

Roots are the foundation of a tune's harmony and the most consonant note in any chord.

Learning to hear the **Roots** will help you keep your place in the form of the tune.

Sing and play **Roots** on all tunes to help internalize their sound.

Play with vigor!

Bb Blues Walking Bass Line

Roots - Internalizing Roots

[click here for TAB](#)

To more fully internalize:

1. Listen
2. Sing
3. Play

by Bob Sinicrope

1

2

3

Approach Notes are tension notes that resolve to chord tones. They add melodic interest and create rhythmic motion. The resolution is stronger if the approach note is on an upbeat and the chord tone is on a downbeat.

This exercise features **Lower Chromatic (LC)** approach notes to the **Root (R)**. These work well in bass lines.

Make it dance!

Bb Blues Walking Bass Line

Roots - Lower Chromatic to Root

[click here for TAB](#)

To more fully internalize:

1. Listen
2. Sing
3. Play

by Bob Sinicrope

1

2

Approach Notes are tension notes that resolve to chord tones. They add melodic interest and create rhythmic motion. The resolution is stronger if the Approach Note is on an upbeat and the chord tone is on a downbeat.

This exercise features **Lower Double Chromatic (LD)** Approach Notes to the **Root (R)**. These work well in bass lines.

Play with spirit!

Bb Blues Walking Bass Line

Roots - Lower Double Chromatic to Root

[click here for TAB](#)

To more fully internalize:

1. Listen
2. Sing
3. Play

by Bob Sinicrope

1

Bb7 Eb7 Bb7

L D R L D R

4 0 1 1 4 0 1 1 4 0 1 1 4 0 1 1 4 0

Eb7 Bb7

1 1 4 0 1 1 4 0 1 1 4 0 1 1 1 2

Cm7 F7 Bb7 F7

R L D R L D

3 3 1 2 3 3 4 0 1 1 1 2 3 3 1 2

2

Bb7 Eb7 Bb7

R L D R L D

3 3 4 0 1 1 1 2 3 3 1 2 3 3 4 0

Eb7 Bb7

1 1 4 0 1 1 1 2 3 3 1 2 3 3 3 4

Cm7 F7 Bb7

R L D R L D

5 5 1 2 3 3 1 2 3 3 1 2 3 3

Approach Notes are tension notes that resolve to chord tones. They add melodic interest and create rhythmic motion. The resolution is stronger if the Approach Note is on an upbeat and the chord tone is on a downbeat.

This exercise features **Lower Triple Chromatic (LTC) Approach Notes to the Root (R)**. These work well in bass lines.

Play with conviction.

Bb Blues Walking Bass Line

Roots - Lower Triple Chromatic to Root

[click here for TAB](#)

To more fully internalize:

1. Listen
2. Sing
3. Play

by Bob Sinicrope

1

Chords: Bb7 Eb7 Bb7

Approach Notes: L T C R L T C R

Fret numbers: 3 4 0 | 1 3 4 0 | 1 3 4 0 | 1 3 4 0

Chords: Eb7 Bb7

Fret numbers: 1 3 4 0 | 1 3 4 0 | 1 3 4 0 | 1 0 1 2

Chords: Cm7 F7 Bb7 F7

Approach Notes: R L T C R L T C R

Fret numbers: 3 0 1 2 | 3 0 1 2 | 3 0 1 2 | 3 0 1 2

2

Chords: Bb7 Eb7 Bb7

Fret numbers: 3 3 4 0 | 1 0 1 2 | 3 0 1 2 | 3 3 4 0

Chords: Eb7 Bb7

Fret numbers: 1 3 4 0 | 1 0 1 2 | 3 0 1 2 | 3 L T C | 0 1 2

Chords: Cm7 F7 Bb7

Approach Notes: R L T C R

Fret numbers: 3 0 1 2 | 3 0 1 2 | 3 0 1 2 | 3

Approach Notes are tension notes that resolve to chord tones. They add melodic interest and create rhythmic motion. The resolution is stronger if the approach note is on an upbeat and the chord tone is on a downbeat.

