

Bass-Line Progressions

For most beginners, playing rhythm will be challenging as it requires the ability to both strum and change chords while keeping tempo. Before attempting to strum a complete rhythm progression, the first step will be to simply accompany a rhythm guitarist by playing a *single-note bass line*. Playing with another musician and following chord changes will help develop a sense of timing, which in turn will help with eventually strumming rhythm progressions unaccompanied.

Twelve-Bar Flamenco Bass Line

The bass line below can be played along with a twelve-bar Flamenco progression in the Key of 'A' Minor. Count each bar as 'one-two... three-four', with a slight pause between the second and third beats. At Bar 12, play either the *turnaround* to repeat the progression, or play the two-note *ending* to finish.

Am			Dm		
1					
2					
3					
4				8 7	8 7
5	8 7	8 7	8 7	8 7	5 5
6	5 5	5 5	5 5	5 5	5 5
	1 1 4 3	1 1 4 3	1 1 4 3	1 1 4 3	1 1 4 3

Am		E		Dm		Am		Turnaround/Ending	
1									
2									
3									
4									
5	8 7	8 7	7 7	10 9	5 5	8 7	8 7	7777 7777	
6	5 5	5 5					5 5		5 5
	1 1 4 3	1 1 4 3	1 1 4 3	1 1 4 3	1 1 4 3	1 1 4 3	3333 3333	1 1	

Twelve-Bar Blues Bass Line

The bass line below can be played along with a twelve-bar Blues shuffle progression in the Key of 'A'. Count each bar as 'one-two-three-four...one-two-three-four.' At Bar 12, be sure to emphasize the first two-beats, then play either the *turnaround* to repeat the progression, or play the *ending* to finish.

A				D			
1							
2							
3							
4							
5						5 5 5 5	5 5 5 5
6	5 5 5 5	5 5 5 5	5 5 5 5	5 5 5 5	5 5 5 5	5 5 5 5	5 5 5 5
	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1

A		E		D		A		Bar 12 -Turnaround/End	
1									
2									
3									
4									
5			7 7 7 7	7 7 7 7	5 5 5 5	5 5 5 5		5 6 7	
6	5 5 5 5	5 5 5 5	5 5 5 5	5 5 5 5	5 5 5 5	5 5 5 5	5 5		5
	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1	1 2 3	1