	Double Thumb Groove	53
Notes in the 5th Position	25	Slap Bass Pop Melody	54
Find Any Note on the Bass	25		
Slap and Pop Groove	26	Appendix	
Legato	27	Musical Words	55
Hammer Pull Off Single Note Pattern	27	Natural Minor Scales	56
Using Hammer & Pull Offs in a Bass Line ...	28	Blues Scales	60
Sixteenth Notes	29		
Sixteenth Notes in a Bass Line	30	About the Author	64
Canon Progression	30		
Syncopated Bass Lines	31		
Syncopated Bass Line with			
Fifths & Octaves	31		
Slap & Pop Sixteenth Note Grooves	32		
Intervals	33		
Drop D Tuning	36		
Drop D I-IV-V Progression	37		

Minor Pentatonic Scales Key of "E"

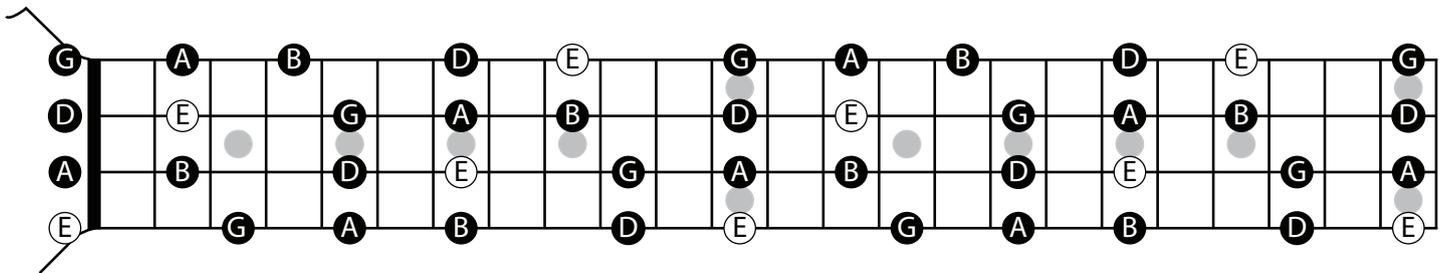


SCALE PROFESSOR

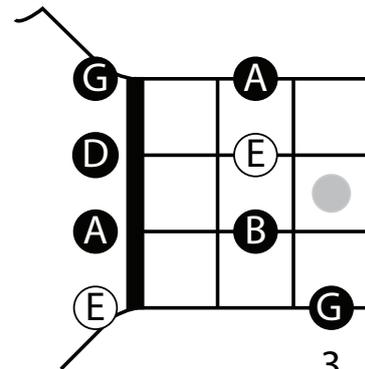
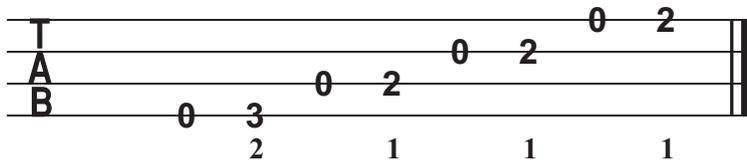
The two most popular keys in rock and blues music are A and E. In Book 1 you learned all five pentatonic scales in the key of "A." In this lesson you will learn these five scale patterns in the key of "E." It's easy to change keys with these scales; just move the scale patterns you already know to different frets.

The 1st scale position always starts on the root note or the key. In the key of "A," the 1st scale position starts on the 5th fret which is an A note. In the key of "E" the 1st scale will start with the open 4th string which is an E note. This position can also be played an octave higher at the 12th fret.

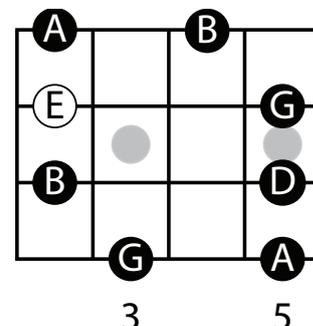
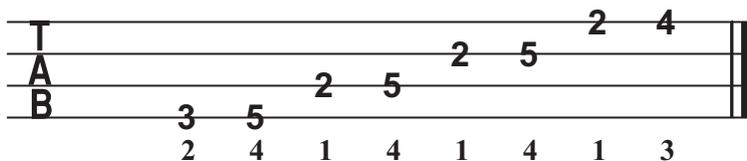
Look at the following scale diagrams and see where all five positions are played in the key of "E." Pay close attention to where all the E notes (root notes) fall within each position.



1st Position (open)



2nd Position





The Finger Drag

Often when playing bass lines you will need to play two adjacent strings with one finger. The most effective way to pluck these is to drag your finger from one string down to the next. In this exercise you will drag with your index and middle fingers. Don't pick the finger up and pluck the next string just let the finger drag off one onto the next string with one swift movement.



E Minor Pentatonic Scale Groove

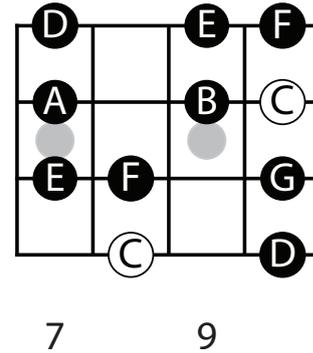
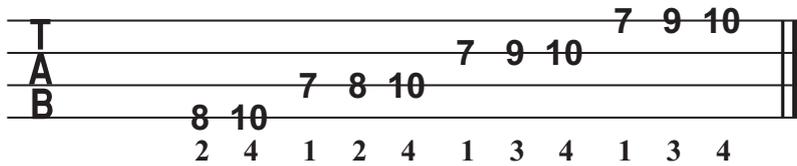
Scales are groups of notes that you will use to create bass lines within a certain key. Here is a great example of a bass line created directly from the E minor pentatonic scale first position. I've outlined where the finger drag technique is used in this bass line.

