

3

Introducing New Notes And String Crossing



Introducing the notes of C and D

In *Lesson 1* we divided the bar into 4 notes giving us quarter notes. In *Lesson 2*, we divided the bar into 8 equal notes giving us eighth notes.

You will recall that a quarter note is worth 1 beat and an eighth note is worth half a beat.

We also learned to play the bass notes of **A** and **G** on the E string. You can also play the **A** using the open A string.

Let's learn some more notes, this time fretting the notes on the A string.

Lesson Objectives

- Learn new notes on the **A** string (3rd string).
- Introduce and develop control of **String Crossing**.
- Play simple rock grooves using the notes **A, G, D** and **C**.

Playing the note of C

Now place your 1st (index) finger of your left hand on the A string at the 3rd fret. The 3rd fret is the first dot along the neck.

The exercise requires you to play the note of **C** using quarter notes. As always, look at the picture below and use the multimedia files to watch and then play along with.



Playing a C on the A string at the 3rd Fret

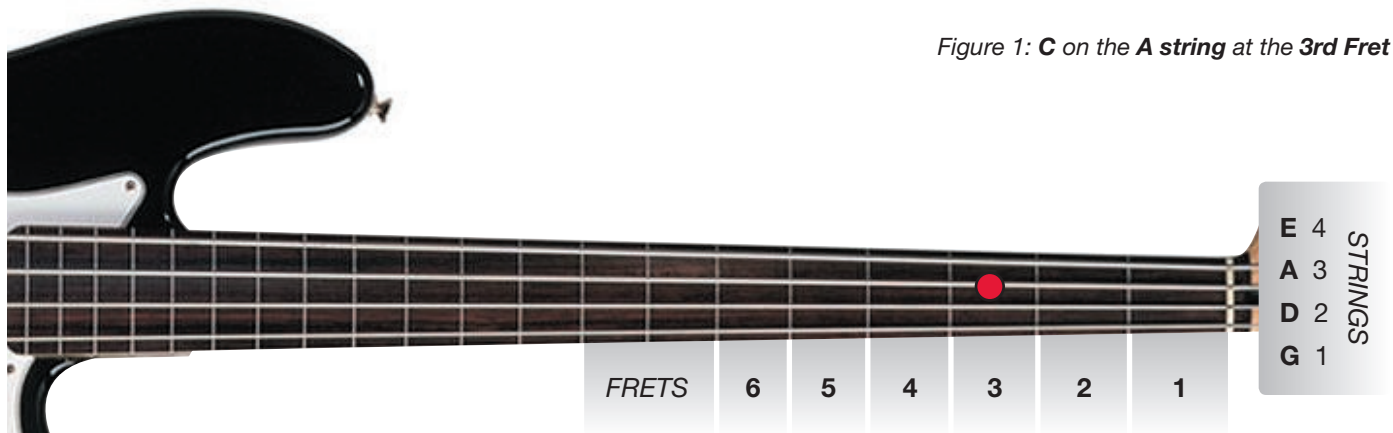
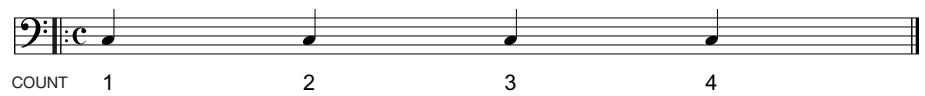


Figure 1: C on the A string at the 3rd Fret

Exercise 1: Playing the note of C on the A string

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Playing a D on the A string at the 5th fret

Playing the note of D

Now place your 1st (index) finger of your left hand on the A string at the 5th fret. The 5th fret is the second dot along the neck.

The exercise requires you to play the note of **D** using quarter notes and as always, make use of the multimedia files.

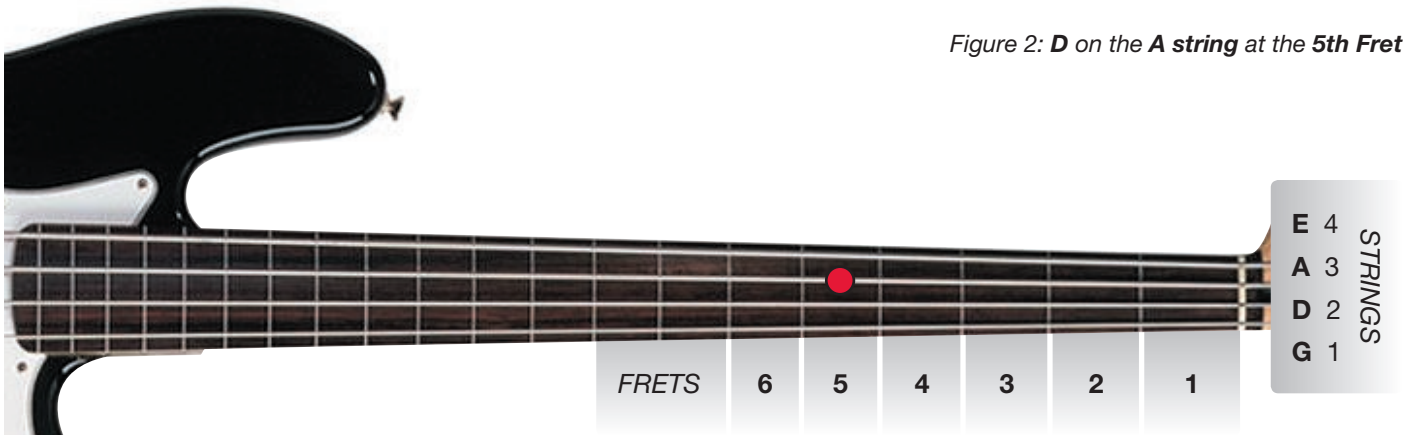


Figure 2: D on the A string at the 5th Fret

Exercise 2: Playing the note of D on the A string

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Developing playing both C and D (using Quarter Notes)

Our next two exercises enable you to develop your ability to incorporate **C** and **D** into your playing. We are using these new notes in a simple quarter note rock groove. Watch the video and then practise with the play-along file.

Exercise 3: Playing C and D with quarter notes

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COUNT 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Developing playing both C and D (using Eighth Notes)

Now using **C** and **D** again, we are now going to play the same rock groove. This time though, we will be using eighth notes. Use the multimedia files as usual.

Exercise 4: Playing C and D with eighth notes

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COUNT 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Introducing String Crossing (using A, G, C and D)

We have now learned how to play 4 notes on the bass guitar and it is a good time to see if we can put them all together.

The next example has all of our bass notes for you to play and involves and introduces the technique of **String Crossing**. This is where you simply have to change from playing on one string, to crossing to another. In this case you are going to need to be able to negotiate changing from the E string to the A string.

Now this is the first time we have attempted this, so I would use the multimedia files. Watch the video and then listen to the play-along exercise before having a go yourself.

Once you are comfortable with what you are trying to do, then try playing along with the media file very slowly, building the speed, and your ability to cross strings smoothly.

Exercise 5: Playing A, G, C and D together

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1

2

COUNT 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

3

4

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

A note on practising

Play each of the exercises slowly and focus on playing the strings evenly, creating a nice deep round sound. Also, be mindful of playing in time with the band on the media files.

The BassXtractor enables you to change the tempo of the exercise so that you can slow down at first to keep up with the changes between notes and then speed up as you become more proficient. Furthermore, it has a loop function that means that you can play the exercises around and around until comfortable.