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Developing Finger Control



Developing left hand finger fluency

In *Lesson 1* we learned how to build a rock groove using quarter notes on the bass.

This lesson applies the same process for building new grooves, but uses quarter and eighth notes, combining them together to create more rock grooves.

Our first exercise develops our ability to play quarter notes and eighth notes on the bass, in preparation for the groove exercises that follow. Up until now, we have only played subdivisions using one finger of the left hand. Look at our first example. You will see that we use two fingers to play this exercise.

Go through each of the following exercises and use the multimedia files to play along with.

Lesson Objectives

- Develop our control of subdivisions in groove playing.
- Create new rock grooves with different bass note patterns.
- Extend our development of left hand finger coordination in rock grooves.

Note: The fingers of the fretting hand (the hand that plays the frets) are numbered from 1 to 4, with the index finger being number 1 through to the little finger being number 4. The thumb has no number and is referred to as the 'thumb'.



Exercise 1

lesson005.ibsdfc.01

FINGER 4 4 4 4 1 1 1 1 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1



Developing finger control through further exercises

It is important that we are able to use each of the fingers of our left hand to play bass notes. The following exercises will help to develop this skill.

The exercises are based on quarter notes and eighth notes using the bass notes **A**, **G**, **C** and **D**. The left hand fingering is included with each exercise.

Exercise 2

lesson005.ibsdfc.02

1 2

FINGER 4 4 4 4

3 4

1 1 1 1 4 4 4 4

5 6

4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

7 8

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4

New ideas for bass lines

These notes can be played in a different order to create new pattern ideas for rock grooves.

Exercise 3

lesson005.ibsdfc.03

The exercise consists of 16 measures of music in bass clef, 4/4 time. The notes are as follows:

- Measure 1: G2, A2, B2, C3
- Measure 2: D3, E3, F3, G3
- Measure 3: G3, A3, B3, C4
- Measure 4: D4, E4, F4, G4
- Measure 5: G4, A4, B4, C5
- Measure 6: D5, E5, F5, G5
- Measure 7: G5, A5, B5, C6
- Measure 8: D6, E6, F6, G6
- Measure 9: G6, A6, B6, C7
- Measure 10: D7, E7, F7, G7
- Measure 11: G7, A7, B7, C8
- Measure 12: D8, E8, F8, G8
- Measure 13: G8, A8, B8, C9
- Measure 14: D9, E9, F9, G9
- Measure 15: G9, A9, B9, C10
- Measure 16: D10, E10, F10, G10

Practise makes perfect

Repeat each exercise a few times until you feel more comfortable with it. Begin at a slow tempo. Later, use the BassXtractor to record your performance and check it back. You can save the file so that you can come back at a later date to see how much you have improved.

Playing in position

Once you have done all of this you will notice that your left hand does not need to move around to play all these notes (**A**, **G**, **C** and **D**). In fact, because these notes are contained in a small area on your bass you can keep your left hand in the same place and let your fingers do the work for you. This means that you do not move your left hand at all and you can leave it in the same position to play these notes. This is known as ***playing in position***.