Major Scale Four String Patterns

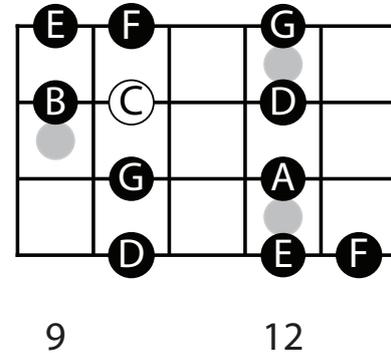
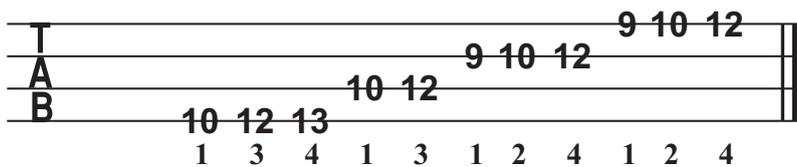


These five scale patterns contain all the notes in the C major scale spanning your whole bass neck. The root notes are depicted with white dots. I've also included a full neck diagram of where all the C major notes fall across the neck.

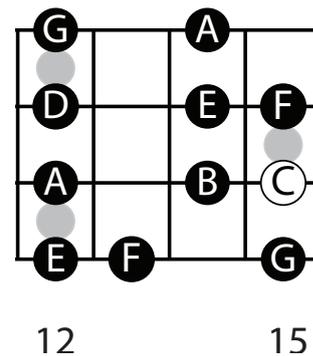
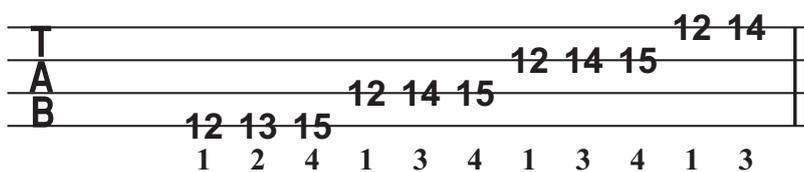
1st Position



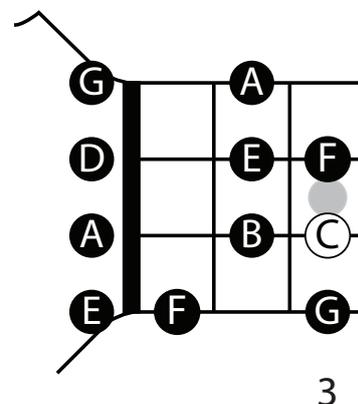
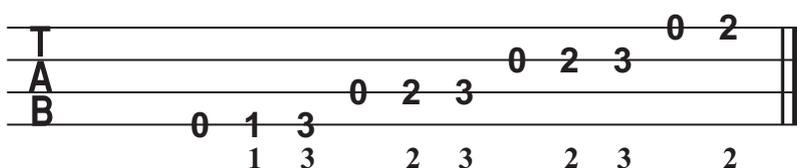
2nd Position



3rd Position (Octave)



3rd Position (Octave Lower)





The ii-V-I Progression

Another common chord progression is the 2 – 5 – 1 progression (also written ii – V – I). In this progression chords are built from the 2nd, 5th and 1st degrees of a major scale. You will use triads to outline the chord changes. This progression is most popular in jazz music but can be found in many other genres. The progression in the lesson is in the key of “C.”

Dm⁷ G⁷

Finger: 4
Count: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & etc.

Cmaj⁷



Combining Major and Minor Triads

Here is a great example of applying your triads together to create a complete bass line. Make sure to use the triad shapes you learned to make the transitions easier.

Cm Gm

A

Slap Bass Pop Melody

This is a complicated bass line where you play the bass notes and a melody together. I wrote the chord progression notes above the staff so you can see the bass root notes. Pay close attention to which notes are slapped with the thumb and which are plucked with the pop technique. Once you feel comfortable playing this through from beginning to end play it with the backing track.

Dm

				P					F		H				P				
T				10	9		7	9				5	7	X	5	X	7	5	
A	5	X	X			X	X		5	7	8	X			X				
B																			
	S	S	S	P		S	P	S	P	S	S	S	S	P	S	P	S	P	
	1			4	3		1		3	1	3	4		1	3	1		3	1

G *sl.* B^b

T	0					10	10	10	10					10			10			
A						10	12			12				8	X		10	X	10	
B	8	10																		
	P	S	S			S		P	P	P	P	S		S	S	P	S		P	S
		3	3			3		1	1	1	1	3		1		3			3	1

A Dm

T					9			9										
A	7	X			X			7										
B																		
	S		S		P		S	P	S									
	1				3			3	1									

On the backing track after the first time through the progression there are variations added to the bass line. I encourage you to experiment and improvise to make your own variations.



Learn Bass 2 - Quiz 3

Congratulations you've made it to the end of Book 2! Go to RockHouseSchool.com and take the quiz to track your progress. You will receive an email with your results and an official Rock House Method "Certificate of Completion" when you pass.