34 Useful Bass Comping Patterns

Explore a collection of essential bass lines from all kinds of musical styles: beginner basics, grooves, Latin, and walking jazz. Every pattern works over thousands of songs, in any key. All of these are available digitally to listen to, play along, and change at this QR Code.

Hear the Patterns

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HOW TO READ THESE PAGES

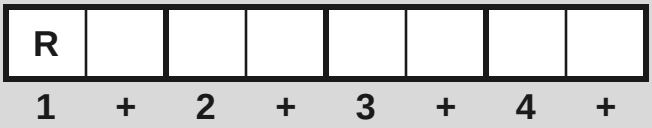
- Notation is in bass clef, written an octave higher than it sounds (standard for bass).
- Tab has four lines, one for each string. The top line is the G string. Numbers are frets.
- The boxes beside each title show one bar of the rhythm and what to play on each count. Count 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + out loud.
- **R** root, **3 5 6 b7** chord tones, → an approach note leading into the next chord. →**R** plays the next chord's root early.
- Fretboard shapes show the G string on top and fret numbers underneath. ● root ○ chord tone ◌ approach / pickup
- Every pattern is shown in C major (or A minor) and can be played in any key, over any chord progression, in the app.
- Several Latin patterns are based on Victor López, "Latin Rhythms: Mystery Unraveled" (The Midwest Clinic, 2005), and are marked.

