


# 100 FUNK GROOVES FOR ELECTRIC BASS

Learn 100 Bass Guitar Riffs & Licks in the Style of the Funk Legends



Master Funk Groove, Time & Feel

100 Old-School to New Hot Funk Grooves

Learn Advanced Funk Bass Techniques

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FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES

## Chapter One - Early Funk (Bootsy Collins Style)

Short notes leave more room for space and those gaps contribute so much to the groove. Often what you don't play is as important as what you do.

Funk players often use rests to execute quick hand shifts and doing so makes intricate lines far less daunting! Notice how the first few notes are played higher up on the D string. This is another tactic to avoid a big shift since the notes an octave apart are played on the same string.

### Example 1e

Musical notation for Example 1e, showing a bass line in 4/4 time with a Dm7 chord. The notation includes a staff with notes and a fretboard diagram below it. The fretboard diagram shows fingerings: 9, 10, 10, 12, 12, 0, X, 2, 3, 2, 3, X, X, 1, 9, 10, 10.

## Chapter Two - 70s Disco (Bernard Edwards Style)

The next two examples use Edwards' pioneering technique called *chucking* (listen to the intro of *Everybody Dance* by Chic). To do this, hold your thumb and index finger together as if you were holding a plectrum and use the fingernail of your index finger for downstrokes and the fleshy tip for upstrokes.

Keep your picking hand constantly moving in a steady stream of 1/16th notes. This is absolutely the key to getting this technique to work. To make the notes pop a little more, add a touch of palm muting.

Make sure your fretting hand fingers stay close to the fretboard at all times.

Check out the accompanying video for a full tutorial on this cool technique:

<https://geni.us/funkvideos>

### Example 2c

Musical notation for Example 2c, showing a bass line in 4/4 time with an Em7 chord. The notation includes a staff with notes and a fretboard diagram below it. The fretboard diagram shows fingerings: 5, 7, 7, 7, X, X, X, X, 5, 7, 7, 7, X, X, X, X, 5, X, 7, X, 5, 7, 5, 7.

### Chapter Three - 1/16<sup>th</sup> Note Funk (Bobby Vega Style)

The *fretting hand pat* technique is how you'll produce the ghost notes after the hammer-ons in the next line.

Isolate the notes in beat one first before working on the rest of the line, as they're likely to cause you the most problems.

Pay attention to the sliding double-stops at the end. The rests give you time to get in position.

#### Example 3o

Example 3o shows a bass line in 4/4 time, key of E major. The first two measures are labeled "Em7 L.H. Pat" and the next two "L.H. Pat". The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The bass line consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various techniques like hammer-ons and ghost notes. Fret numbers are provided below the staff: 0, X, 5, X, X, 7, 7, 5, 6, 7, 5, 7, 0, X, 5, X, X, 7, 7, 12, 13, 11, 12.

### Chapter Four - Jazz Funk (Abe Laboriel Style)

The patterns in bars one and two of this next example are identical, so take advantage of the geometric nature of the bass fretboard. You can use that pattern over any minor seventh chord.

Sliding into and out from notes is an important Funk technique, so spend time mastering the licks at the beginning of bars one and two. It can be quite tricky to get them fluent, but it's really satisfying when you do! Keep your thumb behind the neck and slide it across as you shift.

#### Example 4i

Example 4i shows a bass line in 4/4 time, key of A minor. The first two measures are labeled "Dm7" and the next two "Em7". The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of no sharps or flats, and a 4/4 time signature. The bass line consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various techniques like sliding and hammer-ons. Fret numbers are provided below the staff: 7, 5, 7, 5, 3, 5, 3, 5, 9, 7, 9, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, Am7, 7, 5, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 4, 5, 5, 7, 5, 7.

## Chapter Five - Funk Rock (Les Claypool Style)

The next line is angular and doesn't stick to any real key centre.

The "T" symbol indicates a fretting hand tap. Hammer your fretting hand pinkie finger down onto the fret to create the note.

Muting is the key to making this line sounding clean. Use the tip of your fretting hand first finger to mute the underside of the E string as you play the notes on the A string. This one's quite complex so I recommend checking out the video lesson: <https://geni.us/funkvideos>

### Example 5h

Musical notation for Example 5h, showing a bass line in 4/4 time. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The notation includes a staff with notes and a fretboard diagram below it. Chords indicated are G5, Db5, D5, Eb5, and Eb5. The fretboard diagram shows fingerings: 3, 5, X, 5, 4, 6, 6, 5, 6, 8, 6. Symbols 'S' and 'P' are used for slurs and accents. A circled 'T' indicates a fretting hand tap.

## Chapter Six - Funk Slap (Louis Johnson Style)

In Example 6d we follow a pop with a slap on the same note to create a cool percussive effect. This happens at the end of bar one on the F (3rd fret). At first it might be difficult to get your index finger then thumb to play on the same note, so isolate this section until you nail it.

### Example 6d

Musical notation for Example 6d, showing a bass line in 4/4 time. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The notation includes a staff with notes and a fretboard diagram below it. Chords indicated are Gm, Dm, and C. The fretboard diagram shows fingerings: 3, 5, X, 3, 3, X, 3, 3, 5, 3, 2, 1. Symbols 'S' and 'P' are used for slurs and accents.



## Chapter Seven - Funk Pop (Jamiroquai Style)

Example 7b builds on the previous groove and adds two 1/16th notes to the higher octave.

Great basslines also contain great melodies and here's one that's built from the C# Minor Pentatonic scale.

You can always play simple octaves over a chord progression and connect the chords with the minor pentatonic scale to get some spectacular results. Use the patterns below to create your own lines and fills over this chord progression.

C# Minor Pentatonic

3 5 7 9 12

### Example 7b

C#m E B

C#m E

Get the Spotify playlist to accompany this book now by scanning the QR code

