



ESSENTIAL SIGHT READING FOR BASS

with Philip Mann

PART 5

COURSE BOOK

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PART 5



Introduction

So far, we've covered the open strings, whole notes, half notes and eighth notes. We've learned time signatures, bar lines, double bar lines, directional markers and repeats.

In this challenging lesson, we'll continue our sight reading journey by looking at sixteenth-note rhythms, and their associated verbalizations. As the rhythms get more and more complex, we'll introduce new articulations and dynamics, while continuing to develop our ability to analyze the roadmap of a piece of music and play it accurately.

The journey so far...



Covered in Parts 1-4:

- The open strings: E-A-D-G
- Whole notes & half notes
- Quarter notes & eighth notes
- Time signatures, bar & double bar lines & repeats
- **D.S. al Coda** & **D.C. al Coda**
- Ascending & descending slurs (hammer-ons & pull-offs)

80% of the job!

In Part 5 we'll cover:

- Sixteenth notes
- Ledger lines
- Articulation and dynamics
- Crescendos and Diminuendos
- Accents, Tenutos, Staccatos
- Key signatures

What you'll spend most of your time practicing!

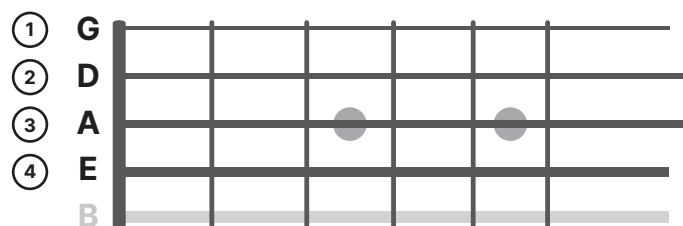


To learn more about key signatures, check out "FUNCTIONAL THEORY FOR BASSISTS VOL. 1" in the SBL Academy Library.

Lesson 1

Open Strings

Although Philip is using a 5-string Ernie Ball Music Man Stingray V 30th Anniversary bass, we're only concerned with strings 1 through 4—you can ignore the 5th, B string.



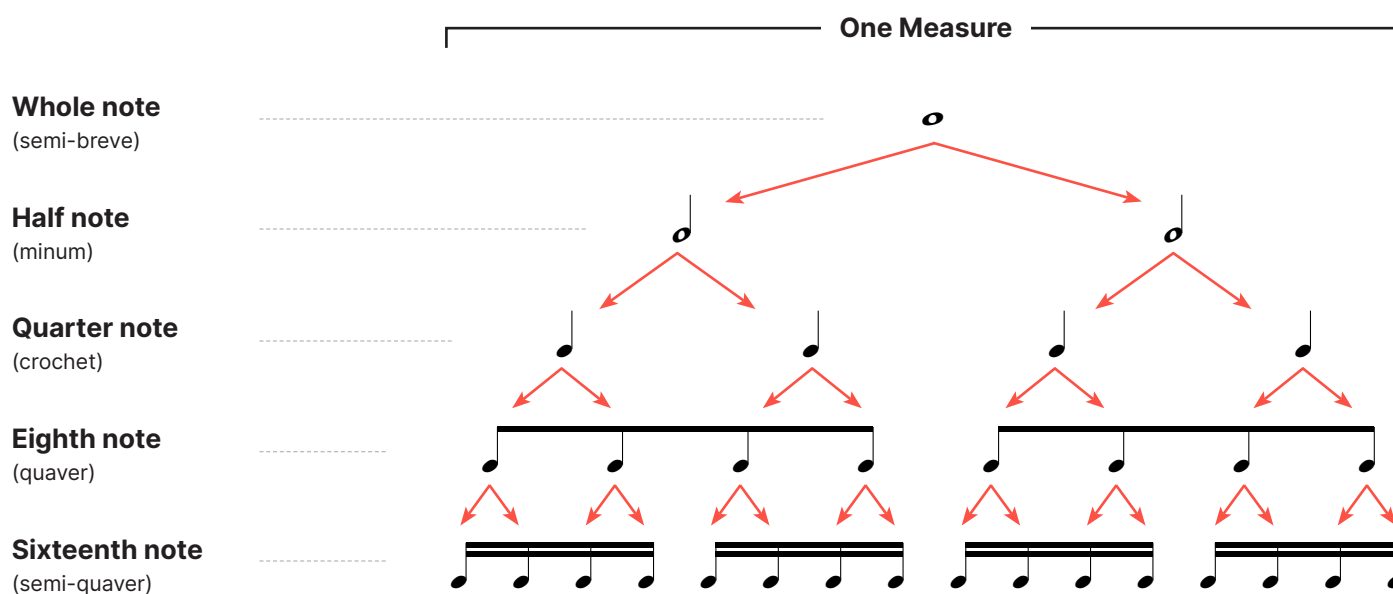
Sixteenth Notes (1:16)

You'll remember from Part 4 that our time to think between notes keeps getting smaller as we go from a whole note to a half note, to a quarter note to an eighth note.