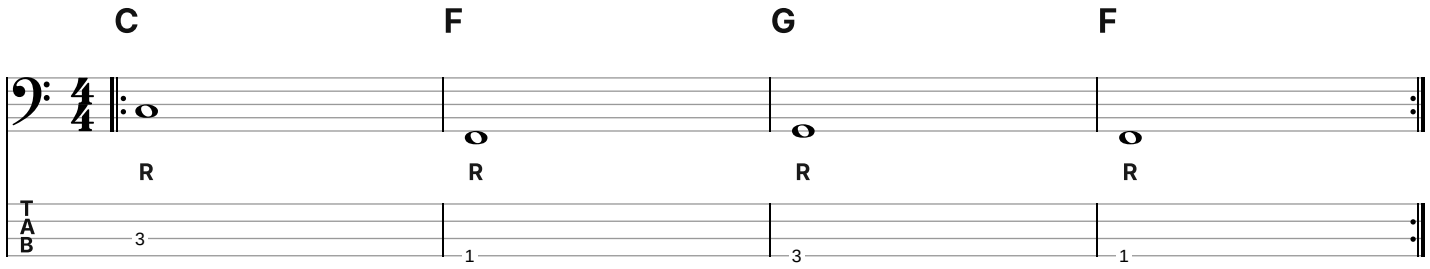
Beginner Basics

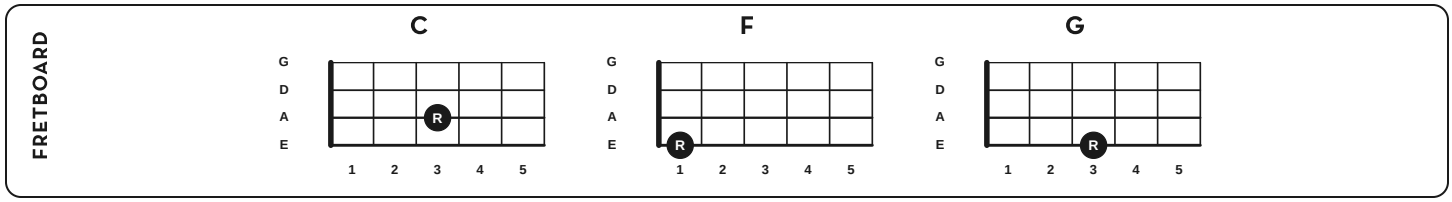
1. Whole-Note Roots

Level 1 / I–IV–V–IV in C / Basic rock groove

84 BPM



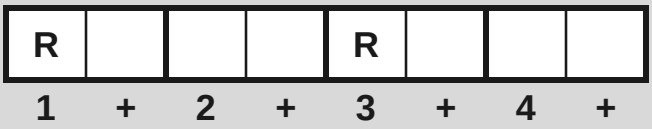


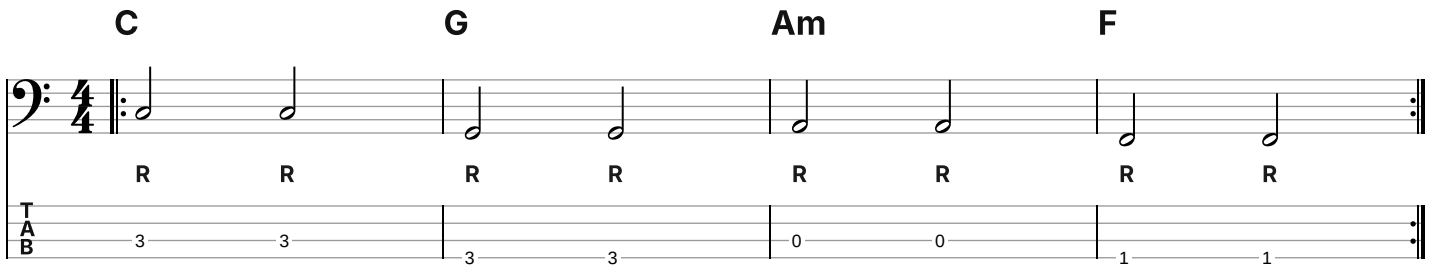


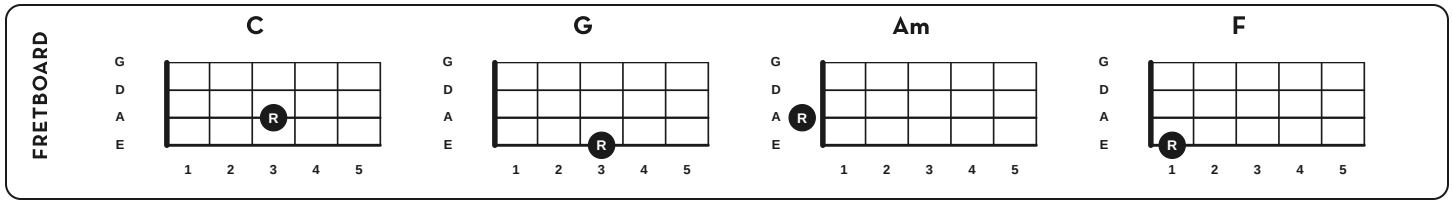
2. Half-Note Roots

Level 1 / I–V–vi–IV in C / Basic rock groove

84 BPM



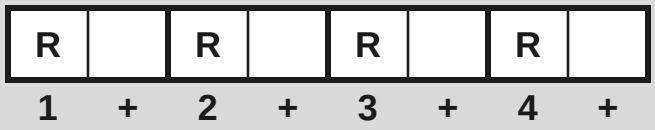


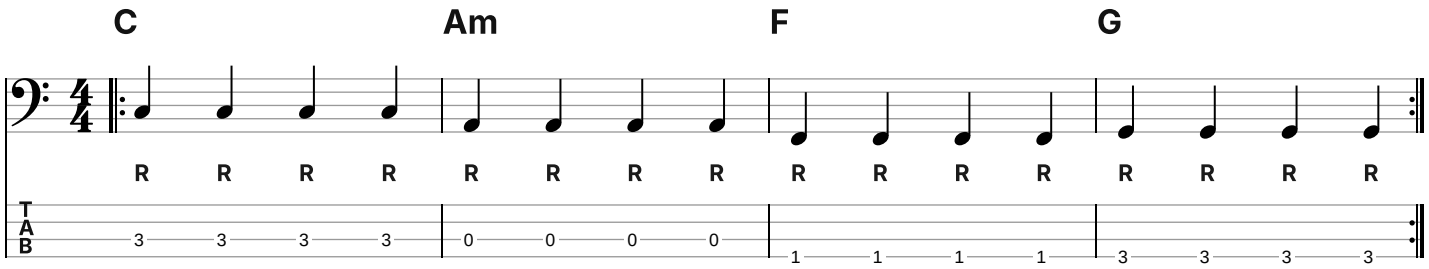


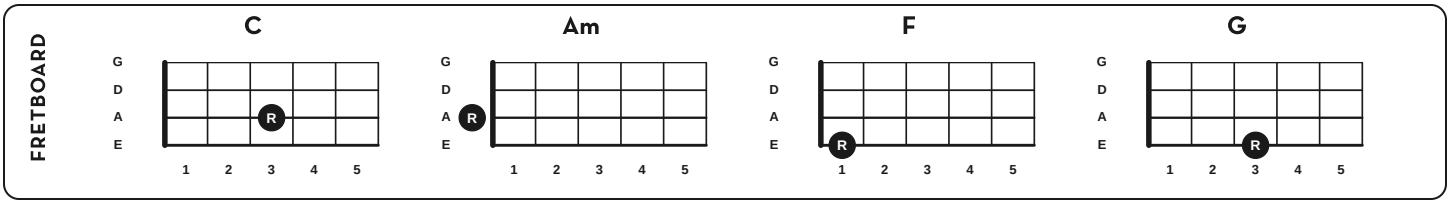
3. Quarter-Note Roots

Level 1 / I–vi–IV–V in C / Basic rock groove

90 BPM



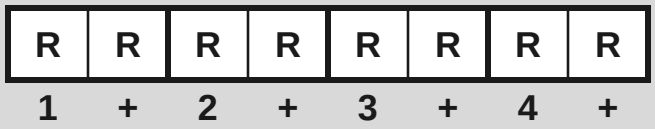


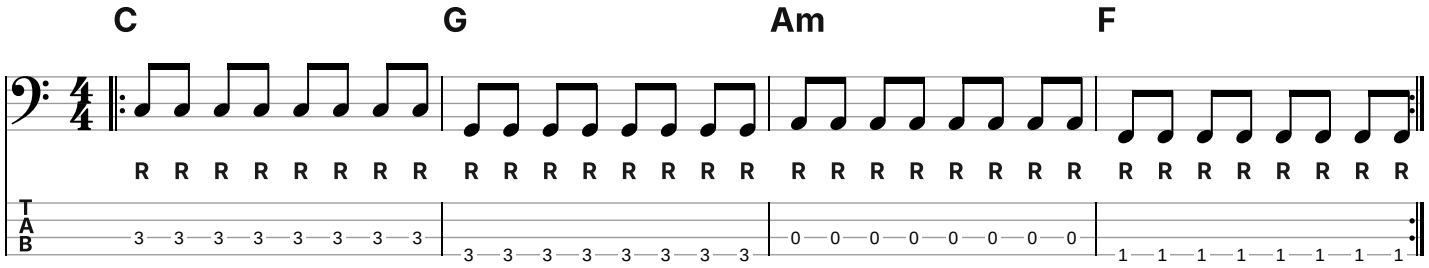


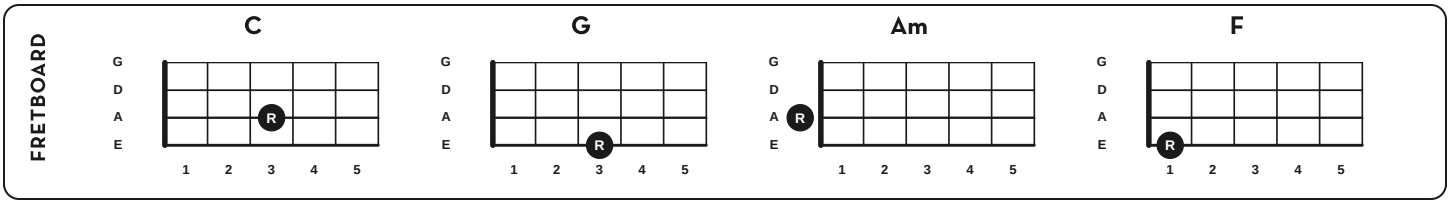
4. Eighth-Note Pulse

Level 1 / I–V–vi–IV in C / Rock groove

100 BPM





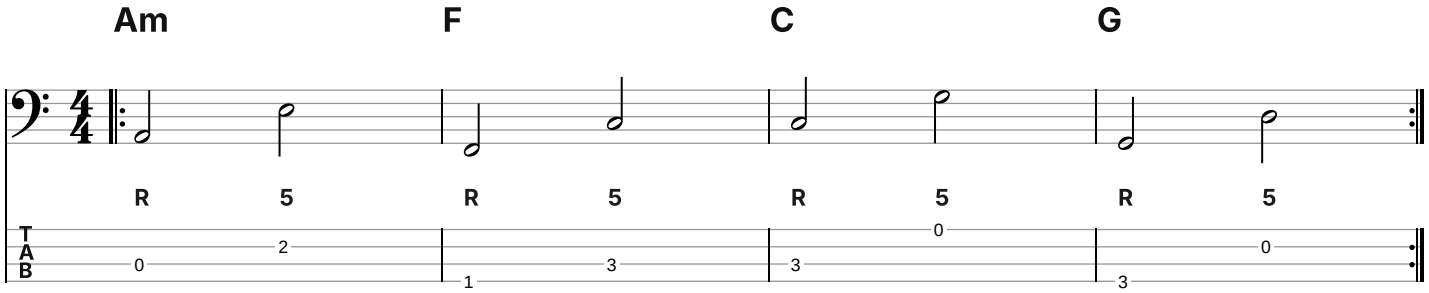


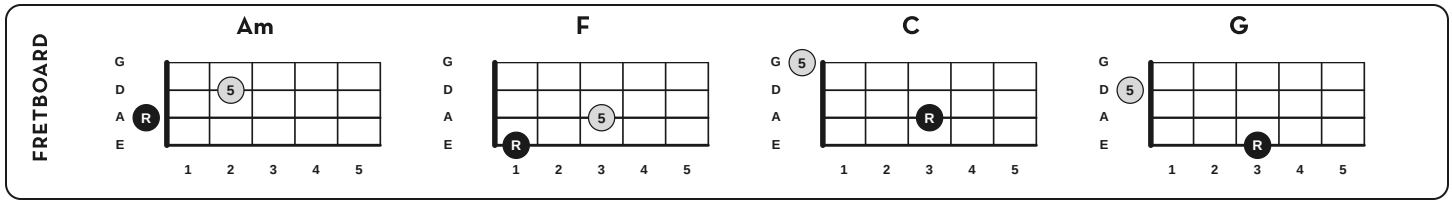
5. Root-Fifth Half Notes

Level 1 / vi–IV–I–V in C / Basic rock groove

88 BPM

R				5			
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+



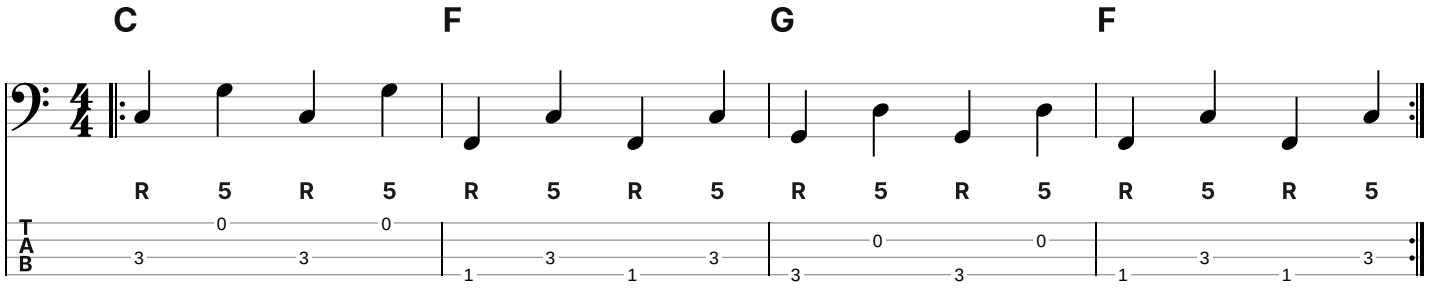


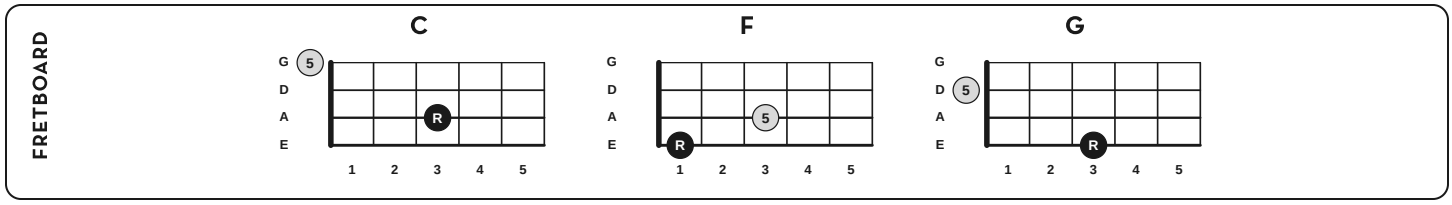
6. Root-Fifth Quarters

Level 1 / I–IV–V–IV in C / Basic rock groove

96 BPM

R		5		R		5	
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+



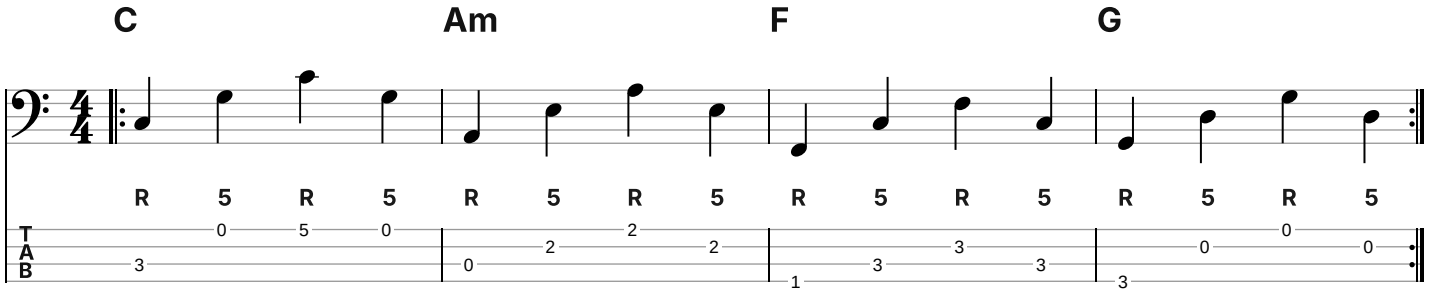


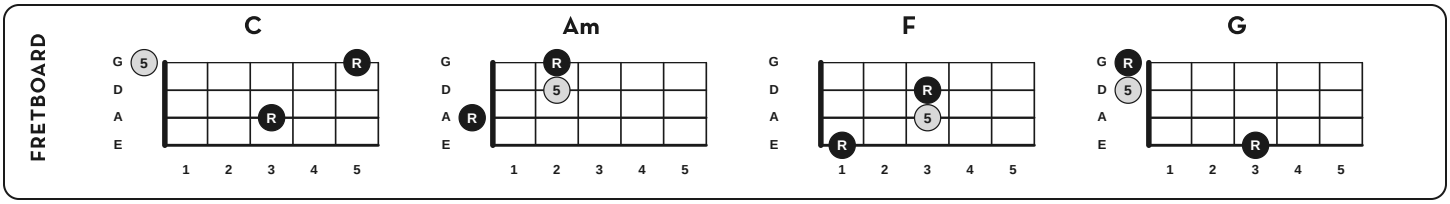
7. Root-Fifth-Octave