This exercise features Upper Chromatic (UC) approach notes to the Root (R). These do not always work well. Once you learn them, you can choose when you want to use them.

Play with power!

Bb Blues Walking Bass Line

Roots - Upper Chromatic to Root

[click here for TAB](#)

To more fully internalize:

1. Listen
2. Sing
3. Play

by Bob Sinicrope

1

Chords: Bb7 Eb7 Bb7

Approach notes: UC R UC R

Fingerings: 2 1-1-1-2 1-1-1-2 1-1-1-2 1-1-1-2

Tablature: 2 1-1-1-2 1-1-1-2 1-1-1-2 1-1-1-2

2

Chords: Eb7 Bb7 Cm7 F7 Bb7 F7

Approach notes: R UC R UC UC

Fingerings: 1-1-1-2 1-1-1-4 3-3-3-4 3-3-3-2 1-1-1-4 3-3-3-4 3-3-3-4 3-3-3-4

Tablature: 1-1-1-2 1-1-1-4 3-3-3-4 3-3-3-2 1-1-1-4 3-3-3-4 3-3-3-4 3-3-3-4

Approach Notes are tension notes that resolve to chord tones. They add melodic interest and create rhythmic motion. The resolution is stronger if the Approach Note is on an upbeat and the chord tone is on a downbeat.

This exercise features a **Double Chromatic (UD Approach Notes to the Root (R))**. These sometimes, but not always work well in bass lines.

Play with zest!

Bb Blues Walking Bass Line

Roots - Upper Double Chromatic to Root

[click here for TAB](#)

To more fully internalize:

1. Listen
2. Sing
3. Play

by Bob Sinicrope

1

2

Detailed description of the musical notation: The exercise is written in bass clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (Bb). Exercise 1 consists of 4 measures. Measure 1: Bb7 chord, notes G2, F2, Eb3, D3. Measure 2: Eb7 chord, notes Eb3, D3, C3, Bb2. Measure 3: Bb7 chord, notes G2, F2, Eb3, D3. Measure 4: Bb7 chord, notes G2, F2, Eb3, D3. Exercise 2 consists of 4 measures. Measure 5: Eb7 chord, notes Eb3, D3, C3, Bb2. Measure 6: Bb7 chord, notes G2, F2, Eb3, D3. Measure 7: Cm7 chord, notes Bb2, Ab2, G2, F2. Measure 8: F7 chord, notes F2, Eb3, D3, C3.

Approach Notes are tension notes that resolve to chord tones. They add melodic interest and create rhythmic motion. The resolution is stronger if the approach note is on an upbeat and the chord tone is on a downbeat.

This exercise features Upper Triple Chromatic (UTC) approach notes to the Root (R). These do not always work well. Once you learn them, you can choose when you want to use them.

Make your notes ring out!

Bb Blues Walking Bass Line

Roots - Upper Triple Chromatic to Root

[click here for TAB](#)

To more fully internalize:

1. Listen
2. Sing
3. Play

by Bob Sinicrope

①

②

Approach Notes are tension notes that resolve to chord tones. They add melodic interest and create rhythmic motion. The resolution is stronger if the Approach Note is on an upbeat and the chord tone is on a downbeat.

Bb Blues Walking Bass Line

To more fully internalize:

1. Listen
2. Sing
3. Play

This exercise features **Upper Scalar (US)**
Approach Notes to the Root (R).

Roots - Upper Scalar to Root

[click here for TAB](#)

Make your notes conversational!

by Bob Sinicrope

1

Measures 1-4: Bb7, Eb7, Bb7. Approach notes: US, R, US, R.

Measures 5-8: Eb7, Bb7. Approach notes: R, US.

Measures 9-12: Cm7, F7, Bb7, F7. Approach notes: R, US, R.

2

Measures 13-16: Bb7, Eb7, Bb7.

Measures 17-20: Eb7, Bb7.

Measures 21-24: Cm7, F7, Bb7.

Enclosures combine Lower and Upper Approach Notes that resolve to chord tones. They add melodic interest and create rhythmic motion.