What's important is that you're able to play at each step accurately along the way. Let's look at a single bar (measure) in 4/4 time to see how sixteenth notes fit:



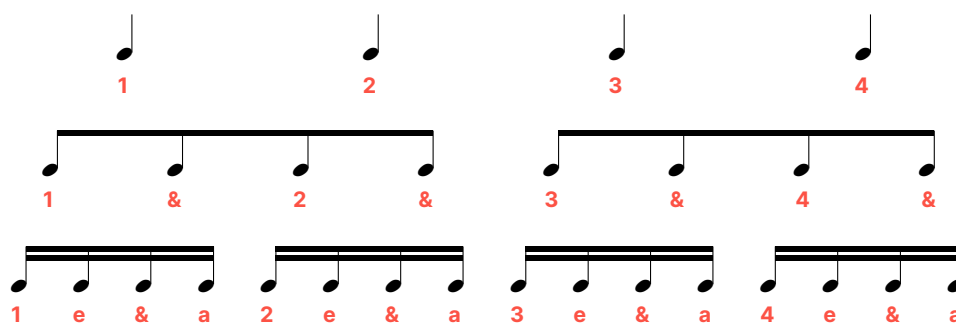
If you're still having trouble with Part 4, don't hesitate to spend more time on it before moving onto this lesson. Our thinking time keeps getting smaller!



LESSON 1 (continued)

Counting methods for sixteenth notes

As you might expect, there are many methods for counting out sixteenth notes. If you were to use a “university spec”, you’d likely encounter this:



“1-e-&-a, 2-e-&-a, 3-e-&-a, 4-e-&-a” can be quite a mouthful!

Let’s look at some verbalizations instead:

Simply pick a word with the correct amount of syllables!

- Drummers like to use “par-a-did-dle”.
- You could also use “Co-ca-Co-la”, “dou-ble-deck-er”, “co-ri-an-der”, etc.

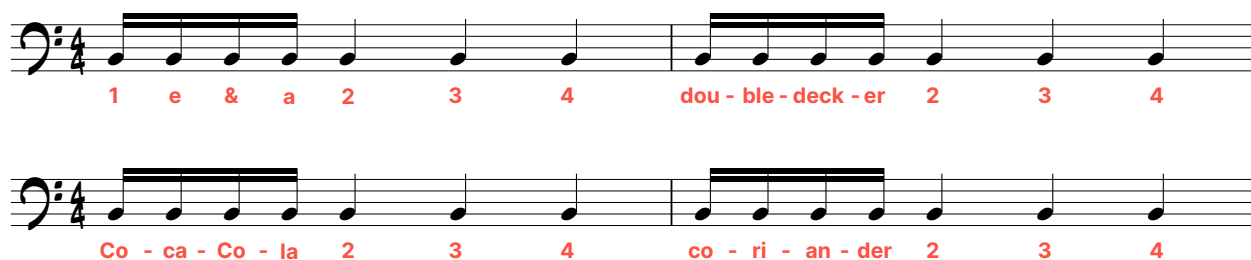
Choose any four-syllable word you like to count out the sixteenth notes.

Phil uses “Coca Cola” but what you use is entirely up to you!



Subdivisions are NOT an increase in the tempo!

But you do deliver more harmonic information in the same amount of time with more subdivisions.



LESSON 1 (continued)

The Goal

When you see a “symbol”—a particular grouping of notes—you’ll be able to say a verbalization that is the correct rhythm of the grouping.

Appearance of Sixteenth Notes

Single sixteenth note:



Grouped sixteenths:



In-Studio Exercise (13:22)



See it, say it, play it!

Keeping with our goal, remember: associate a symbol with a verbalization and play that melody ... it works!