Level 1 / I–vi–IV–V in C / Rock groove

96 BPM

R		5		R		5	
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+



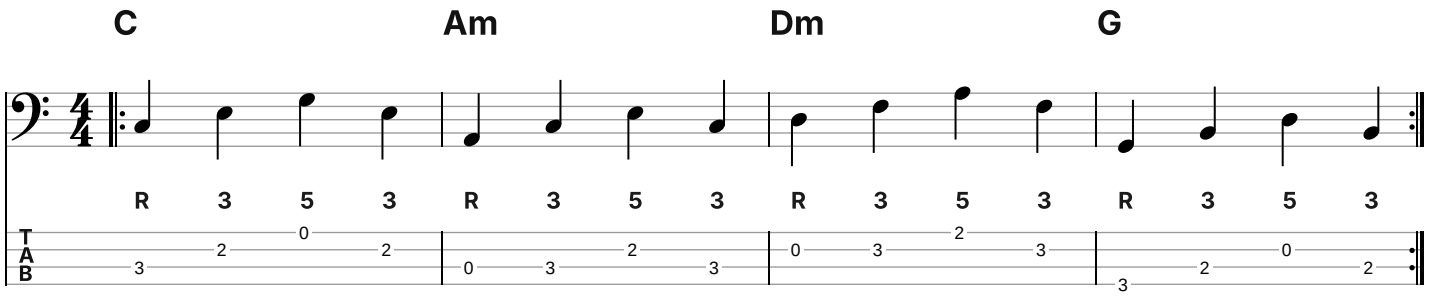


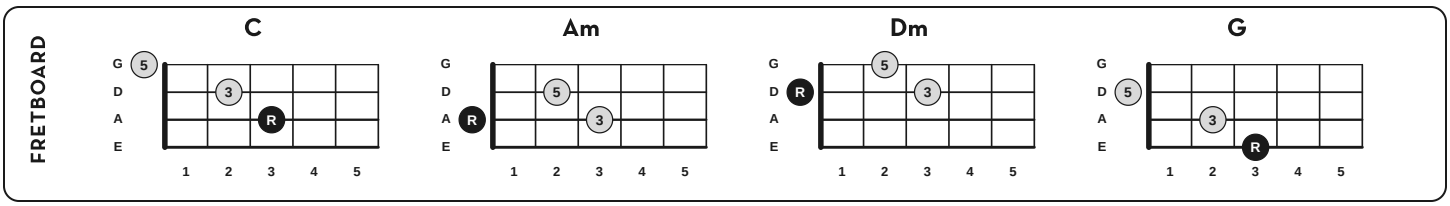
8. Triad Arpeggio

Level 2 / I–vi–ii–V in C / Basic rock groove

90 BPM

R		3		5		3	
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+

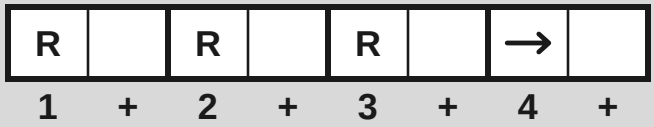


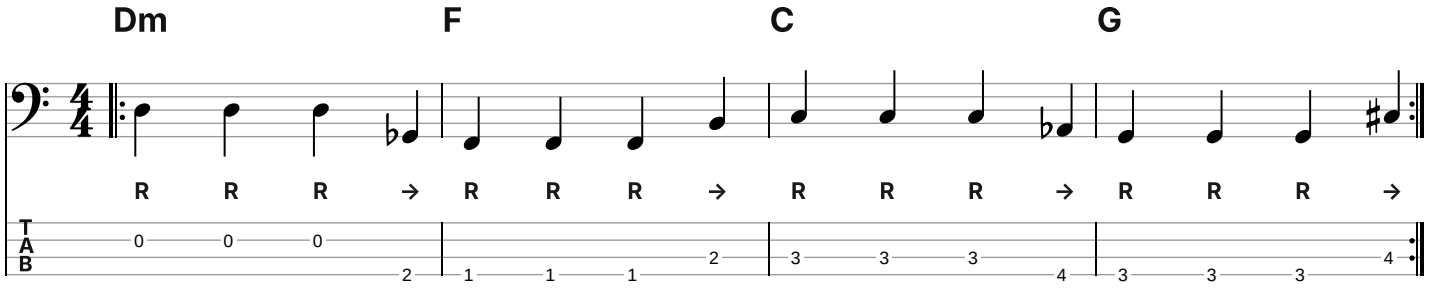


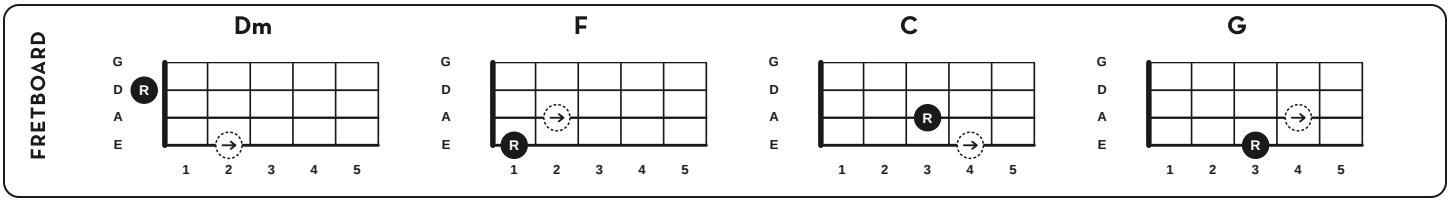
9. Roots with Approach Note

Level 2 / ii–IV–I–V in C / Basic rock groove

92 BPM







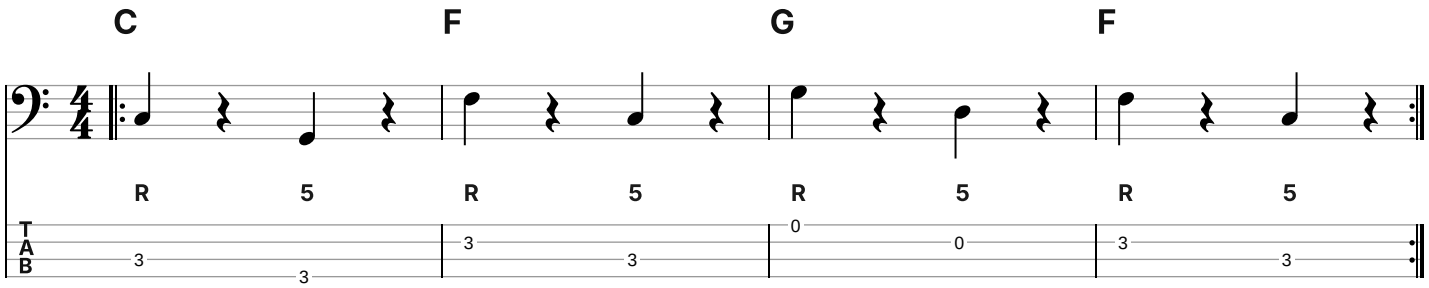
Various Styles

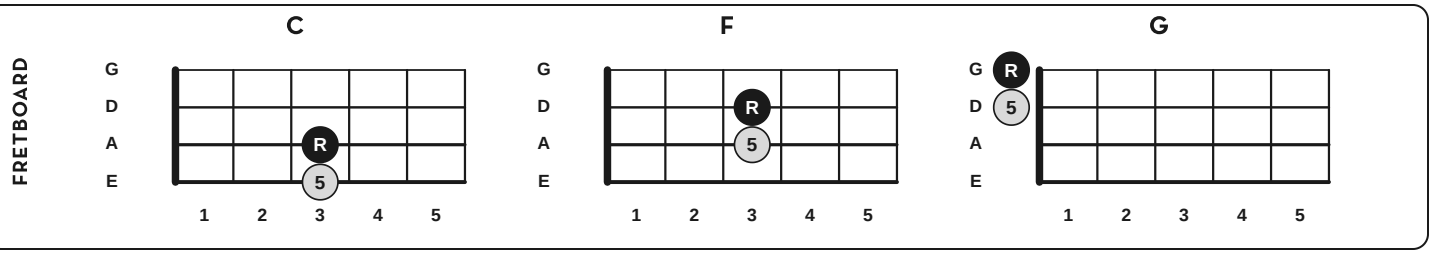
10. Country Two-Beat

Level 1 / I–IV–V–IV in C / Country groove

112 BPM

R				5			
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+



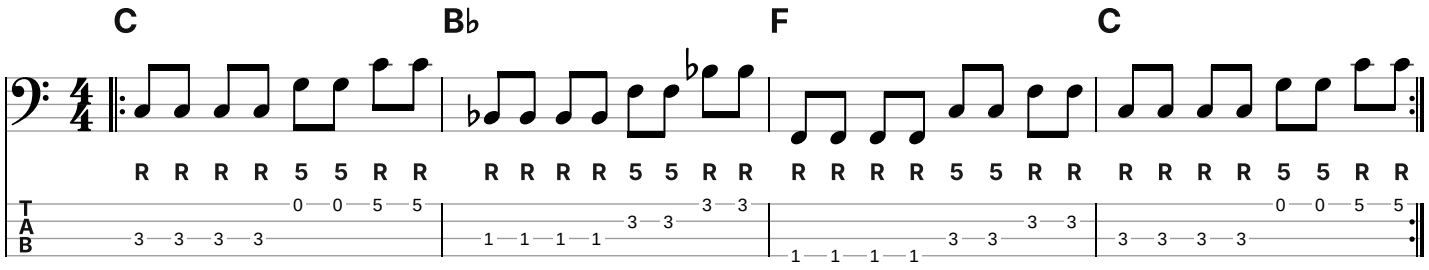


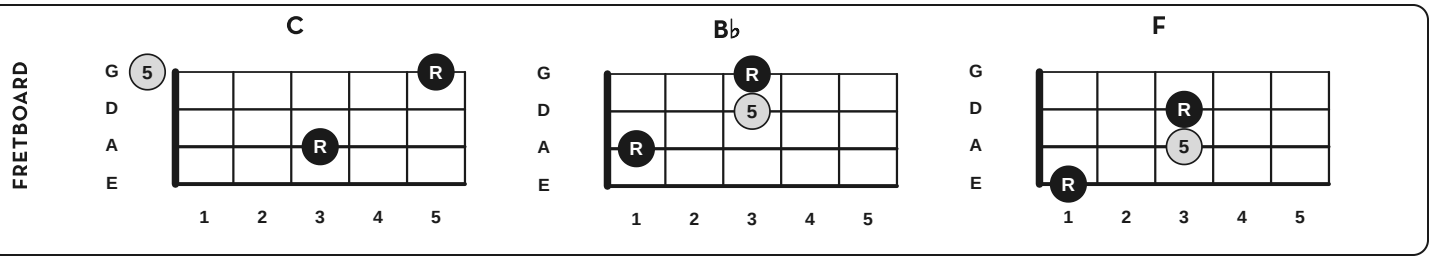
11. Rock Drive

Level 2 / I–♭VII–IV–I in C / Rock groove

112 BPM

R	R	R	R	5	5	R	R
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+



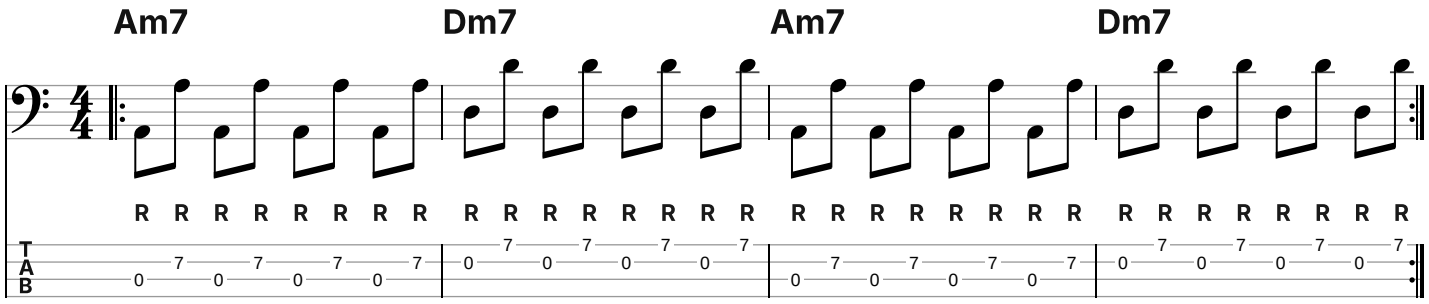


12. Disco Octaves

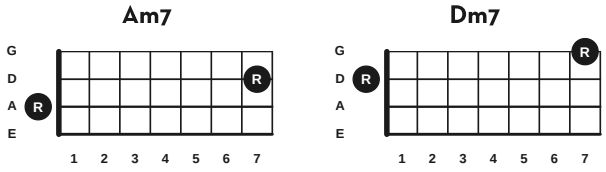
Level 2 / i–iv vamp in A minor / Disco groove

116 BPM

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



FRETBOARD

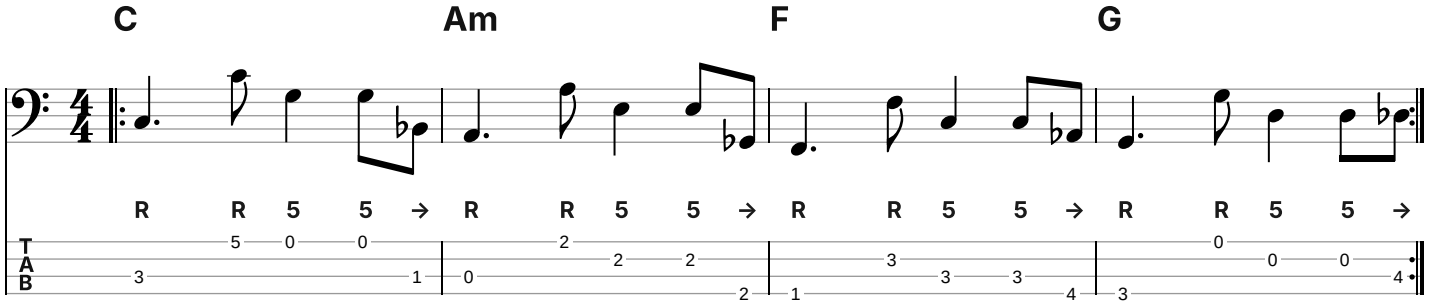


13. Motown Push

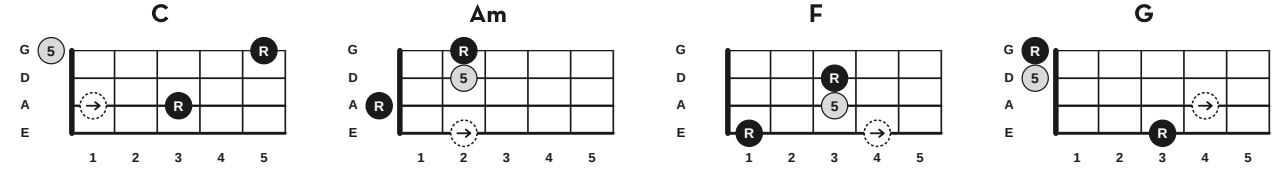
Level 2 / I–vi–IV–V in C / Motown groove

