

9

Developing Root And Fifth



Developing Root and Fifth Patterns

We now need to develop an ability to play Root and Fifth patterns on any note. To do this we need to make sure that we first know the names of all the Natural notes and where to find them.

So far we have played all of these notes: A, C, D, E, and G.

In *Figure 1* we have shown all of these notes on our musical staff. You will see that there are gaps on the staff and if we look at *Figure 1* and use the musical alphabet, you will notice that the notes of B and F are missing.

Figure 1: Notes learned so far A,C,D,E and G



Lesson Objectives

- Develop root and fifth patterns.
- Introduce new bass notes of F and B.
- Develop fingerboard visualisation of shapes.
- Develop knowledge of all natural notes.

Introducing B

B can be found firstly on the A string at the 2nd Fret. Look at the diagram of the A string below.

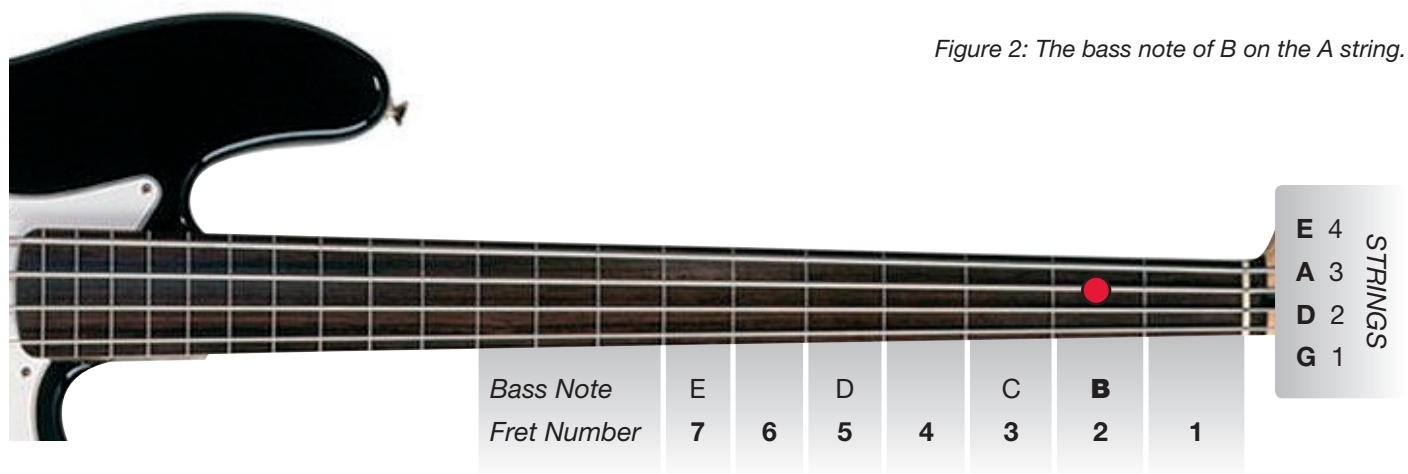
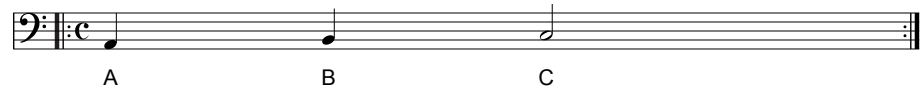


Figure 2: The bass note of B on the A string.

Let's now play a simple exercise to help us become familiar with B. See if you think what the fingering should be as you have a choice of ways to play A. Use the multimedia files as always.

Exercise 1

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Introducing F

F can be found on the D string at the 3rd fret which is the first time we have looked closely at the D string. Look at the diagram below and you will see that the D string is the second highest string.