Symbol



Verbalization

“Coca-Cola”

LESSON 1 (continued)

Exercise 1

Exercise 1 is a 16-measure piece in 4/4 time, written in bass clef. It begins with a repeat sign. The notation is as follows:

- Measure 1: Quarter note G2, quarter note A2, quarter note B2, quarter note C3.
- Measure 2: Quarter note D3, quarter note E3, quarter note F3, quarter note G3.
- Measure 3: Quarter note A3, quarter note B3, quarter note C4, quarter note D4.
- Measure 4: Quarter note E4, quarter note F4, quarter note G4, quarter note A4.
- Measure 5: Quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note D5, quarter note E5.
- Measure 6: Quarter note F5, quarter note G5, quarter note A5, quarter note B5.
- Measure 7: Quarter note C6, quarter note D6, quarter note E6, quarter note F6.
- Measure 8: Quarter note G6, quarter note A6, quarter note B6, quarter note C7.
- Measure 9: Quarter note D7, quarter note E7, quarter note F7, quarter note G7.
- Measure 10: Quarter note A7, quarter note B7, quarter note C8, quarter note D8.
- Measure 11: Quarter note E8, quarter note F8, quarter note G8, quarter note A8.
- Measure 12: Quarter note B8, quarter note C9, quarter note D9, quarter note E9.
- Measure 13: Quarter note F9, quarter note G9, quarter note A9, quarter note B9.
- Measure 14: Quarter note C10, quarter note D10, quarter note E10, quarter note F10.
- Measure 15: Quarter note G10, quarter note A10, quarter note B10, quarter note C11.
- Measure 16: Quarter note D11, quarter note E11, quarter note F11, quarter note G11.

Exercise 2

Exercise 2 is a 16-measure piece in 4/4 time, written in bass clef. It begins with a repeat sign. The notation is as follows:

- Measure 1: Quarter note G2, quarter note A2, quarter note B2, quarter note C3.
- Measure 2: Quarter note D3, quarter note E3, quarter note F3, quarter note G3.
- Measure 3: Quarter note A3, quarter note B3, quarter note C4, quarter note D4.
- Measure 4: Quarter note E4, quarter note F4, quarter note G4, quarter note A4.
- Measure 5: Quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note D5, quarter note E5.
- Measure 6: Quarter note F5, quarter note G5, quarter note A5, quarter note B5.
- Measure 7: Quarter note C6, quarter note D6, quarter note E6, quarter note F6.
- Measure 8: Quarter note G6, quarter note A6, quarter note B6, quarter note C7.
- Measure 9: Quarter note D7, quarter note E7, quarter note F7, quarter note G7.
- Measure 10: Quarter note A7, quarter note B7, quarter note C8, quarter note D8.
- Measure 11: Quarter note E8, quarter note F8, quarter note G8, quarter note A8.
- Measure 12: Quarter note B8, quarter note C9, quarter note D9, quarter note E9.
- Measure 13: Quarter note F9, quarter note G9, quarter note A9, quarter note B9.
- Measure 14: Quarter note C10, quarter note D10, quarter note E10, quarter note F10.
- Measure 15: Quarter note G10, quarter note A10, quarter note B10, quarter note C11.
- Measure 16: Quarter note D11, quarter note E11, quarter note F11, quarter note G11.

Lesson 2

The Chart Roadmap (0:00)

First, let's take a look at the exercise on the next page before we attempt to play it. We notice the initial repeat bar at the beginning of the exercise.

- This tells us we'll be returning back to this point in the exercise, so before even looking at any notes, find the end repeat bar (the repeat in the "opposite direction")
- The end repeat bar appears at the end of the second system.
- The 1st Ending (the Volta bracket*) over the 2nd system tells us the order of play is:

1st system → 2nd system → 1st system → 3rd system → 4th system

Rhythmic & Melodic Content (2:00)

Next, look for rhythmic variations by looking *down* the page, not across the page.

- Find the barlines. Look for rhythmic differentiation.
- Is there something you didn't expect?
- Are there any rests?
- Verbalize the rhythms (i.e. "tax-i" for two consecutive eighth notes)

So what's happening rhythmically?

- "Packs" of sixteenth notes, sometimes multiple packs in a measure.
- The notes are "moving", we're playing more than one string in each measure.
- Still all open strings.



Play a rest like it's a note: it has a value; it has a length.

* See Part 4 of this lesson for more information on Volta brackets.

LESSON 2 (continued)

Open Strings VS Fretted Notes (4:54)

Should you play the A, D and G notes as open strings or fret them instead?

Open Strings

- More bite and project the sound, but you can only play them *one* way.

Fretted Notes

- A bit “rounder”, with more bottom end.
- Fretted strings can be played with lots of variation; trills, bends, slides both into and out of the note, short, long, etc.
- Offer more control.



In every environment, how you play a note will be different.

In-Studio Exercise* (7:40)

* Phil refers to this exercise as “Exercise 2”.