104 BPM

R			R	5		5	→
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+



FRETBOARD

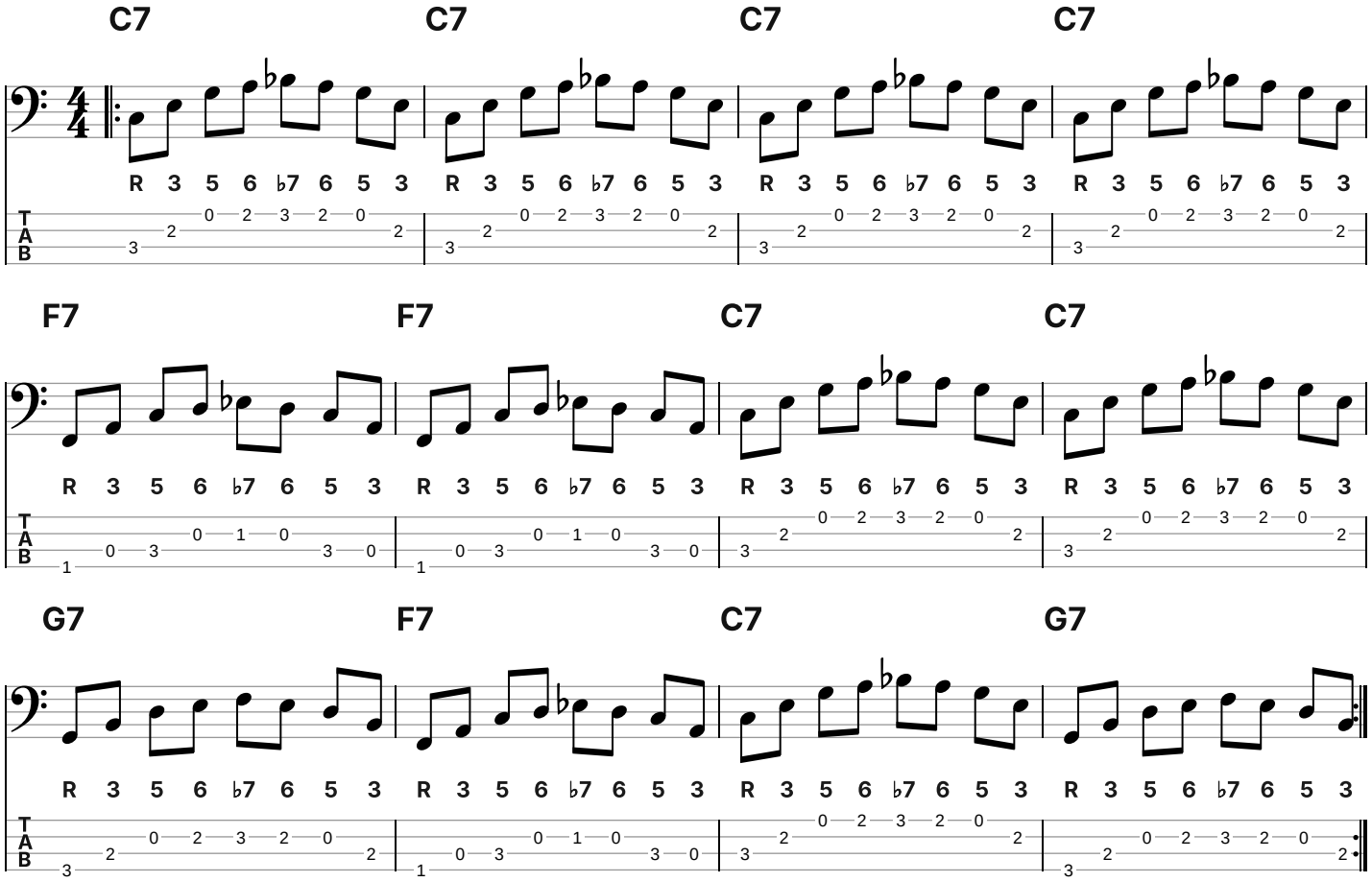


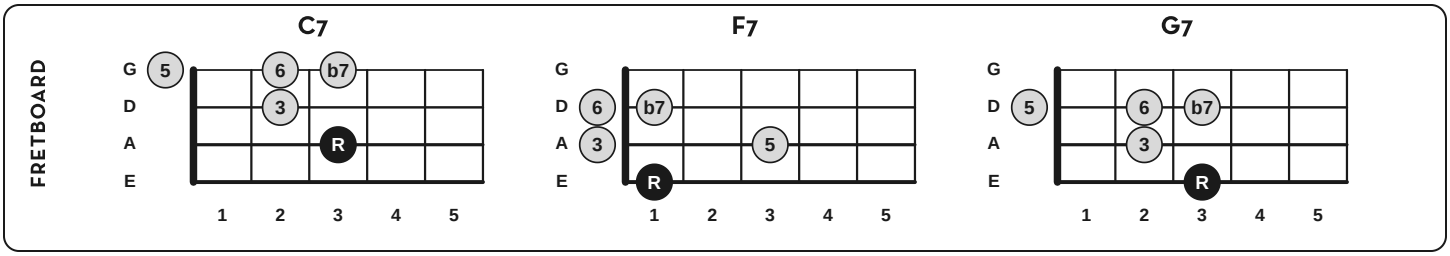
14. Blues Boogie

Level 2 / 12-bar blues in C / Blues shuffle groove, swing

104 BPM

R	3	5	6	b7	6	5	3
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+



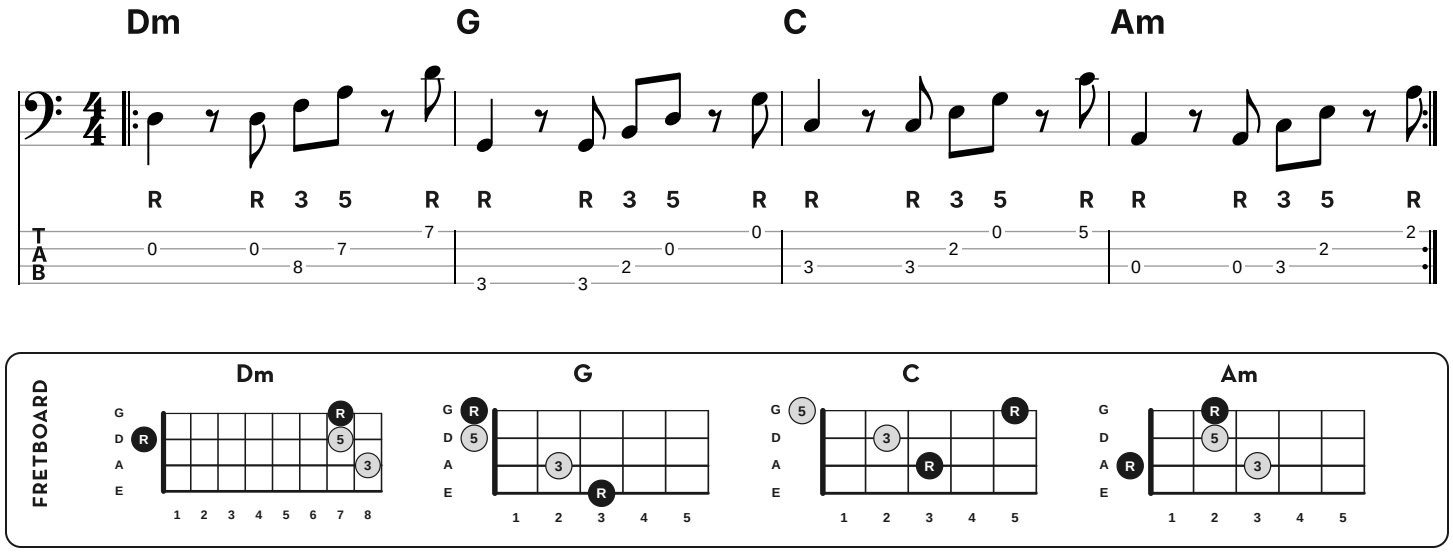


15. Reggae Roots

Level 2 / ii–V–I–vi in C / Reggae one-drop groove

76 BPM

R			R	3	5		R
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+

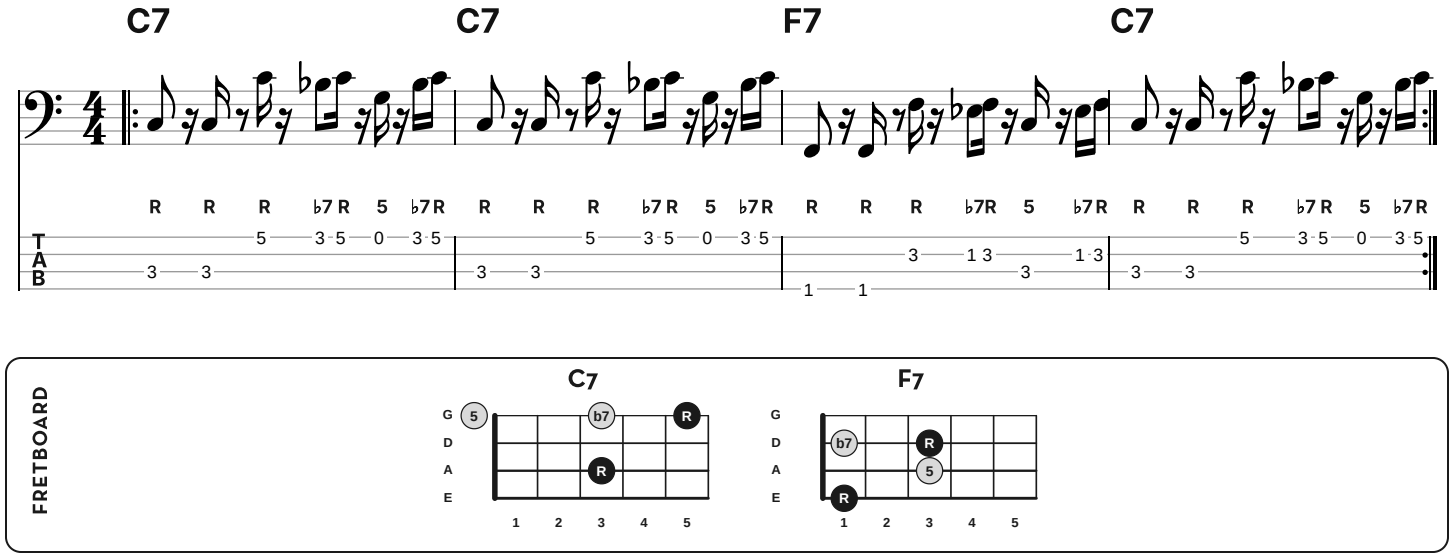


16. Funk Sixteenths

Level 3 / I7–IV7 funk vamp in C / Funk groove

96 BPM

R			R			R		b7		R		5		b7	R
1	e	+	a	2	e	+	a	3	e	+	a	4	e	+	a



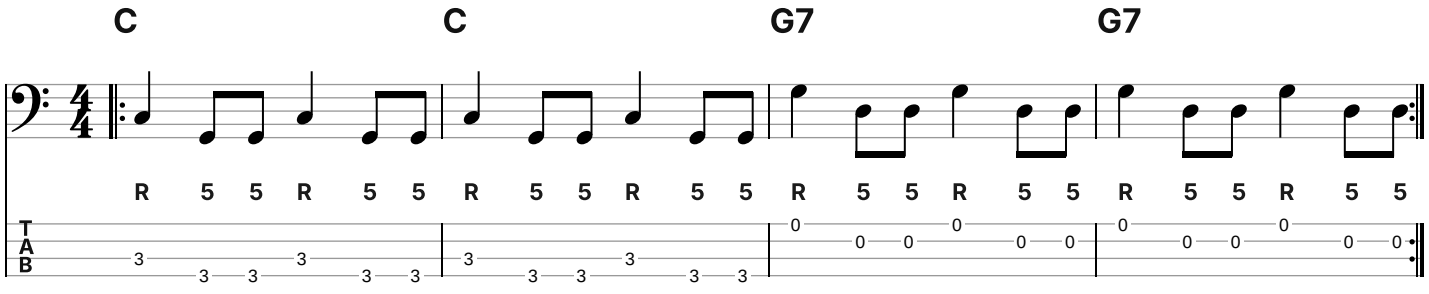
Latin

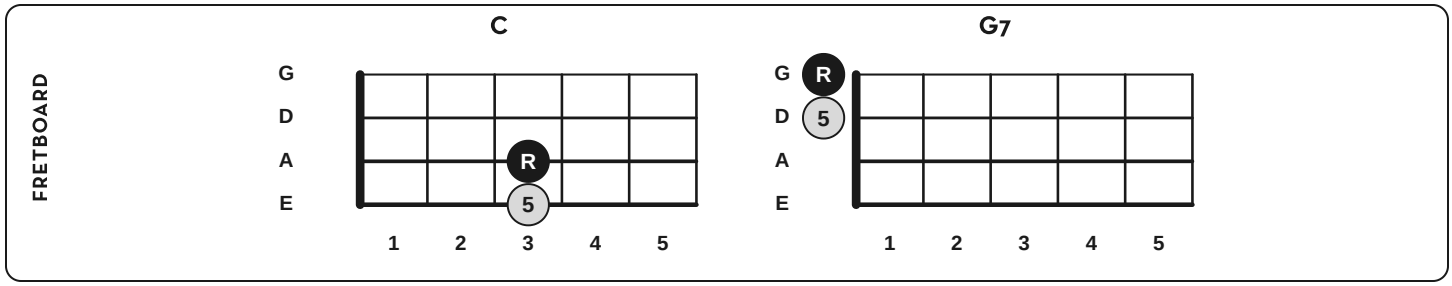
17. Cumbia: Variation 1

Level 1 / I–V7 vamp in C / Cumbia groove

92 BPM

R		5	5	R		5	5
