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Bass For Beginners Syllabus/Technical Details

The 30 Lesson Syllabus

Lesson 1 Lesson 1 is about plucking hand technique. The technique I teach is called the 2 Finger Rest Stroke and I go into how it works, anchor points for your thumb, and some simple exercises to get you to start working on this technique.

Lesson 2 Lesson 2 is a further development of Lesson 1 - we're still working on plucking hand technique. In Lesson 2 we're looking at how the plucking hand deals with string crossing.

Lesson 3 So far we've been working on our right hand technique in an ascending fashion - now we're adding the 'rest' to the rest stroke and working on descending as well.

Lesson 4 In Lesson 4 we introduce the fretting hand and look at basic fretting hand exercises. We talk about finger independence and digital exercises. And then we get to the heart of my method - applying this information to songs. In Lesson 4 we're learning one of the easiest bass lines in history - With Or Without You by U2.

Lesson 5 In Lesson 5 we're going to start systematically learning the notes on our bass guitar fretboard. We're going to use an exercise called The Notefinder to learn every location where you can play the notes 'E' or 'F' on your fretboard. In the song tutorial part of the lesson we're looking at the first part of a simplified version of Every Breath You Take by The Police.

Lesson 6 In Lesson 6 we're continuing our explorations of the fingerboard - we're learning all the locations of the notes 'F#' and 'G'. And in the song tutorial section of the lesson we're learning the rest of Every Breath You Take.

Lesson 7 In Lesson 7 we're adding two more notes to our 'palette' of learned notes - this week it's 'Ab' and 'A.' And in the song tutorial we're learning So Lonely by The Police.

Lesson 8 In Lesson 8 we're moving further up the fretboard and learning the location of 'Bb' and B. And we're having an introductory look at rhythm.

Lesson 9 In Lesson 9 we're learning the locations of 'C' and 'Db.' And we're looking at a bassline that uses whole notes and eighth notes - that's Chasing Cars by Snow Patrol.

Lesson 10 In this lesson we're going to learn the last two notes we need to learn to complete our 12 note palette - 'Eb' and 'E.' And we're spending some time looking at quarter note bass lines - we're looking at some bass line snippets like Moondance and My Baby Just Cares For Me and then we have a detailed song tutorial and we're using Rock Around The Clock by Bill Haley as our 'quarter note rhythm' tune.

Lesson 11 In this lesson we're doing two things with the note finder exercises we've been working on. Firstly we're creating a composite exercise with all 12 notes. And we're using a pack of playing cards to 'randomize' what we play so that we can be sure we truly know it. We're also looking at how you can use a Tascam Bass Trainer to slow a piece of music down to

learn it, and why this is important. We're doing this with an 8 bar section of Superstition.

Lesson 12 In this lesson we're developing on our left hand technique with some digital permutation exercises, we're learning a specific rhythmic pattern and how to count it, and then we're learning a song based on that rhythmic pattern. That song is My Girl by The Temptations.

Lesson 13 In this lesson we're got another set of left hand technique/digital permutation exercises, we're learning a specific rhythmic pattern and how to count it, and then we're learning a song based on that rhythmic pattern. That song is Tramp by Otis Redding.

Lesson 14 In this lesson we're got another set of left hand technique/digital permutation exercises, we're learning a specific rhythmic pattern and how to count it, and then we're learning a song based on that rhythmic pattern. That song is Tramp by Otis Redding.

Lesson 15 In this lesson we've got a composite set of rhythmic exercises and we're looking in more detail at straight 8th note rhythms - and the song we're using to illustrate this is Dancing In The Dark by Bruce Springsteen.

Lesson 16 In this lesson we've got some more rhythmic exercises and the song we're using to illustrate this is New Years Day by U2

Lesson 17 In this lesson we start a mini-series on practice thoughts. Plus there's a new set of rhythms and song that illustrates them. That song is Glory Days by Bruce Springsteen.

Lesson 18 In this lesson we're continuing with our thoughts on practicing. Then we're moving on with our rhythmic studies - and looking at the simple bass line to Stand By Me as our song tutorial.

Lesson 19 In Lesson 19 we've got more thoughts on practicing, and we're continuing our rhythmic studies and our song tutorial is a song that blends two different rhythmic styles together - that song is Roxanne by The Police.

Lesson 20 In Lesson 20 we've got more thoughts on practicing and we're looking at a rhythm that has a rest on the downbeat. The song tutorial that illustrates this unique rhythm is Addicted To Love by Robert Palmer.

Lesson 21 In Lesson 21 we're starting to move towards the 'goal' of the course - being able to play driving and dynamic 8th note based lines. The tutorial this week is Living On A Prayer by Bon Jovi.

Lesson 22 Lesson 22 focuses on practicing and a song tutorial called Keep On Running by Spencer Davis. This is a great bass line and will enhance your left and right hand techniques.

Lesson 23 Lesson 23 has some more thoughts on practicing - and the song tutorial we're looking at is that hoary old rock classic Smoke On The Water.

Lesson 24 Lesson 24 includes information on the Deliberate Practice concept of Comfort Zone/Learnign Zone and Panic Zone. And the song tutorial introduces the 'slow learning' method of mastering a song or bass line - and we're using the Riff from Daytripper by the Beatles as our practical example.

Lesson 25 Lesson 25 looks at how to use the principles of Deliberate Practice to audit your practice sessions and make sure you are practicing efficiently. The song tutorial part of the lesson is a complete note by note tutorial for Daytripper by The Beatles.

Lesson 26 Lesson 26 looks at a really powerful exercise that I learned from Jerry Jemmott - this exercise is called Say It Sing It Play it. The song tutorial is Jamerson's driving 8th note line on This Old Heart Of Mine by The Isley Brothers.

Lesson 27 In Lesson 27 we're looking at simple exercises that will increase your facility in playing in every key. The song tutorial for this lesson is another Jamerson 8th note line - it's Get Ready by The Temptations.

Lesson 28 In Lesson 28 we're continuing to look at increasing your facility in every key. And the song tutorial for this lesson is Nowhere To Run by Martha And The Vandellas

Lesson 29 In Lesson 29 we're finishing up at our look at increasing your facility in every key. And the song tutorial for this lesson is I Saw Her Standing There by The Beatles/Paul McCartney. Great finger burner!

Lesson 30 In the final lesson of the course we're looking at where to go from here, and the final song tutorial is Shake A Tailfeather by Duck Dunn/The Blues Brothers.

Technical Details

Complete Details Of The Bass For Beginners Program

Format: Each lesson has its own dedicated webpage.

Delivery: You get access to Lessons 1 to 5 within a few minutes of signing up. The remaining 25 lessons are published at 5 day intervals. You will get an email when your next lesson is viewable in the Members Area of the website.

Payment Methods: All payments are via PayPal. If you don't have a PayPal account they are extremely easy to set up and use - or you can pay securely by credit card.

Currency: All payments are in US Dollars. Paypal will convert the USD amount to your own currency when you get your credit card statement. In some cases, depending on where you're from, you may be able to see the conversion rate in your own currency before you pay (this feature is not available for all currencies though).

Compatibility: Is The information used for each lesson is compatible for both Macs and PCs. If you have any issues, don't hesitate to email me and I'll help you sort them out.