LESSON 2 (continued)

Exercise 1

Exercise 1 is a bass clef piece in 4/4 time, consisting of 20 measures. The notation is as follows:

- Measure 1: Quarter note G2, eighth notes F2, E2, D2, quarter note C2.
- Measure 2: Quarter note B1, eighth notes A1, G1, F1, quarter note E1.
- Measure 3: Quarter note D1, eighth notes C1, B0, A0, quarter note G0.
- Measure 4: Quarter note F0, eighth notes E0, D0, C0, quarter note B0.
- Measure 5: Quarter note A0, eighth notes G0, F0, E0, quarter note D0.
- Measure 6: Quarter note C1, eighth notes B0, A0, G0, quarter note F0.
- Measure 7: Quarter note E1, eighth notes D1, C1, B1, quarter note A1.
- Measure 8: Quarter note G1, eighth notes F1, E1, D1, quarter note C1.
- Measure 9: Quarter note B1, eighth notes A1, G1, F1, quarter note E1.
- Measure 10: Quarter note D2, eighth notes C2, B1, A1, quarter note G1.
- Measure 11: Quarter note C2, eighth notes B1, A1, G1, quarter note F1.
- Measure 12: Quarter note E2, eighth notes D2, C2, B1, quarter note A1.
- Measure 13: Quarter note G2, eighth notes F2, E2, D2, quarter note C2.
- Measure 14: Quarter note B2, eighth notes A2, G2, F2, quarter note E2.
- Measure 15: Quarter note D3, eighth notes C3, B2, A2, quarter note G2.
- Measure 16: Quarter note F3, eighth notes E3, D3, C3, quarter note B2.
- Measure 17: Quarter note A2, eighth notes G2, F2, E2, quarter note D2.
- Measure 18: Quarter note C3, eighth notes B2, A2, G2, quarter note F2.
- Measure 19: Quarter note E3, eighth notes D3, C3, B2, quarter note A2.
- Measure 20: Quarter note G3, eighth notes F3, E3, D3, quarter note C3.

Exercise 2

Exercise 2 is a bass clef piece in 4/4 time, consisting of 24 measures. The notation is as follows:

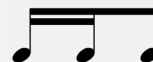
- Measure 1: Quarter note G2, eighth notes F2, E2, D2, quarter note C2.
- Measure 2: Quarter note B1, eighth notes A1, G1, F1, quarter note E1.
- Measure 3: Quarter note D1, eighth notes C1, B0, A0, quarter note G0.
- Measure 4: Quarter note F0, eighth notes E0, D0, C0, quarter note B0.
- Measure 5: Quarter note A0, eighth notes G0, F0, E0, quarter note D0.
- Measure 6: Quarter note C1, eighth notes B0, A0, G0, quarter note F0.
- Measure 7: Quarter note E1, eighth notes D1, C1, B1, quarter note A1.
- Measure 8: Quarter note G1, eighth notes F1, E1, D1, quarter note C1.
- Measure 9: Quarter note B1, eighth notes A1, G1, F1, quarter note E1.
- Measure 10: Quarter note D2, eighth notes C2, B1, A1, quarter note G1.
- Measure 11: Quarter note C2, eighth notes B1, A1, G1, quarter note F1.
- Measure 12: Quarter note E2, eighth notes D2, C2, B1, quarter note A1.
- Measure 13: Quarter note G2, eighth notes F2, E2, D2, quarter note C2.
- Measure 14: Quarter note B2, eighth notes A2, G2, F2, quarter note E2.
- Measure 15: Quarter note D3, eighth notes C3, B2, A2, quarter note G2.
- Measure 16: Quarter note F3, eighth notes E3, D3, C3, quarter note B2.
- Measure 17: Quarter note A2, eighth notes G2, F2, E2, quarter note D2.
- Measure 18: Quarter note C3, eighth notes B2, A2, G2, quarter note F2.
- Measure 19: Quarter note E3, eighth notes D3, C3, B2, quarter note A2.
- Measure 20: Quarter note G3, eighth notes F3, E3, D3, quarter note C3.
- Measure 21: Quarter note B3, eighth notes A3, G3, F3, quarter note E3.
- Measure 22: Quarter note D4, eighth notes C4, B3, A3, quarter note G3.
- Measure 23: Quarter note F4, eighth notes E4, D4, C4, quarter note B3.
- Measure 24: Quarter note A3, eighth notes G3, F3, E3, quarter note D3.

