

Guidelines for creating walking jazz bass lines.

A well constructed bass line:

- Plays the root of the chord on the downbeat.
- Fills in notes that adhere to the chord quality and the key signature and lead to the next root.
- Plays chord tones on strong beats one and three.
- Proceeds the roots from a $\frac{1}{2}$ step or whole step above or below.

Simple bass line patterns that work on a ii V in the key of C.

- 1- descending scale
- 2-ascending scale approaching the next root chromatically
- 3-ascending scale with a leap above the goal, then step down to the root
- 4-an ascending arpeggio that approaches the next root chromatically
- 5-an inverted ascending arpeggio that approaches the next root chromatically
- 6-a descending arpeggio that approaches the next root chromatically
- 7-an inverted descending arpeggio that approaches the next root chromatically
- 8-using upper neighbor tones
- 9-repeated notes
- 10-roots and fifths