BASS LINE TO SEX ON FIRE
by KINGS OF LEON

by PAUL WOLFE
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HOW TO PLAY BASS TO SEX ON FIRE
BY THE KINGS OF LEON

Firstly, thanks for subscribing to my Ezine and News Updates. This report is the first in a sequence of 4 I’ve produced as a ‘Thank You’ for subscribing.

Learning songs is something we all need to do as bass players. Done correctly you can skyrocket your ability levels simply by tackling a list of sequentially more complex tunes....however that’s a story for another day.

In this report I want to look at the bass line to Sex On Fire by The Kings Of Leon. This song is perfect for bass players who have not played for too long to pick up - it’s pretty simple. But there’s enough in it to make it worthwhile learning.

So let’s get on with the lesson. I’ve broken the parts of the song down into ‘chunks.’ I often find that it’s easier to learn chunks of a tune (e.g. the verse, the chorus, etc) and learn smaller sections of the tune and then put them together to make a whole.

INTRO

The Intro starts with the guitar riff.

When you listen to the original recording and try counting yourself in it sounds a bit weird. Here’s the reason why: the guitar part starts on Beat 4. If you listen to the recording and count from 4 once the guitar starts you’ll bring yourself squarely in on the ‘1’. (So count - 4,1,2,3,4,1,2,3,4 etc).

Here’s the notation and tab:
VERSE 1

The first verse is very similar to the basic patterns you’ve already learned if you’ve learned the Intro. The main difference is that in the second 8 bars of the Verse pattern the basic rhythm switches to straight 8th notes. You’ll also notice in the playalong sections of the video that sometimes I grab the G Sharp at the 11th fret of the A string rather than the 6th fret of the D string. This is something that I often do in a live context because it allows yo to slide back down to the C sharp and addds a bit of colour to the line. (But you don’t have to do this!)
How To Play Sex On Fire

CHORUS

OK the 8 Bar Chorus Pattern that follows is the basis of all 4 choruses in the tune.

Chorus 1 and Chorus 3 are just this pattern played once. But Chorus 2 and Chorus 4 are 16 bars long, so you'll need to play this pattern twice.
VERSES 2 AND 3

Verses 2 and 3 are identical - an easy way to remember them is that they are the same as Verse 1 - except the very last two bars are in A, rather than staying on C Sharp as it does in Verse 1:
BREAKDOWN:

The ‘breakdown’ happens after Chorus 3. The climb to the higher register C Sharp and the three bars that are an octave higher than in the rest of the song make a cool contrast. So definitely work on incorporating them! Here’s the notation and the tab.

![Notation and Tab](image)

SONG FORMAT

If you learn the song ‘piece-by-piece’ then you need a roadmap to put the pieces together.

Here’s the order you need:
Sex On Fire Roadmap

- Intro
- Verse 1
- Chorus 1 (8 bars)
- Verse 2
- Chorus 2 (16 bars)
- Verse 3
- Chorus 3 (8 bars)
- Breakdown
- Chorus 4 (16 bars)
- ‘Stabs’ at end (see video)

And that’s it. The PDF in conjunction with the video lesson will enable you to learn the bass line to this tune.

Look out for the next lesson in the ‘Opt-In’ sequence - and that’s ‘Signed Sealed Delivered’ by Stevie Wonder.

See ya then!

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