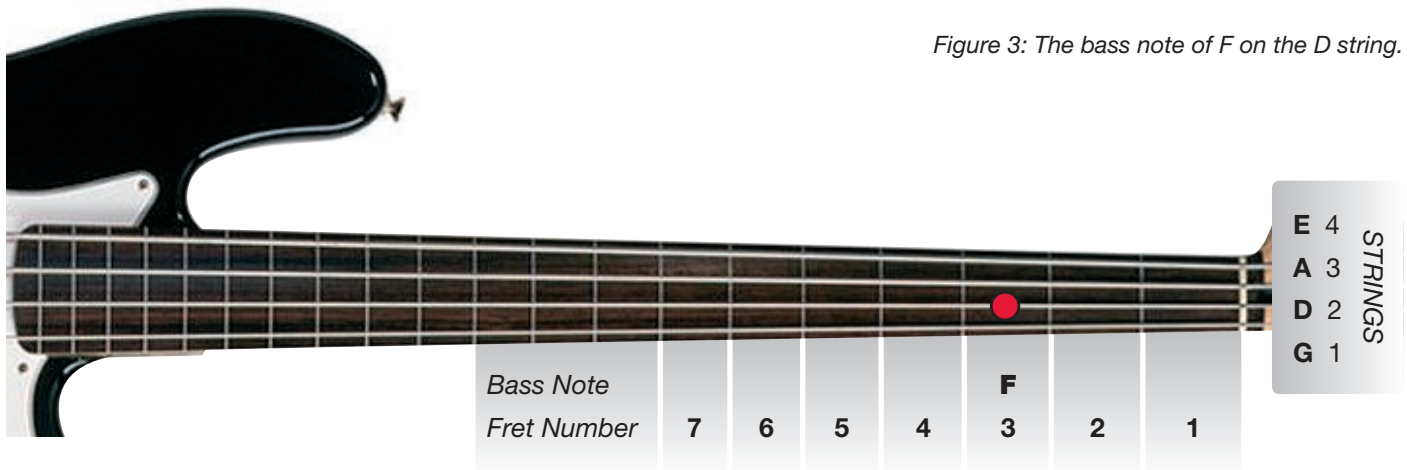
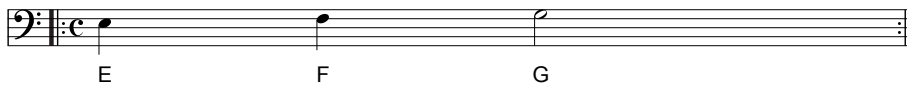


Figure 3: The bass note of F on the D string.

Let's now play a simple exercise to help us become familiar with F. Again, think about the fingering and then use the multimedia files as always.

Exercise 2

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Down an Octave (Introducing the low F)

We can now apply some of our recently acquired knowledge to help us understand that we can find F elsewhere on the Bass neck.

If we take our F on the D string and then apply the octave shape downwards, moving back down the fingerboard two frets and across two strings, we find a low F on the first fret on the E string. It may not have been obvious at these early stages of our studies but clearly octave shapes work in both directions on the fingerboard. The same applies to root and 5th shapes as we already know from our studies at the end of *Lesson 8*.

Look at our diagram of the E string and see our low F Bass note at the first fret.

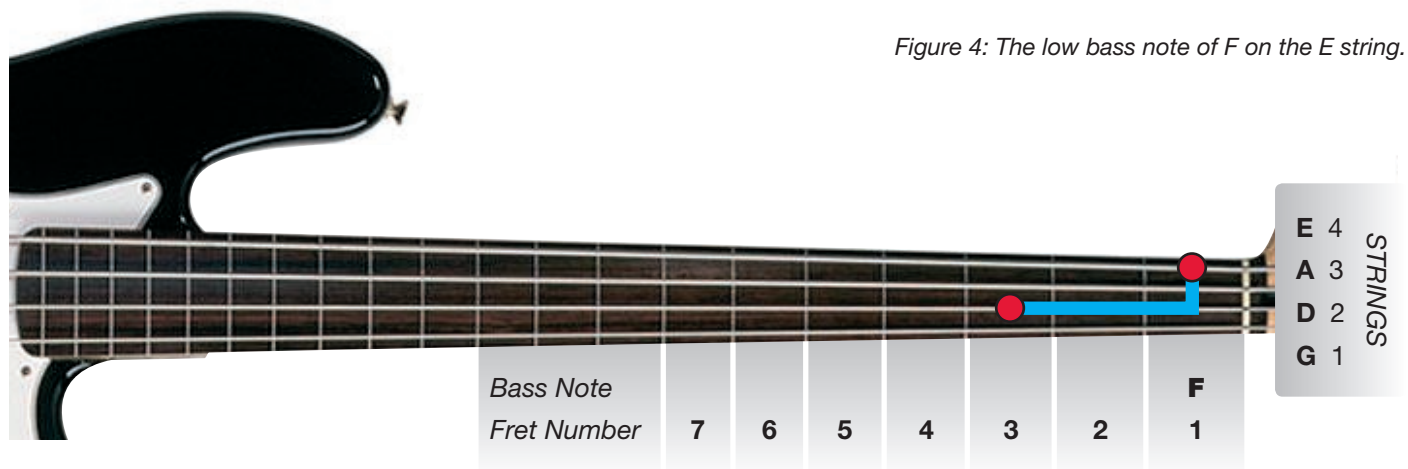
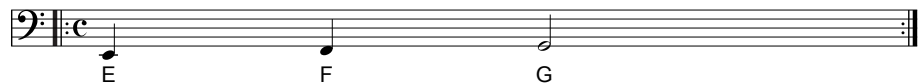