Lesson 3

“Lem-on-ade”

In this lesson, we’ll encounter a new rhythm: two sixteenth notes followed by an eighth note. We can verbalize this new rhythm with the word “lem-on-ade”.

Symbol



Verbalization

“lemonade”

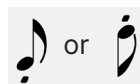
The Chart Roadmap (0:56)

Examining the exercise, we notice:

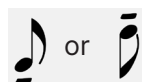
- Four systems, with a repeat around the first system.
- Finale is at the end.
- Lots of articulations, especially in the last two systems.
- The first system is the same rhythm pattern as in Lesson 1.
- Instead of “Co-ca-Co-la”, we verbalize with “lem-on-ade”.
- At Bar 9, we encounter a different rhythm, a non-open-string notes, and articulation markings.

Staccatos and Tenutos (4:44)

A **staccato** articulation is indicated by a “dot” under or over the notehead, and means we should play the note shorter than its full value:



A **tenuto** articulation is indicated by a “dash” (“subtract” symbol) under or over the notehead, and means we should play the note for its full intended value:



LESSON 3 (continued)

In-Studio Exercise (3:21)

Minor 7 triad

Notes:

- Notice that this entire exercise is played within the first five frets.
- For example, in Bar 12—play the G with finger 4, E with finger 1, C with finger 3, and A with finger 4. (This is a Am7 triad.)
- This allows you to stay “in position”, keeping your left-hand location the same, and guarantees the rigidity and clarity of your playing, both of which are essential to becoming a good sight-reading player.
- Watch for the eighth-note rest in Bar 14*. As a refresher, you should be verbalizing, say, Bars 17 and 18 as:
- “lem-on-ade, tax-i, lem-on-ade, 4” “1, Co-ca-Co-la, lem-on-ade, 4”



It's pointless taking on new information if the old stuff isn't absolutely nailed.

Your foundations have to be great in order to progress.

* See Part 3 of this lesson for more information on eighth-note rests.

LESSON 3 (continued)

Exercise 1

Exercise 1 is a bass clef piece in 4/4 time, consisting of 19 measures. The notation is as follows:

- Measure 1: Quarter note G2, quarter note A2, eighth note B2, eighth note C3, quarter note D3.
- Measure 2: Quarter note E3, quarter note F3, eighth note G3, eighth note A3, quarter note B3.
- Measure 3: Quarter note C4, quarter note D4, eighth note E4, eighth note F4, quarter note G4.
- Measure 4: Quarter note A4, quarter note B4, eighth note C5, eighth note D5, quarter note E5.
- Measure 5: Quarter note F5, quarter note G5, eighth note A5, eighth note B5, quarter note C6.
- Measure 6: Quarter note D6, quarter note E6, eighth note F6, eighth note G6, quarter note A6.
- Measure 7: Quarter note B6, quarter note C7, eighth note D7, eighth note E7, quarter note F7.
- Measure 8: Quarter note G7, quarter note A7, eighth note B7, eighth note C8, quarter note D8.
- Measure 9: Quarter note E8, quarter note F8, eighth note G8, eighth note A8, quarter note B8.
- Measure 10: Quarter note C9, quarter note D9, eighth note E9, eighth note F9, quarter note G9.
- Measure 11: Quarter note A9, quarter note B9, eighth note C10, eighth note D10, quarter note E10.
- Measure 12: Quarter note F10, quarter note G10, eighth note A10, eighth note B10, quarter note C11.
- Measure 13: Quarter note D11, quarter note E11, eighth note F11, eighth note G11, quarter note A11.
- Measure 14: Quarter note B11, quarter note C12, eighth note D12, eighth note E12, quarter note F12.
- Measure 15: Quarter note G12, quarter note A12, eighth note B12, eighth note C13, quarter note D13.
- Measure 16: Quarter note E13, quarter note F13, eighth note G13, eighth note A13, quarter note B13.
- Measure 17: Quarter note C14, quarter note D14, eighth note E14, eighth note F14, quarter note G14.
- Measure 18: Quarter note A14, quarter note B14, eighth note C15, eighth note D15, quarter note E15.
- Measure 19: Quarter note F15, quarter note G15, eighth note A15, eighth note B15, quarter note C16.

