EVERYONE CAN PLAY

# BASS GUITAR



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REGISTERED MUSIC THERAPIST

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# The Basics

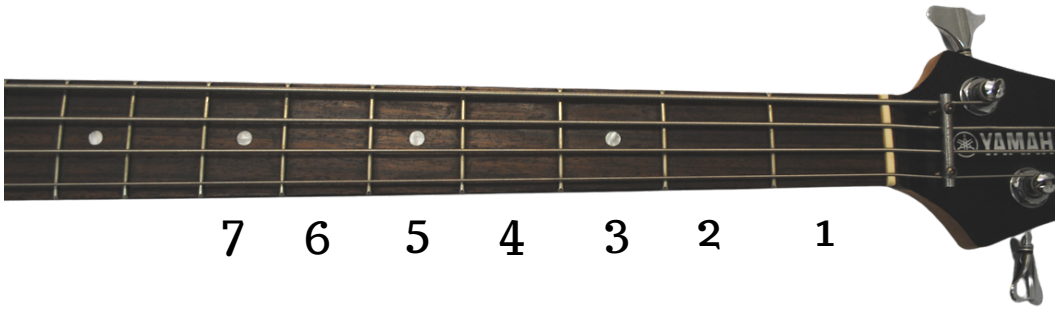
A bass guitar has four strings.
Each strings corresponds to a different note.
The four notes, starting from the thickest string are:
**E**
**A**
**D**
**G**

**Tuning the guitar**
**T**he easiest way to tune the bass is to download  a free app to your phone.

I recommend 'Guitar Tuna'

App Store
Google Play

**Frets**
The frets run in vertical line all the way up the neck of the guitar. Press firmly on the string and if you hear any buzzing move your finger closer to the vertical fret.




Notice that the dots are on the odd numbered frets - 3, 5, 7, 9

# Bass Guitar Tab

Reading bass guitar tab is a 'must learn' skill.

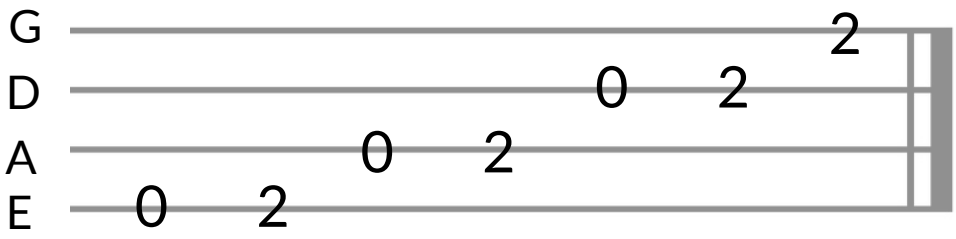
First, let's read tab for just one string.
Start with the **E string** (the thickest string, at the top of the bass)
and play the following. Keep it slow and steady.



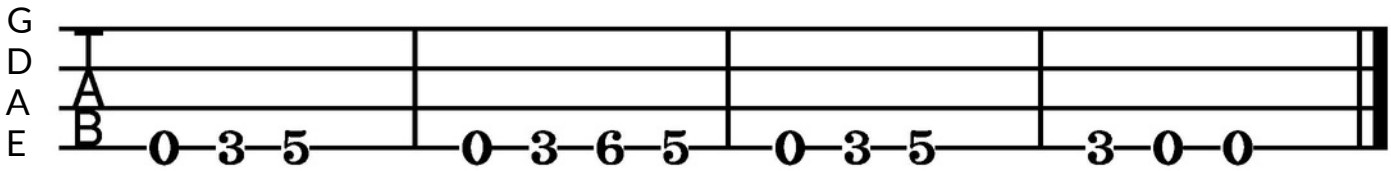

Now play the above riff on each string.

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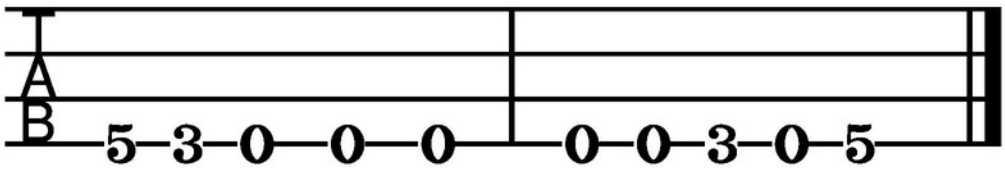
Now let's go ahead and play a tab which uses all four strings on the bass.