Figure 4: The low bass note of F on the E string.

Let's play another simple exercise incorporating our low F bass note. These exercises help familiarise ourselves with not only where the notes are on the Fingerboard, but they are helping you become more familiar with the position of the notes on the musical stave.

Exercise 3

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Octave and Root and 5th Shapes for Low F

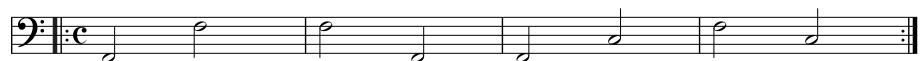
Having introduced our low F from our higher F on the D string, we should now consolidate our knowledge by applying octave and root and 5th shapes. The following exercise should give you a good workout and incorporates playing up and down both octave and root and 5th shapes.

Use the multimedia files and develop your ability as always by adjusting the tempo as you become more proficient. There are no clues here other than the notes on the musical stave, so let's see how your reading is coming along!

Remember you can always look at previous examples if you are unsure at all.

Exercise 4

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Knowledge of all Natural Notes

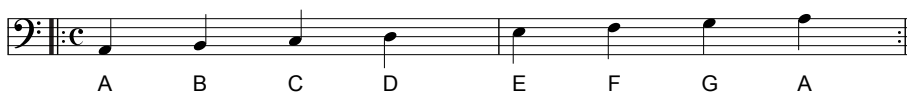
We now have knowledge of all natural notes. Starting with A we have:

A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A.

To familiarise yourself with reading and playing these notes, play the following exercise. Work out the fingering and position of the notes on the staff and the fingerboard and then check the supportive multimedia to see how you are doing.

Exercise 5

lesson009.ibsdrf.05



Developing fluency around the Fingerboard Bass Guitar Studies

To be able to move around the bass fluently it is essential that you can quickly identify all of the notes we have learned. You need to know where they live on the fingerboard and also where they are represented on the musical staff.

The next two exercises are challenging studies designed to help you become increasingly more proficient at recognising the bass notes on the music and playing them fluently on the fingerboard.

You need to practise these in the same manner as always:

- Work out each bar slowly making sure you understand what you are being asked to play;
- Work slowly through the exercise increasing your comfort and control;
- Use the multimedia files to help you understand and confirm what you are trying to play.

The first exercise focuses on recognising notes and the second combines notes, octave shapes and root and 5th shapes together with note value recognition skills.

Exercise 6

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1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8

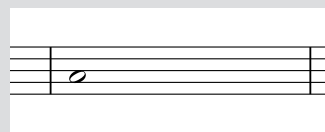
9 10 11 12

13 14

A Whole Note

In Exercise 7, you will see a note that is new to you. This is a whole note.

Worth 4 beats



1 2 3 4
Count

Exercise 7

lesson009.ibsdrf.07

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12

13 14

Ready for your Level One Piece

Well done!

If you have got this far you are ready to tackle your Level 1 tune and that means that you are already a pretty good bass guitarist.

The tune will involve many of the skills you have learned through these last 9 lessons, so you may wish to revise bits of the course whilst practising for the tune.

The development of (your ability to play) a musical instrument requires constant repetition, so don't be afraid of looking at earlier exercises. The best players in the world play the simplest things extremely well because the simple things are the basis of music and have to be played well for music to sound good.