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+



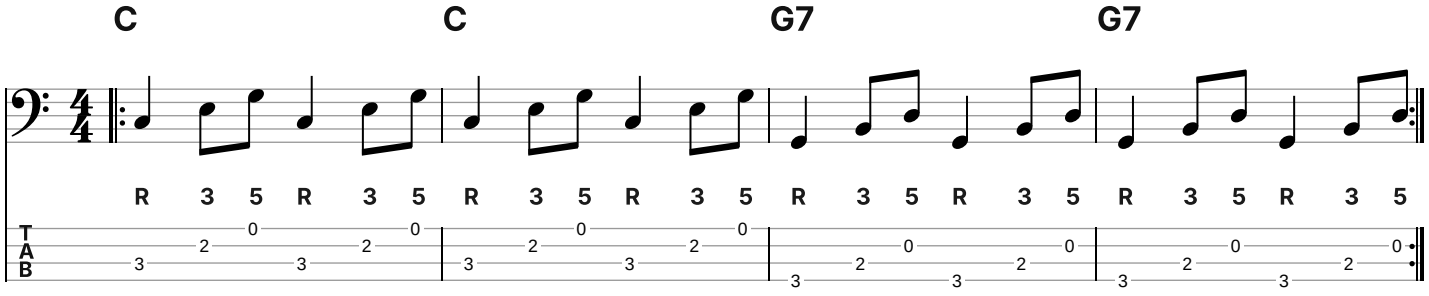


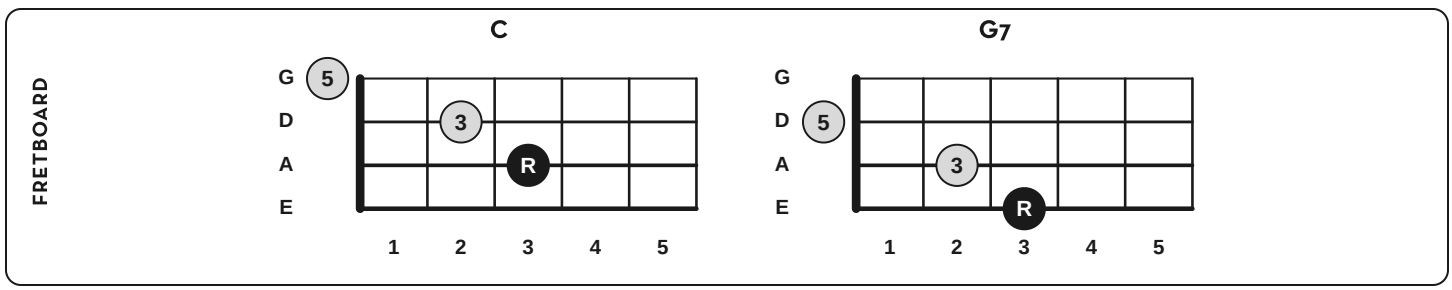
18. Cumbia: Variation 2

Level 2 / I–V7 vamp in C / Cumbia groove

92 BPM

R		3	5	R		3	5
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+



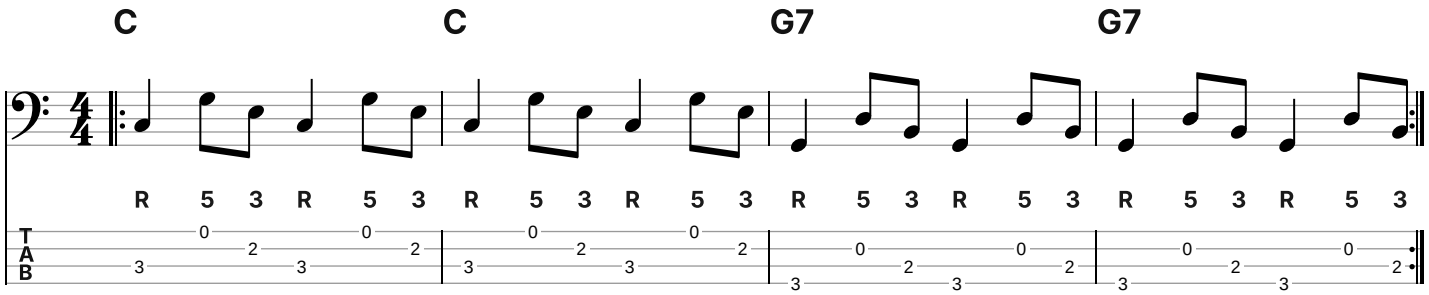


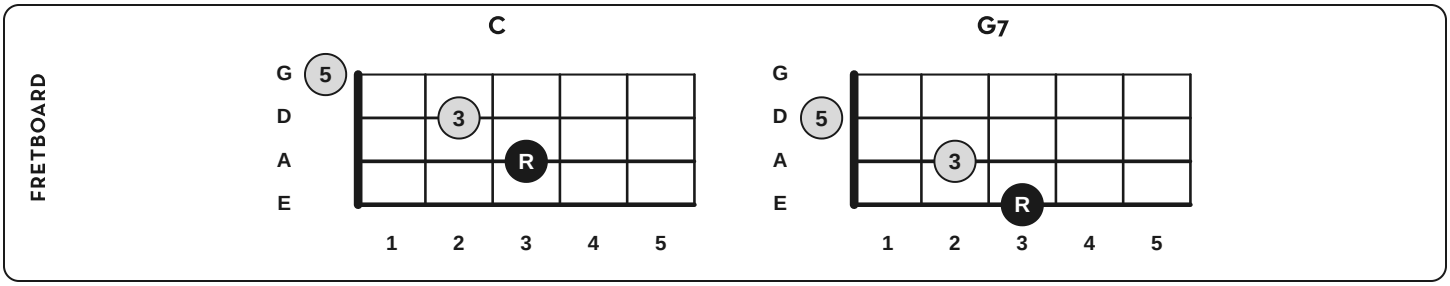
19. Cumbia: Variation 3

Level 2 / I–V7 vamp in C / Cumbia groove

92 BPM

R		5	3	R		5	3
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+



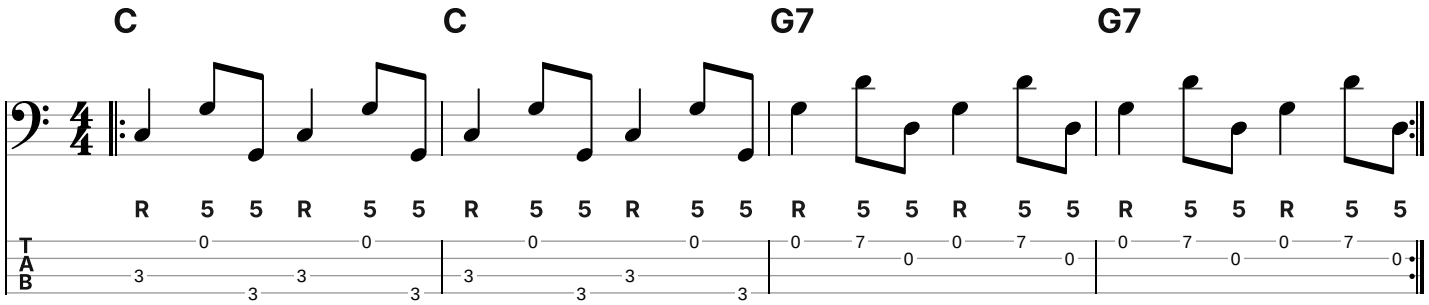


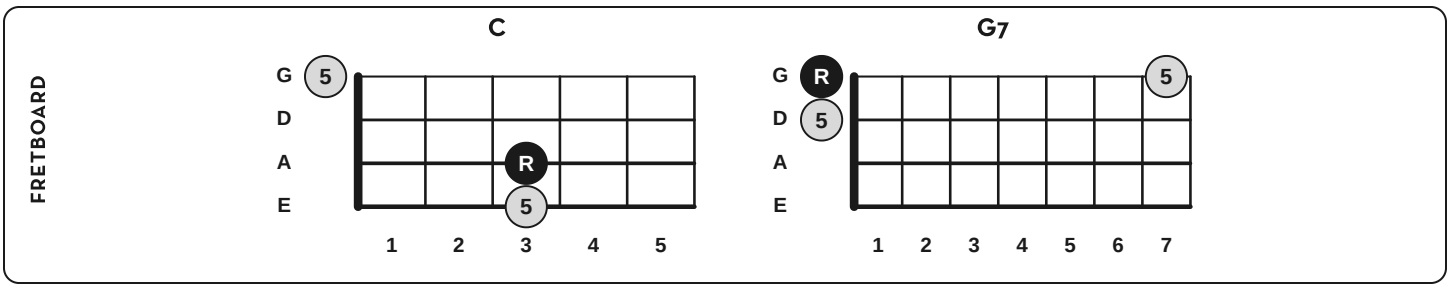
20. Cumbia: Variation 4

Level 3 / I–V7 vamp in C / Cumbia groove

92 BPM

R		5	5	R		5	5
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+





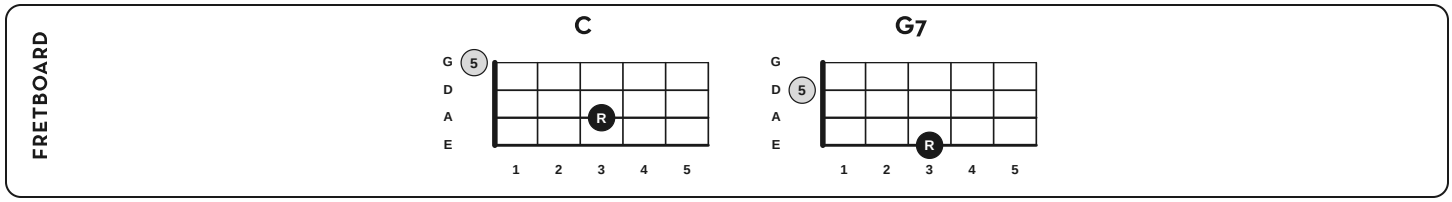
21. Merengue

Level 1 / I-V7 vamp in C / Merengue groove / Based on Victor López (Midwest Clinic, 2005)