Exercise 2

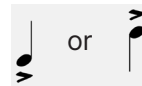
Exercise 2 is a bass clef piece in 4/4 time, consisting of 11 measures. The notation is as follows:

- Measure 1: Quarter note G2, quarter note A2, eighth note B2, eighth note C3, quarter note D3.
- Measure 2: Quarter note E3, quarter note F3, eighth note G3, eighth note A3, quarter note B3.
- Measure 3: Quarter note C4, quarter note D4, eighth note E4, eighth note F4, quarter note G4.
- Measure 4: Quarter note A4, quarter note B4, eighth note C5, eighth note D5, quarter note E5.
- Measure 5: Quarter note F5, quarter note G5, eighth note A5, eighth note B5, quarter note C6.
- Measure 6: Quarter note D6, quarter note E6, eighth note F6, eighth note G6, quarter note A6.
- Measure 7: Quarter note B6, quarter note C7, eighth note D7, eighth note E7, quarter note F7.
- Measure 8: Quarter note G7, quarter note A7, eighth note B7, eighth note C8, quarter note D8.
- Measure 9: Quarter note E8, quarter note F8, eighth note G8, eighth note A8, quarter note B8.
- Measure 10: Quarter note C9, quarter note D9, eighth note E9, eighth note F9, quarter note G9.
- Measure 11: Quarter note A9, quarter note B9, eighth note C10, eighth note D10, quarter note E10.

Lesson 4

Accents and Fermatas

A **accent** articulation is indicated by a “arrowhead” under or over the notehead, and means we should emphasize the note:



A **fermata** is indicated by an “eye” over the notehead, and means we should play and hold the note for an unprescribed period of time (“hold it until told otherwise”):



A New Note (0:55)

In Bar 17, we see a note sitting *on top of* a ledger line. This note is a “D”, and is played on the 7th fret of the first string:



The Chart Roadmap (3:13)

We find an initial repeat in the first bar, and the end repeat at the end of Bar 8. With no other repeats, the order of play is:

1st system → 2nd system → 1st system → 2nd system → 3rd system

We find “lemonades”, “Coca-Colas”, “taxis”, hammer-ons, staccatos and tenutos, a fermata and an accent.

LESSON 4 (continued)

In-Studio Exercise (4:40)



Notes:

Notice in Bar 2, our “lem-on-ade” contains two pitches, not just one.

In 4/4 time, a single bar of music is generally written so that you can see “middle” of the bar.

- Beats 1 & 2 are one side; beats 3 & 4 are the other.
- There are no note values that go over that “middle” bar.
- To help us see the half-measure, notice how the eighth notes are beamed. All four eighth notes on one side of the measure get beamed together.

Watch out for Bar 5, playing on the off-beats can be tricky.

Be sure to take a look ahead to be prepared for what’s coming next in the music. Looking ahead will help you with your positioning on the bass.

In Bar 17, playing the C note on “&” of beat 2 with finger 4 allows us to easily play the subsequent A note with finger 1.

LESSON 4 (continued)

Exercise 1



Exercise 2



Lesson 5

Syncopation

In the previous lesson, we noted the importance of being able to see the “middle” of the bar. In general, it’s preferred to show two tied quarter notes on beats 2 & 3 rather than a half note, so that the note value doesn’t “cross” the middle.

However, when notes are **syncopated**—played on the “off beats”—this may not be the case! When playing syncopated eighth notes, we’d be playing on the “&” of the beats.

In this example, we find syncopated notes in Bars 2 and 4. See Bar 2:

You may also see bar 2 written with the middle of the bar shown:



Caesura

In this lesson, we’ll look at another new symbol, the caesura, which simply means a pause, break or interruption in the music.

It looks like two diagonal lines, and is commonly referred to as “railroad tracks” or “tram lines”:

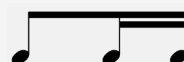


“Black Cur-rant”

In this lesson, we’ll encounter a new rhythm: an eighth note followed by two sixteenth notes. This rhythmic pattern is often used by Steve Harris from Iron Maiden—the “galloping bass”.

We can verbalize this new rhythm with the words “black cur-rant”.

Symbol



Verbalization

“black currant”

LESSON 5 (continued)

In-Studio Exercise (4:06)

Notes:

- We find our new verbalization (“black cur-rant”) in the very first bar (and Bar 3).
- Be careful not to lose track of the beat when only using verbalizations!
- In Bars 2 and 4, we see syncopated notes.
- If you’re tapping the beat with your foot, these notes are played when the foot is in the air.
- For now, ignore the notes above the ledger lines and instead just play eighth-note octaves based on the “lower” note at the end of Bars 7 and 8.
- Pay attention to the accented notes.



