

Building A Beginning Bassline

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MEMORIZE THE CIRCLE OF 5THS AND THE FOUR POSSIBLE APPROACHES

STEP 1: Play the 12 stations of the circle of 5ths counterclockwise (falling 5ths) until memorized and in tune.



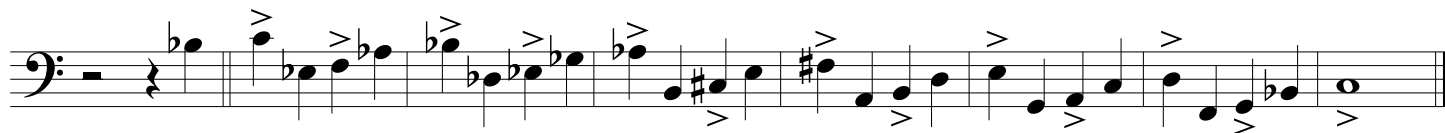
STEP 2: Play a 1/2 step approach from below each of the 12 stations until memorized and in tune. The original 12 stations are marked with an accent.



STEP 3: Play a 1/2 step approach from above each of the 12 stations until memorized and in tune. The original 12 stations are marked with an accent.



STEP 4: Play a whole step approach from below each of the 12 stations until memorized and in tune. The original 12 stations are marked with an accent.



STEP 5: Play a whole step approach from above each of the 12 stations until memorized and in tune. The original 12 stations are marked with an accent.



NOW BUILD A BASSLINE

STEP 1: Write the root below each of the chord changes in your progression.



STEP 2: Select one of the four approaches into each of the roots.



STEP 3: Fill the two missing beats in each measure with notes from an appropriate scale that help to define each chord. Edit your choices for the best overall line and memorize.



STEP 4: Improvise variations to this bass line by changing the approaches and/or the notes played on beats 2 and 3 as you work toward constructing solid basslines on the fly.