180 BPM

R		5		R		5	
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+



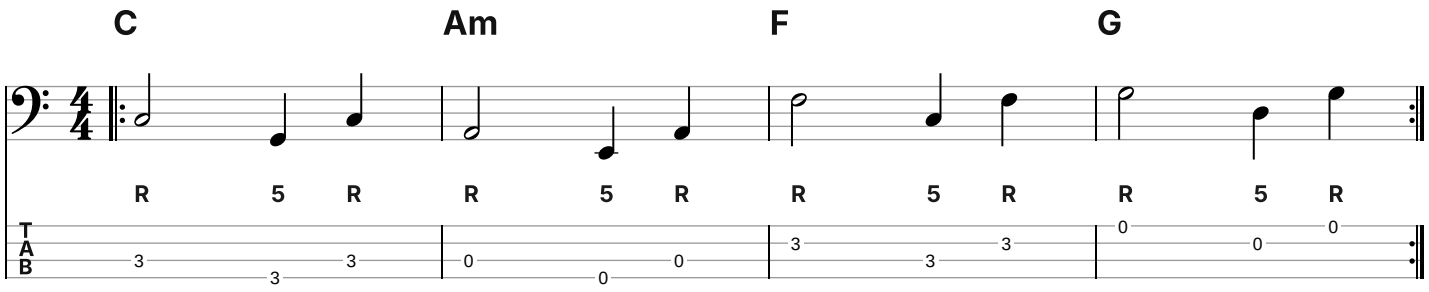


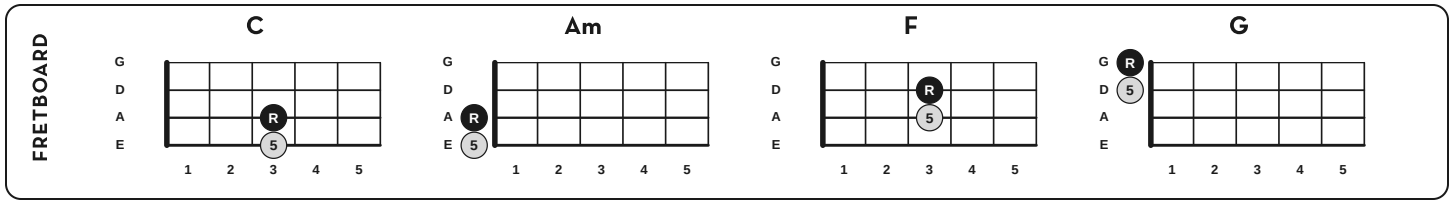
22. Bolero

Level 1 / I-vi-IV-V in C / Bolero groove / Based on Victor López (Midwest Clinic, 2005)

88 BPM

R				5		R	
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+

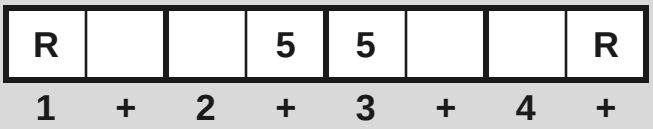


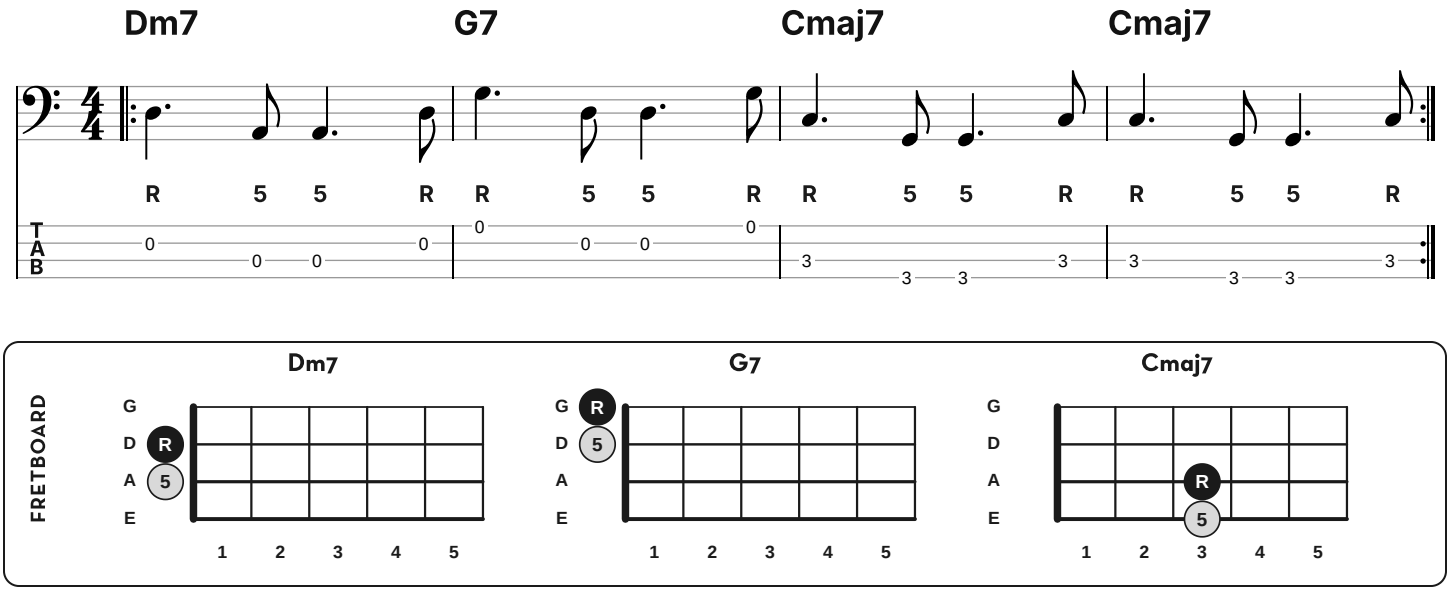


23. Bossa Nova: Variation 1

Level 2 / ii7-V7-Imaj7 in C / Bossa nova groove / Based on Victor López (Midwest Clinic, 2005)

126 BPM



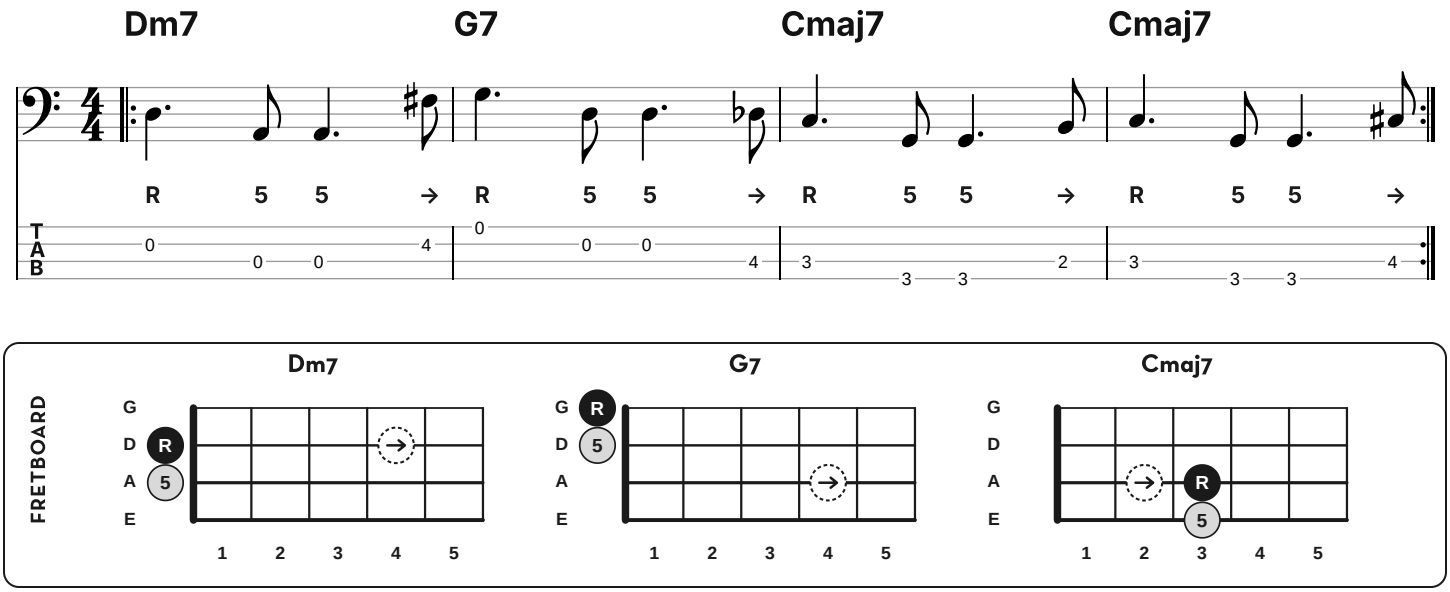


24. Bossa Nova: Variation 2

Level 3 / ii7-V7-Imaj7 in C / Bossa nova groove / Based on Victor López (Midwest Clinic, 2005)

126 BPM



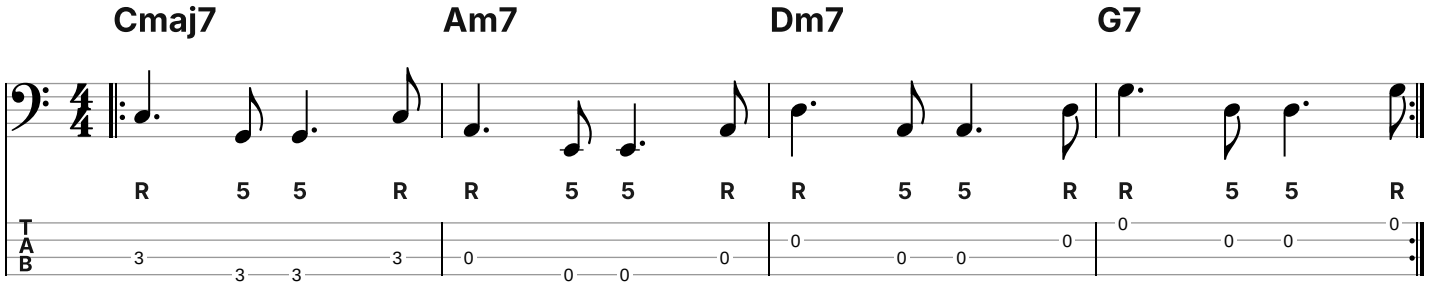


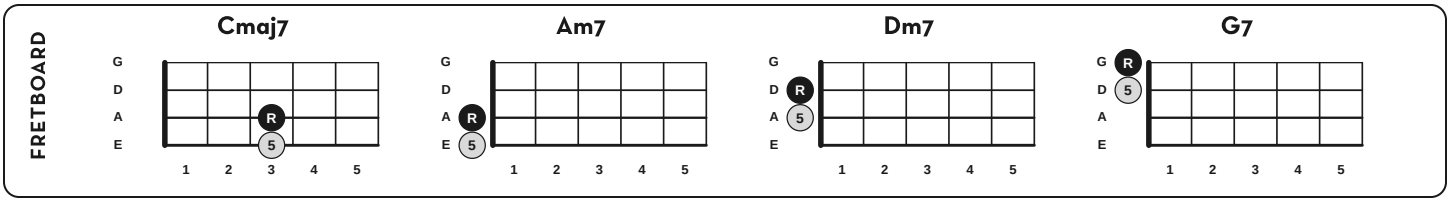
25. Samba: Variation 1

Level 2 / Imaj7–vi7–ii7–V7 in C / Samba (in two) groove / Based on Victor López (Midwest Clinic, 2005)