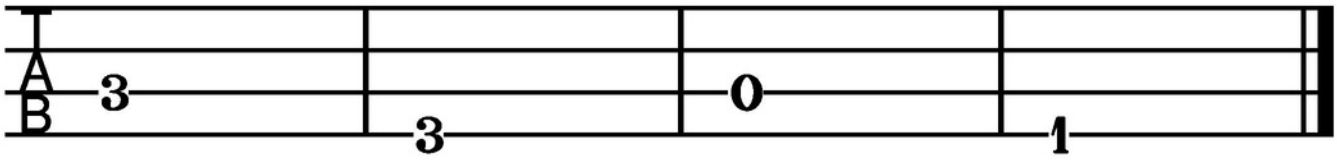
# Smoke on The Water



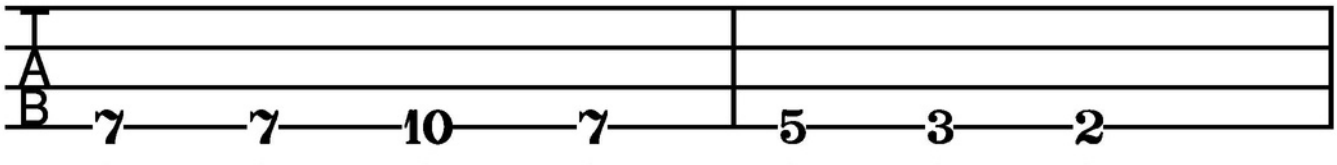
# Another One Bites The Dust

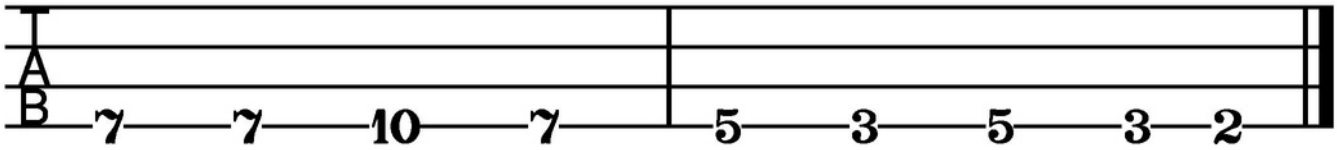


