

Berklee**Shares.com**TM

FREE music lessons from
Berklee College of Music

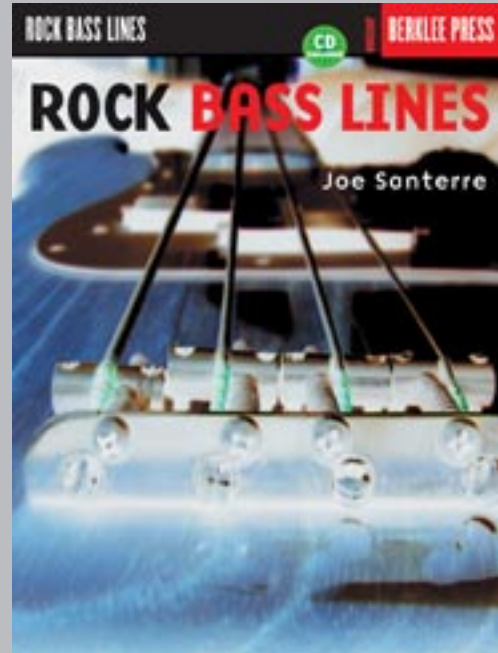
Rock Bass Lines

Joe Santerre

Lesson 1

Click CD icons to listen to
CD tracks from book.
Press ESC to cancel sound.

Check out Berkleeshares.com for more lessons
just like this one.



LESSON 1: ONE-CHORD ROCK

Many rock bass lines are based on just one chord. Each example in this lesson will use only the root, fifth, and the octave of the chord. For more examples of this type of bass playing, listen to bands like Led Zeppelin, the James Gang, and Deep Purple.

1 Example 1

Tuning Notes: E-A-D-G strings, played twice.

2 Example 2

E-7

Musical notation for Example 2, featuring a bass line in E major (E-7 chord) in 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter notes: E2, G2, E2, G2, E2, G2, E2, G2. The bass line consists of quarter notes: E2, G2, E2, G2, E2, G2, E2, G2. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C).

3 Example 3

E-7

Musical notation for Example 3, featuring a bass line in E major (E-7 chord) in 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter notes: E2, G2, E2, G2, E2, G2, E2, G2. The bass line consists of quarter notes: E2, G2, E2, G2, E2, G2, E2, G2. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C).

4 Example 4

G-7

Musical notation for Example 4, featuring a bass line in G major (G-7 chord) in 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter notes: G2, B2, G2, B2, G2, B2, G2, B2. The bass line consists of quarter notes: G2, B2, G2, B2, G2, B2, G2, B2. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a common time signature (C).

5 Example 5

Bb-7

Musical notation for Example 5, featuring a bass line in Bb major (Bb-7 chord) in 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter notes: Bb2, D3, Bb2, D3, Bb2, D3, Bb2, D3. The bass line consists of quarter notes: Bb2, D3, Bb2, D3, Bb2, D3, Bb2, D3. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, and Ab), and a common time signature (C).

lesson 1

one-chord rock

The following examples provide more experience playing bass lines over one chord. Be careful with the tied notes in example 8 and the rhythm in example 9.

6 Example 6

A7

TAB: 5 5 5 5 5 7 5 5 5 7 5

7 Example 7

F#(No3)

TAB: 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 4

8 Example 8

F-7

TAB: 3 3 3 3 3 1 3 3 3 3 3 1

9 Example 9

E-6

TAB: 0 0 2 2 2 2 2 2

WRITE YOUR OWN

In the following blank measures, write your own bass grooves for the chord indicated. Remember, the goal is to outline the chord; start with the root, fifth, and octave. Model your own rhythms after those used in the examples.

1.

A7

Exercise 1: A7 chord. The notation shows a bass clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The first measure contains a whole note chord symbol 'A7'. Below the staff is a guitar tablature line with a 'T' above and a 'B' below, indicating the bass string. The staff and tablature are divided into two measures, each ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.

2.

F#(No3)

Exercise 2: F#(No3) chord. The notation shows a bass clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). The first measure contains a whole note chord symbol 'F#(No3)'. Below the staff is a guitar tablature line with a 'T' above and a 'B' below, indicating the bass string. The staff and tablature are divided into two measures, each ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.

3.

F-7

Exercise 3: F-7 chord. The notation shows a bass clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a common time signature (C). The first measure contains a whole note chord symbol 'F-7'. Below the staff is a guitar tablature line with a 'T' above and a 'B' below, indicating the bass string. The staff and tablature are divided into two measures, each ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.

4.

E-6

Exercise 4: E-6 chord. The notation shows a bass clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The first measure contains a whole note chord symbol 'E-6'. Below the staff is a guitar tablature line with a 'T' above and a 'B' below, indicating the bass string. The staff and tablature are divided into two measures, each ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.

