

Bass Lines Using Chord Tones



-Playing bass lines with chord tones

Chord diagrams for Bb6, Gm7, Cm7, F7, Dm7, G7, Cm7, and F7 are shown above the staff. The staff shows a bass line in 4/4 time, with notes corresponding to the chord tones of each chord. The TAB below the staff shows the fret numbers for each note.

Chord diagrams: Bb6 (5), Gm7 (3), Cm7 (8), F7 (7), Dm7 (10), G7 (10), Cm7 (8), F7 (7).

Staff notation: Bass line in 4/4 time, notes: Bb2, Gb2, F2, Eb2, D2, C2, Bb1, Ab1, Gb1, F1, Eb1, D1, C1, Bb0, Ab0, Gb0, F0.

TAB: 6 5 3 6 | 8 6 8 8 | 10 8 10 10 | 8 6 8 8

Chord diagrams for Bb6, Cm7/Eb, F7, and Bb6 are shown above the staff. The staff shows a bass line in 4/4 time, with notes corresponding to the chord tones of each chord. The TAB below the staff shows the fret numbers for each note. A label 'Chromatic Movement (pitches outside of chord)' points to the notes Eb2 and D2 in the second measure.

Chord diagrams: Bb6 (5), Cm7/Eb (6), F7 (7), Bb6 (5).

Staff notation: Bass line in 4/4 time, notes: Bb2, Gb2, F2, Eb2, D2, C2, Bb1, Ab1, Gb1, F1, Eb1, D1, C1, Bb0, Ab0, Gb0, F0.

TAB: 6 6 5 5 | 6 6 7 7 | 8 7 8 8 | 6

-Now try the same bass movement with chords voiced with the bass line

Chord diagrams for Bb6, Gm7, Cm7, F7, Dm7, G7, Cm7, and F7 are shown above the staff. The staff shows a bass line in 4/4 time, with notes corresponding to the chord tones of each chord. The TAB below the staff shows the fret numbers for each note.

Chord diagrams: Bb6 (5), Gm7 (3), Cm7 (8), F7 (7), Dm7 (10), G7 (10), Cm7 (8), F7 (7).

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TAB: 7 5 3 | 8 8 7 8 | 10 10 9 10 | 8 8 7 8 | 6 5 3 6 | 8 6 8 8 | 10 8 10 10 | 8 6 8 8

Chord diagrams for Bb6, Cm7/Eb, F7, and Bb6 are shown above the staff. The staff shows a bass line in 4/4 time, with notes corresponding to the chord tones of each chord. The TAB below the staff shows the fret numbers for each note.

Chord diagrams: Bb6 (5), Cm7/Eb (6), F7 (7), Bb6 (5).

Staff notation: Bass line in 4/4 time, notes: Bb2, Gb2, F2, Eb2, D2, C2, Bb1, Ab1, Gb1, F1, Eb1, D1, C1, Bb0, Ab0, Gb0, F0.

TAB: 7 5 3 | 8 8 7 8 | 10 10 9 10 | 8 8 7 8 | 6 5 3 6 | 8 6 8 8 | 10 8 10 10 | 8 6 8 8

Notes:

- Practice using chord tones to create harmonic movement or bass lines over chord changes
- Practice improvising bass lines over chord changes using chord tones
- Once you have a strong grasp of using chord tones for bass movement start introducing scale tones and chromaticism
- This same concept can be used for melodies or voice leading if you play chord tones on top of each chord rather than in the bass.