200 BPM

R			5	5			R
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+



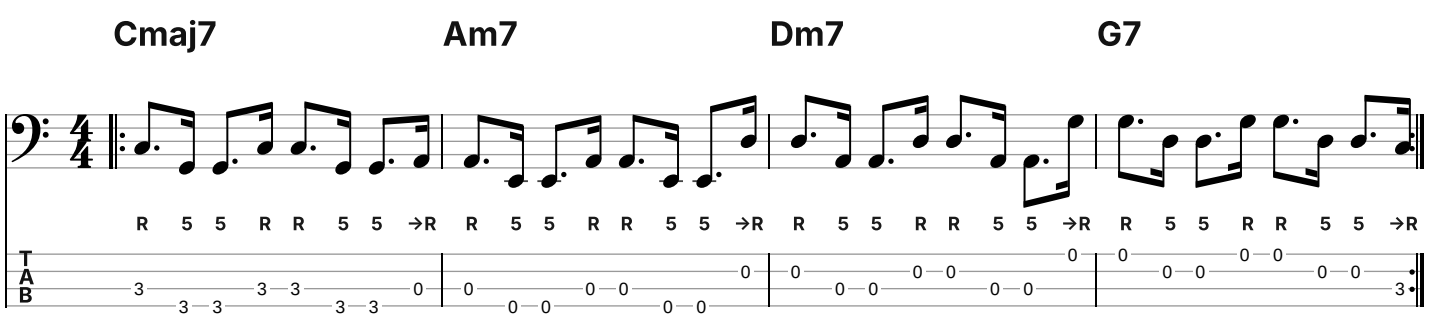


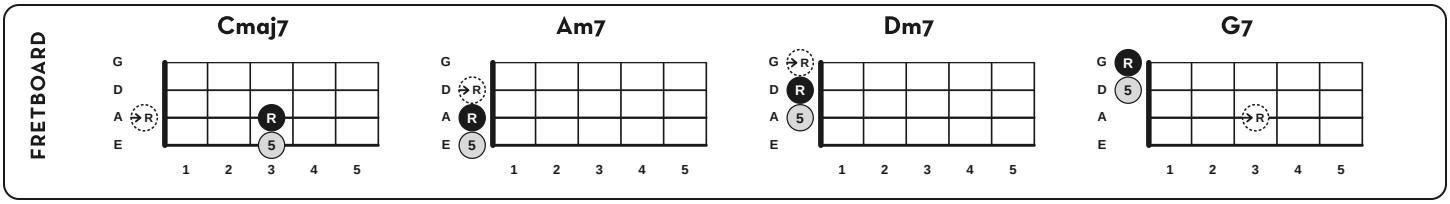
26. Samba: Variation 2

Level 3 / Imaj7–vi7–ii7–V7 in C / Samba groove

92 BPM

R			5	5			R	R			5	5			→R
1	e	+	a	2	e	+	a	3	e	+	a	4	e	+	a

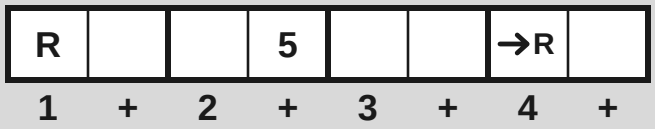


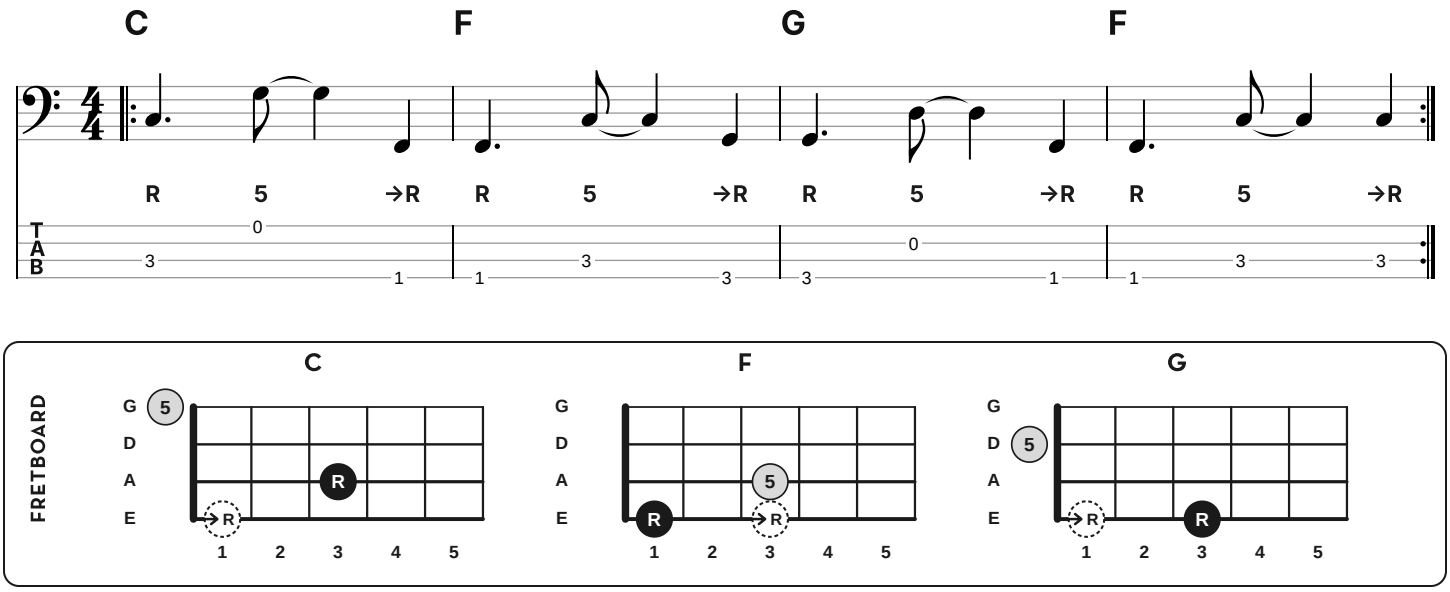


27. Tumbao: Variation 1

Level 2 / I–IV–V–IV in C / Salsa groove / Based on Victor López (Midwest Clinic, 2005)

140 BPM

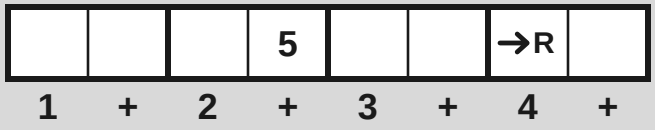


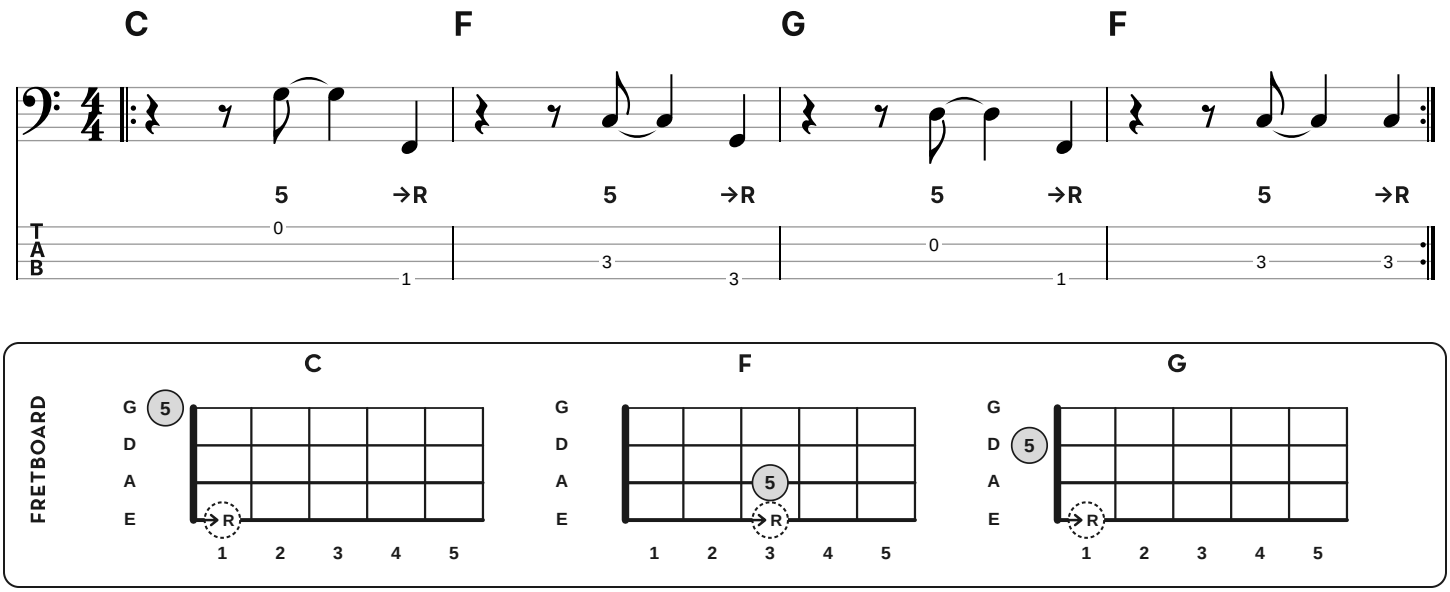


28. Tumbao: Variation 2

Level 3 / I–IV–V–IV in C / Salsa groove / Based on Victor López (Midwest Clinic, 2005)

140 BPM

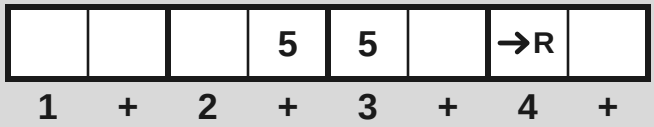


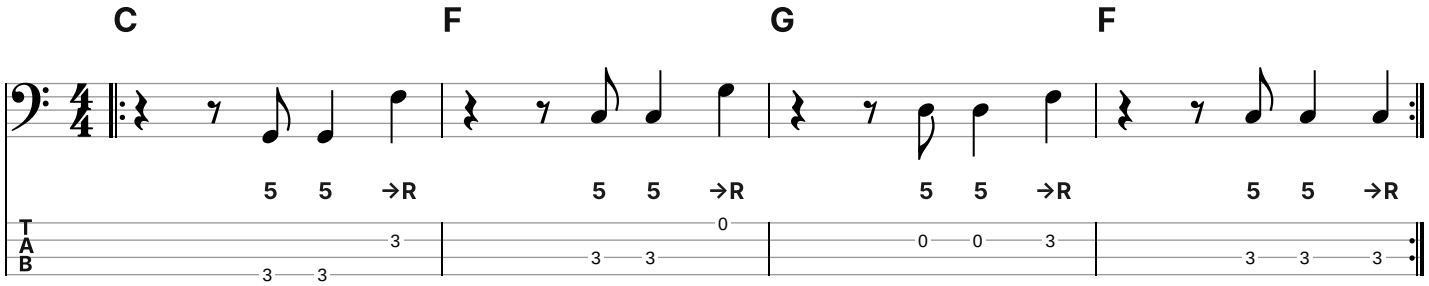


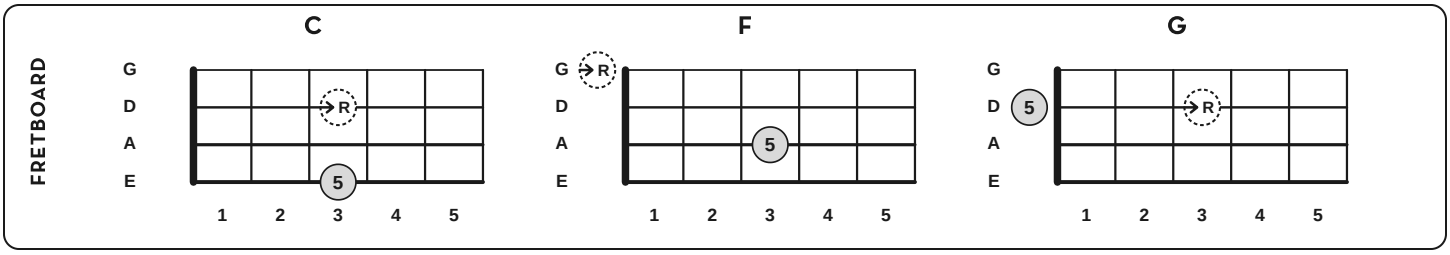
29. Cha-Cha-Chá

Level 3 / I–IV–V–IV in C / Cha-cha-chá groove / Based on Victor López (Midwest Clinic, 2005)

