

Basslines Chapter 2 – Practice Day 3

In today's workout, you test the skills you've developed so far in this chapter.

You begin by playing roots through 4 keys of a ii-V-I progression, spending 5 minutes on that exercise to get started.

Then, you work on playing the root notes over each chord in the jazz standard Summertime to complete your daily workout.

Remember to set a timer to ensure that you work on each exercise enough without overdoing one or the other in the practice room.

Have fun as you test your bassline skill set with these two progressions.

Warmup – 5 Minutes

To begin your practice today, take 5 minutes and play the root notes through a series of ii-V-I-VI chords to get your ears, head, and hands warmed up.

Here are important items to keep in mind with this exercise.

- Take a second to look over the chords and plan ahead.
- Visualize the root notes on the 5th and 6th strings first.
- Set your metronome to a slow tempo.
- Set a timer for 5 minutes so you don't overdo the exercise.
- Play the entire progression if possible.
- Play over the backing track if you feel ready.
- Sing along for added ear training.
- Focus on groove, accuracy, and swing feel.

Now that you know your goals and how to practice this exercise, set your timer for 5 minutes and go for it!

Remember, don't play for more than 5 minutes.

Learning any concept on guitar is cumulative, so focus on consistent practice over time rather than cramming more time in today. Lastly, have fun!

Audio Example 7

Dm⁷ G⁷ Cmaj⁷ A⁷(b⁹)

T
A
B

5 3 3 5

Am⁷ D⁷ Gmaj⁷ E⁷(b⁹)

T
A
B

5 5 3 0

Em⁷ A⁷ Dmaj⁷ B⁷(b⁹)

T
A
B

0 5 5 7

Bm⁷ E⁷ Amaj⁷ F[#]7(b⁹)

T
A
B

2 0 5 2

Technical Challenge – 10 Minutes

You're now ready for the longer challenge in today's practice routine, which you'll spend 10 minutes working on in your studies.

Today's challenge is based on the chords to Summertime and uses root notes on the first beat of each new chord.

Here are some pointers to help as you play the root notes over these chords.

- Take a minute to look over the bass notes and plan ahead.
- Visualize playing the root notes on the 5th and 6th strings.
- Set a timer for 10 minutes.
- Work the exercise as much as you can in that time.
- Don't focus on the quantity of time, focus on the quality of practice.
- Play the bass notes with a slow metronome.
- Work with the backing track if ready.
- Sing along for added ear training.
- Add chords on top of the bass notes for an added challenge.
- Enjoy!

Now that you know how to work this challenge, set your timer, grab your metronome and/or backing track, and have fun!

Audio Example 8

Dm⁷ Em^{7(b5)} A⁷ALT. Dm⁷ Am^{7(b5)} D⁷ALT.

The first system consists of two staves. The top staff is a treble clef staff in 4/4 time, showing six measures of music. The notes are: G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half), C4 (quarter), and B3 (quarter). The bottom staff is a guitar TAB staff with six strings. The fret numbers are: 5, 7, 5, 5, 5.

Gm⁷ Gm⁷/F Em^{7(b5)} A⁷ALT.

The second system consists of two staves. The top staff is a treble clef staff in 4/4 time, showing four measures of music. The notes are: G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), and D4 (half). The bottom staff is a guitar TAB staff with six strings. The fret numbers are: 3, 1, 0, 5.

Dm⁷ Em^{7(b5)} A⁷ALT. Dm⁷ Gm⁷ C⁷

The third system consists of two staves. The top staff is a treble clef staff in 4/4 time, showing six measures of music. The notes are: G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half), C4 (quarter), and B3 (quarter). The bottom staff is a guitar TAB staff with six strings. The fret numbers are: 5, 7, 5, 5, 3, 3.

Fmaj⁷ Em^{7(b5)} A⁷ALT. Dm⁷ Em^{7(b5)} A⁷ALT.

The fourth system consists of two staves. The top staff is a treble clef staff in 4/4 time, showing six measures of music. The notes are: F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half), B3 (quarter), and A3 (quarter). The bottom staff is a guitar TAB staff with six strings. The fret numbers are: 1, 0, 5, 5, 7, 5.