This exercise features Lower Chromatic (LC) and Upper Scalar (US) approach notes.

Bb Blues Walking Bass Line

Roots - Enclosure #1
Lower Chromatic - Upper Scalar to Root
Upper Scalar - Lower Chromatic to Root

[click here for TAB](#)

To more fully internalize:

1. Listen
2. Sing
3. Play

by Bob Sinicrope

1

B \flat 7 Eb7 B \flat 7

LC US R LC US R

E \flat 7 B \flat 7

Cm7 F7 B \flat 7 F7

R LC US 0 R 3 3 0 3 1-1-2-0 3 3 5 2

2

B \flat 7 Eb7 B \flat 7

R 3 3 US LC 3 0 R 1 1 5 2 3 3 5 2 3 3 3 0

E \flat 7 B \flat 7

1 1 3 0 1 1 5 2 3 3 5 2 3 3 0 LC

Cm7 F7 B \flat 7

R US LC 0 2 R 3 3 5 2 3 3 5 2 3 3

Enclosures combine Lower and Upper Approach Notes that resolve to chord tones. They add melodic interest and create rhythmic motion.

This exercise features Lower (LC) and Upper Double Chromatic (UD) approach notes.

It also has Forward Motion where the approach notes resolve to a chord tone on a strong downbeat.

Have fun!

Bb Blues Walking Bass Line

Roots - Enclosure #2
Lower Chromatic - Upper Double Chromatic to Root
Upper Double Chromatic - Lower Chromatic to Root
[click here for TAB](#)

To more fully internalize:

1. Listen
2. Sing
3. Play

by Bob Sinicrope

1

2

The image contains two musical exercises for a walking bass line in Bb Blues. Exercise 1 consists of 8 measures, with the first four measures shown in detail. Exercise 2 consists of 4 measures, also shown in detail. Each measure includes a staff with notes, approach notes (LC, U, D, R), and a guitar TAB line with fret numbers.

Enclosures combine Lower and Upper Approach Notes that resolve to chord tones. They add melodic interest and create rhythmic motion.

This exercise features Lower Double Chromatics (LD) and Upper Scalar (US) approach notes.

It also has Forward Motion where the approach notes resolve to a chord tone on a strong downbeat.

Play with expression!

Bb Blues Walking Bass Line

Roots - Enclosure #3

Lower Double Chromatic - Upper Scalar to Root

Upper Scalar - Lower Double Chromatic to Root

[click here for TAB](#)

To more fully internalize:

1. Listen
2. Sing
3. Play

by Bob Sinicrope

1 Eb7 Eb7 Bb7

L D US R L D US R

TAB: 4 0 3 1 4 0 3 1 4 0 3 1 4 0 3 1 4 0 3

Chords: Eb7 Bb7

L D US

TAB: 1 4 0 3 1 4 0 3 1 4 0 3 1 1 2 0

Chords: Cm7 F7 Bb7 F7

R L D US R US L D

TAB: 3 1 2 0 3 4 0 3 1 1 2 0 3 5 1 2

2 Bb7 Eb7 Bb7

R US L D R

TAB: 3 3 4 0 1 5 1 2 3 5 1 2 3 3 4 0

Chords: Eb7 Bb7

US L D

TAB: 1 3 4 0 1 5 1 2 3 5 1 2 3 0 1 2

Chords: Cm7 F7 Bb7

R US L D R

TAB: 3 0 1 2 3 5 1 2 3 5 1 2 3

This exercise incorporates the concepts presented in this chapter. Have fun creating your own bass lines that use Roots, Octaves, Lower Chromatics, Lower Double Chromatics, Triple Lower Chromatics, Upper Chromatics, Upper Double Chromatics, Upper Triple Chromatics, Upper Scalars and Enclosures.

Play what you love; love what you play!

Bb Blues Walking Bass Line

Roots - Summary

[click here for TAB](#)

To more fully internalize:

1. Listen
2. Sing
3. Play

by Bob Sinicrope

1

2