116 BPM





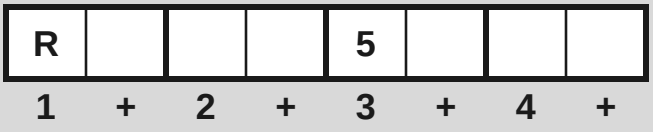


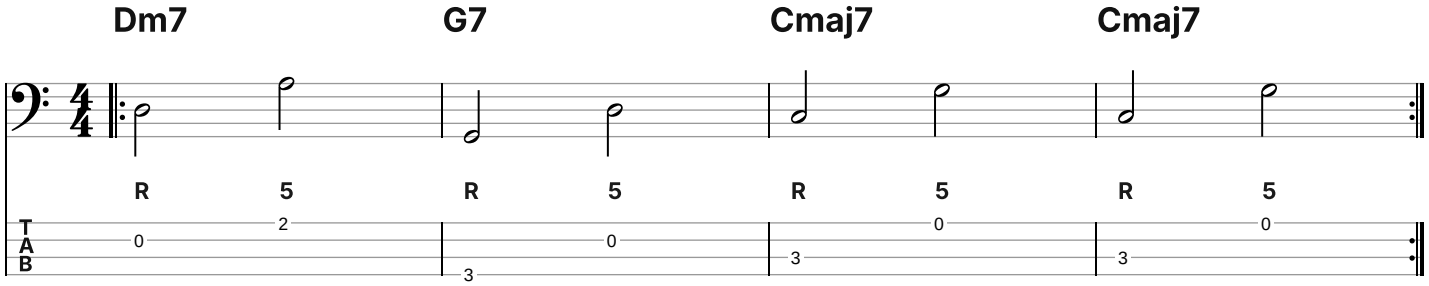
Jazz & Walking

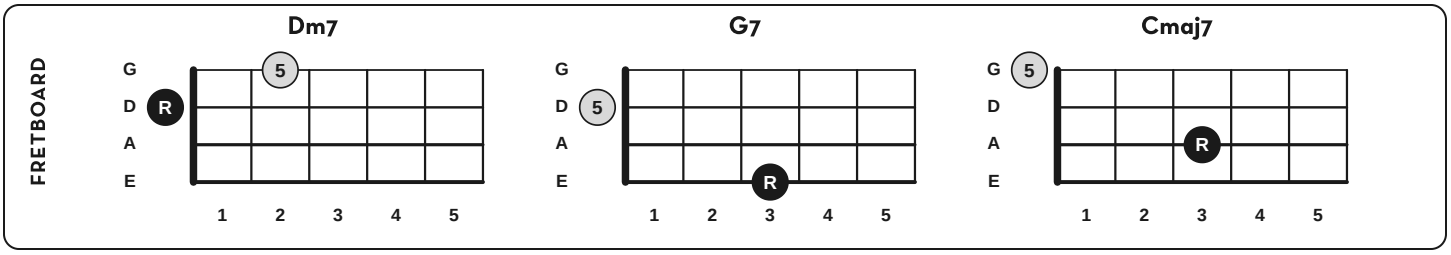
30. Jazz Two-Feel: Variation 1

Level 2 / ii7–V7–Imaj7 in C / Jazz swing groove, swing

120 BPM



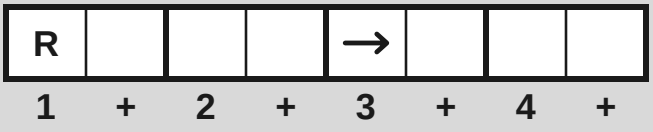


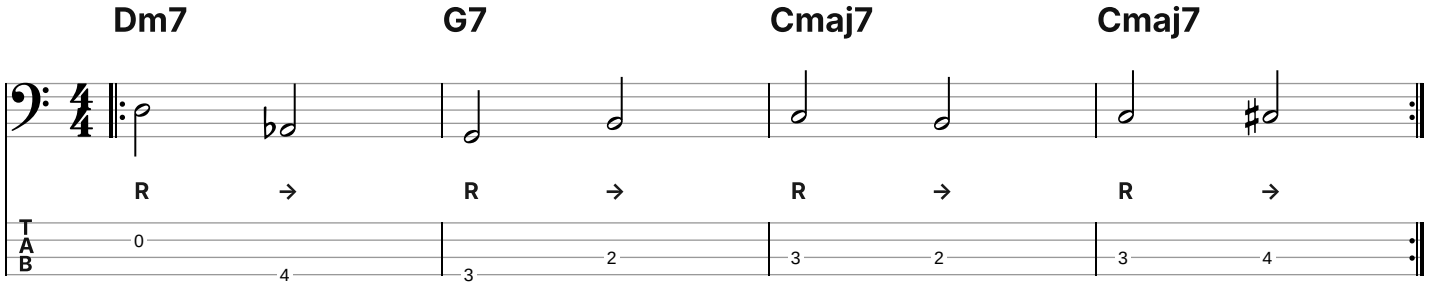


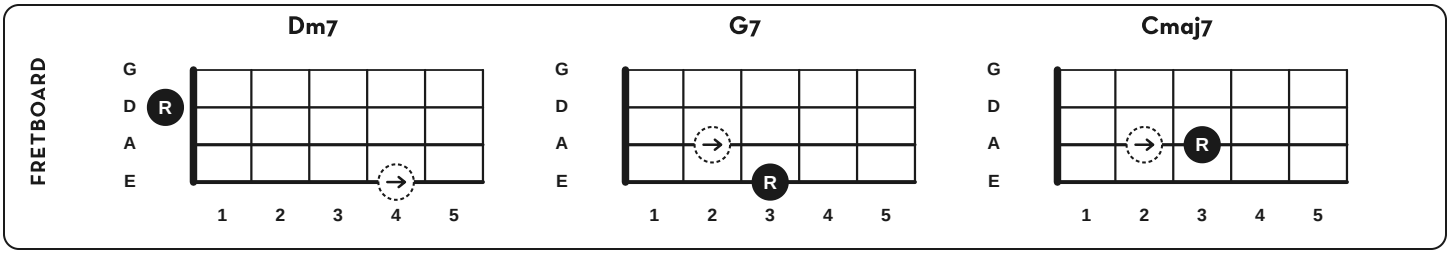
31. Jazz Two-Feel: Variation 2

Level 2 / ii7–V7–Imaj7 in C / Jazz swing groove, swing

120 BPM





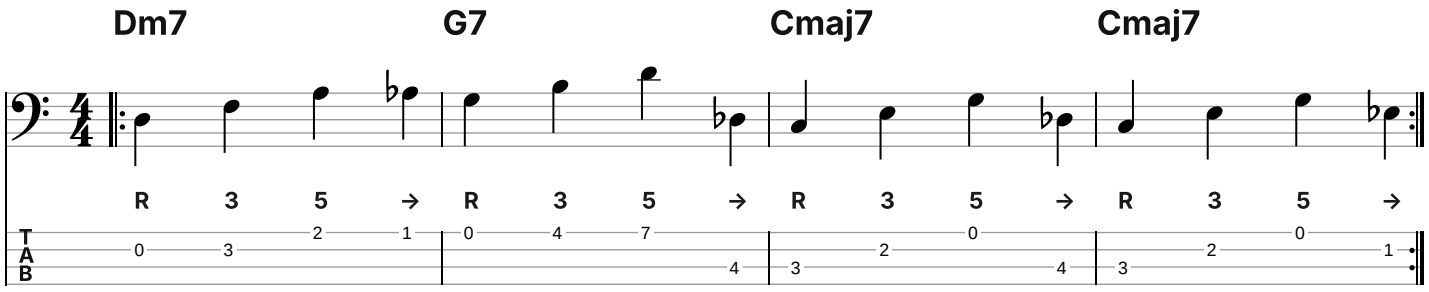


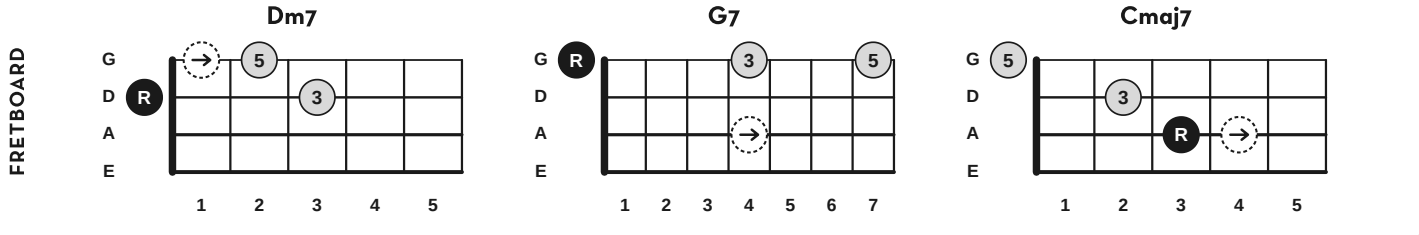
32. Walking Bass: Variation 1

Level 2 / ii7-V7-Imaj7 in C / Jazz swing groove, swing

120 BPM

R		3		5		→	
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+



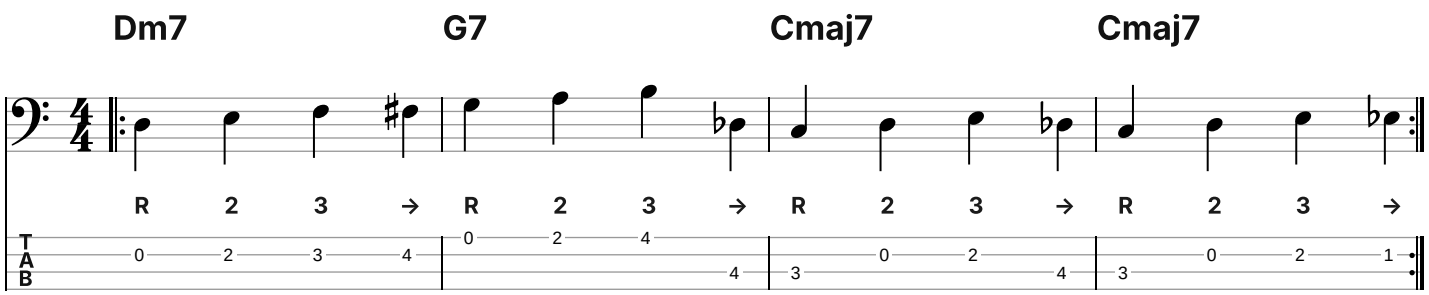


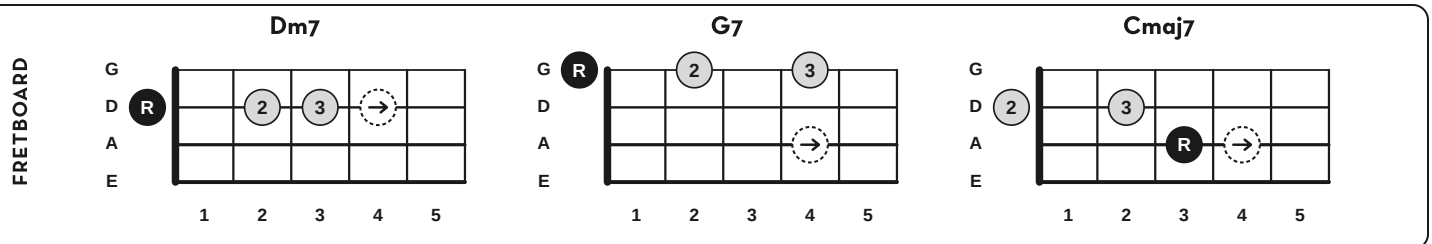
33. Walking Bass: Variation 2

Level 3 / ii7-V7-Imaj7 in C / Jazz swing groove, swing

120 BPM

R		2		3		→	
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+





34. Walking Bass: Variation 3

Level 3 / 12-bar blues in C / Jazz swing groove, swing

120 BPM

R		5		3		→	
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+