Be aware, and be very sensitive to the articulations. The difference between a “reader” and a “good reader” is their interpretations of the accents. That’s what will set you apart from the other musicians reading from the same page.

continued →

LESSON 5 (continued)

Notes (continued):

- In Bar 9 through the end of the piece, there are quite a variety of sixteenth-note rhythms.
- In Bar 10, watch for the “black currants”—the rhythm is the same, but the three pitches are different.
- Bar 11 is perhaps the most difficult bar we’ve encountered so far!
- Recall how we verbalize this measure: “Co-ca-Co-la, lem-on-ade, lem-on-ade, 4”
- Again, each note is a different pitch. Take your time and play it properly.
- At the end of Bar 12, we encounter a fermata... take a breather! Play the remaining bars when you’re ready.



IMPORTANT! If you are unable to read the last system (Bars 13–16) on your own, **DO NOT progress past this point!** You are not ready.

- You should also be able to read the reamaining two exercises in this lesson, too.
- If you’re having trouble, re-visit the earlier lessons until you’re comfortable.
- What’s important is that you’re learning and comprehending.
- This isn’t a race. Take the time to get it correct.

LESSON 5 (continued)

Exercise 1

Exercise 1 is a bass clef piece in 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a first ending bracket. The second staff begins with a second ending bracket. The third staff begins with a measure number 13 and ends with a double bar line and repeat sign.

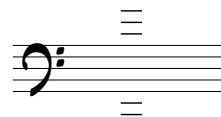
Exercise 2

Exercise 2 is a bass clef piece in 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff ends with a "To Coda" instruction and a coda symbol. The second staff ends with a "D.C. al Coda (take repeat)" instruction. The third staff begins with a measure number 13 and ends with a double bar line and repeat sign.

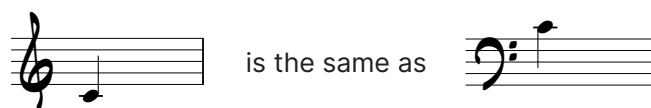
Lesson 6

Ledger Lines

In this lesson, we'll emphasize **ledger lines**— small lines written above or below the five regular lines on the staff, and serve as extensions to the clef. They can be added as needed.



"Middle C" is the note that ties the bass clef and the treble (guitar) clef together; it's one ledger line below the treble clef and one line above the bass clef:



It's important to be consistent, and have a good ability to read ledger lines in the bass clef!

Ledger line "landmarks":

As in Part 1 of this sight-reading series, we can set "landmarks" for interpreting ledger lines. Here's the trick:



The ledger lines above the staff spell out a **C Major Triad***

- The first ledger line above the staff represents a C.
- The second ledger line above the staff represents an E.
- The third ledger line above the staff represents a G.

For reference on the fretboard:



*To learn more about triads, check out "FUNCTIONAL THEORY FOR BASSISTS VOL. 1" or "CHORD TONE CONCEPTS LEVEL 1" in the SBL Academy Library.

LESSON 6 (continued)

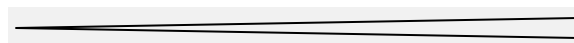
In-Studio Exercise (7:58)

The musical notation is written in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The exercise is divided into three staves. The first staff contains measures 1 through 4, featuring whole notes and half notes. The second staff begins at measure 5 and includes a first ending bracket. The third staff begins at measure 15 and features a crescendo symbol (a wedge opening to the right) and a diminuendo symbol (a wedge closing to the right).

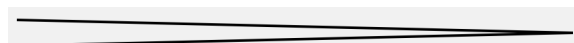
Notes:

Everything in the example should look familiar, except for two new symbols—the crescendo and diminuendo symbols.

The **crescendo** symbol appears in Bar 15. It looks like a big arrowhead opening to the right, and indicates we should *gradually* get louder in volume:



The **diminuendo** symbol appears in Bar 16. It looks like a big arrowhead *pointing* to the right, and indicates we should get *gradually* get quieter in volume:



Performance Tip: NEVER put your master volume at the same level as the band! Always put it louder than you need it — it allows you to play softer, but still be able to get louder when you need to!

LESSON 6 (continued)

Exercise 1

Exercise 1 is written in bass clef, 4/4 time. It consists of 16 measures. Measures 1-4 are a first phrase, measures 5-8 a second phrase, and measures 9-16 a third phrase. The notation includes various note values, rests, and slurs. A repeat sign is at the end of measure 16. Below the staff, there are two empty lines for practice.

5

D.C.
(take repeat)

17

Exercise 2

Exercise 2 is written in bass clef, 4/4 time. It consists of 24 measures. Measures 1-8 are a first phrase, measures 9-16 a second phrase, and measures 17-24 a third phrase. The notation includes various note values, rests, and slurs. A repeat sign is at the end of measure 24. Below the staff, there are two empty lines for practice.

9

D.C.
(take repeat)

25

Lesson 7

In-Studio Exercise (4:20)

The musical score for Lesson 7, In-Studio Exercise (4:20), is written in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of three staves. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a first ending bracket. The second staff starts at measure 5 and includes a first ending bracket. The third staff starts at measure 11 and concludes with a double bar line and repeat sign.

Notes:

- At this point, without playing a note, you should be able to look at this exercise and be comfortable with all the information in it—and there's a lot!
- This lesson, along with Lesson 8, doesn't introduce anything new.
- Note the G at the end of Bar 8 can be played on the 10th fret of the third string. This keeps our fret hand in the same position.
- Watch for the tied note in Bar 11.

LESSON 7 (continued)

Exercise 1

Exercise 1 is a bass clef piece in 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a first ending bracket over measures 1 and 2, and a second ending bracket over measures 3 and 4. The second staff starts at measure 5 and continues to measure 8. The third staff starts at measure 9 and continues to measure 12, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots. The music features various rhythmic patterns including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests.

Exercise 2

Exercise 2 is a bass clef piece in 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a first ending bracket over measures 1 and 2, and a second ending bracket over measures 3 and 4. The second staff starts at measure 9 and continues to measure 12. The third staff starts at measure 13 and continues to measure 16, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots. The music features various rhythmic patterns including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests.

Lesson 8

You've done it! Congratulations on making it to the final lesson of Part 5! At this point, you should be able to:

- Look at a piece of music and understand what you see, even if you can't play the notes!
- Have a better perception of the music you're looking at, and how you would play it.



But the learning doesn't stop.

In future parts of this course, we'll cover:

- Accidentals (sharps and flats).
- Ornaments, including glissando and slides.
- Triplets.
- Key signatures.
- and more!



If you haven't yet, be sure to check out "FUNCTIONAL THEORY FOR BASSISTS, Vols. 1 & 2" in the SBL Course Library!

In-Studio Exercise

Minor triad *Major triad* **4th time, To Coda**

G Mixolydian **D.C. al Coda (take repeat)**

sim. *C pentatonic*

Coda

C Major triad *E Minor triad* *C Major triad* *C Major pentatonic*

1., 2., 3. 4.

LESSON 8 (continued)

Notes on the Studio Example (5:05)

This “in-studio” example here in Level 8 is more difficult than some of the music bassists actually get paid to perform! Be proud of yourself if you can handle this level of music!

- As always, get the **roadmap** to the music before you attempt to play it!
 - Look for the things that are difficult.
 - What are the things you need to pay attention to?
I.e Repeated bars, **To Coda, D.C. al Coda**, Volta brackets.
 - The tenuto on the first note in Bar 1 is simply there as a courtesy to ensure you don’t cut the note short in anticipation of the staccato on the second note.
 - Hopefully you recognize Bar 3 is identical to Bar 1!
 - **NOTE:** In Bar 4, Phil references a two tied eighth notes on the “&” of beat 1. These two notes have been combined into a quarter note in the notation.
 - Moving to Bar 9, we can stay in position with our fretting hand.
 - Watch the last beat of Bar 11!
 - In Bar 12, we see a new instruction: **“sim.”** An abbreviation for “simile”, which means to keep playing the same way. Here, we continue the staccatos and tenutos into the next measure.
 - Pay attention to the Volta brackets in the third system (starting on Bar 21).
-

Closing Thoughts (25:46)

It’s crucial that you’ve absolutely *nailed* Parts 1 through 5 of this course, as well as “FUNCTIONAL THEORY FOR BASSISTS, VOLS. 1 & 2”! They lay the groundwork for the next lessons.

If you have *not* completed those courses, **do not go to Part 6!**

Only when you’re ready, move to the next Part.



FUNCTIONAL THEORY FOR BASSISTS, Vols. 1 & 2

LESSON 8 (continued)

Exercise 1

3

9

11

33

*D.C.
(take repeats)*

LESSON 8 (continued)

Exercise 2

Exercise 2 musical score, Bass Part 5, Lesson 8 (continued). The score is written in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff contains measures 1-2. The second staff contains measures 3-4, with a first ending bracket over measures 3-4 labeled "1., 2., 3.". The third staff contains measures 5-6, with a first ending bracket over measure 5 labeled "4.". The fourth staff contains measures 7-8, with a first ending bracket over measures 7-8 labeled "1., 2., 3.". The fifth staff contains measures 9-10, with a first ending bracket over measures 9-10 labeled "4.". The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests.