# Let It Be - The Beatles

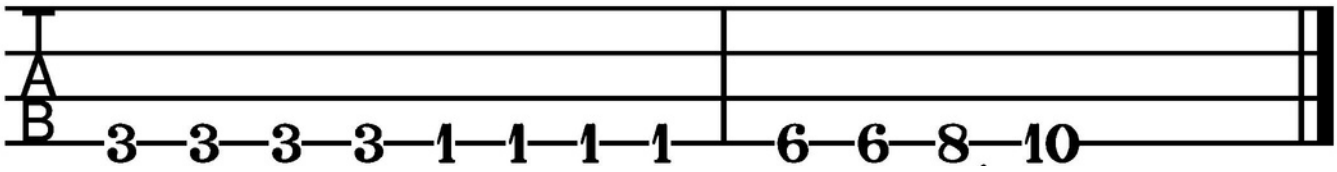


# 7 Nation Army

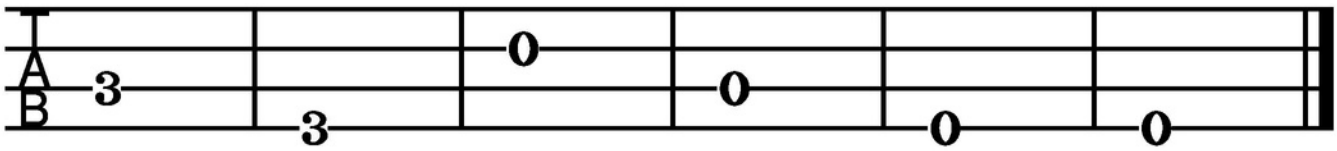


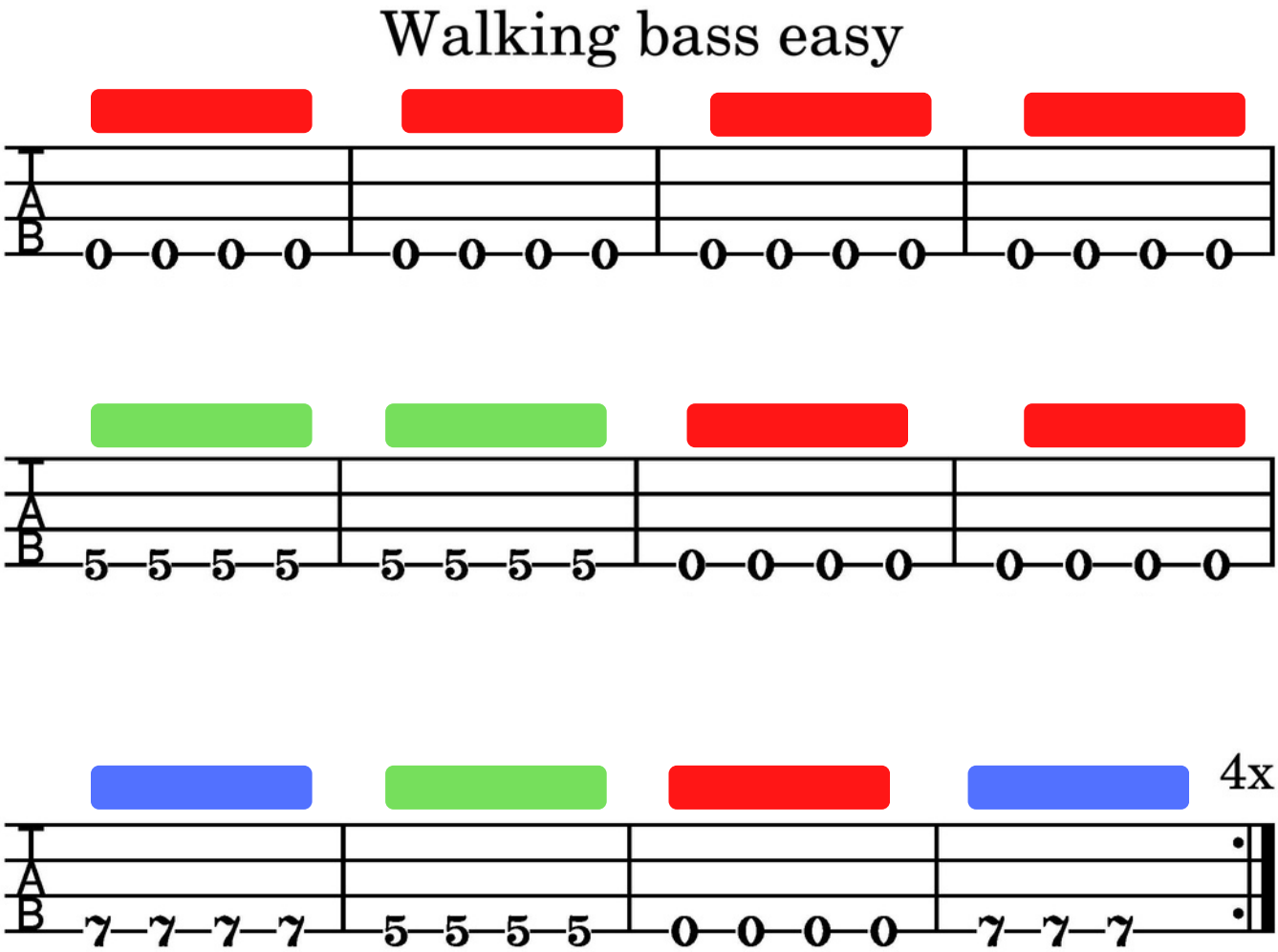



# Song 2 - Blur



# Hey Joe - Jimmy Hendrix



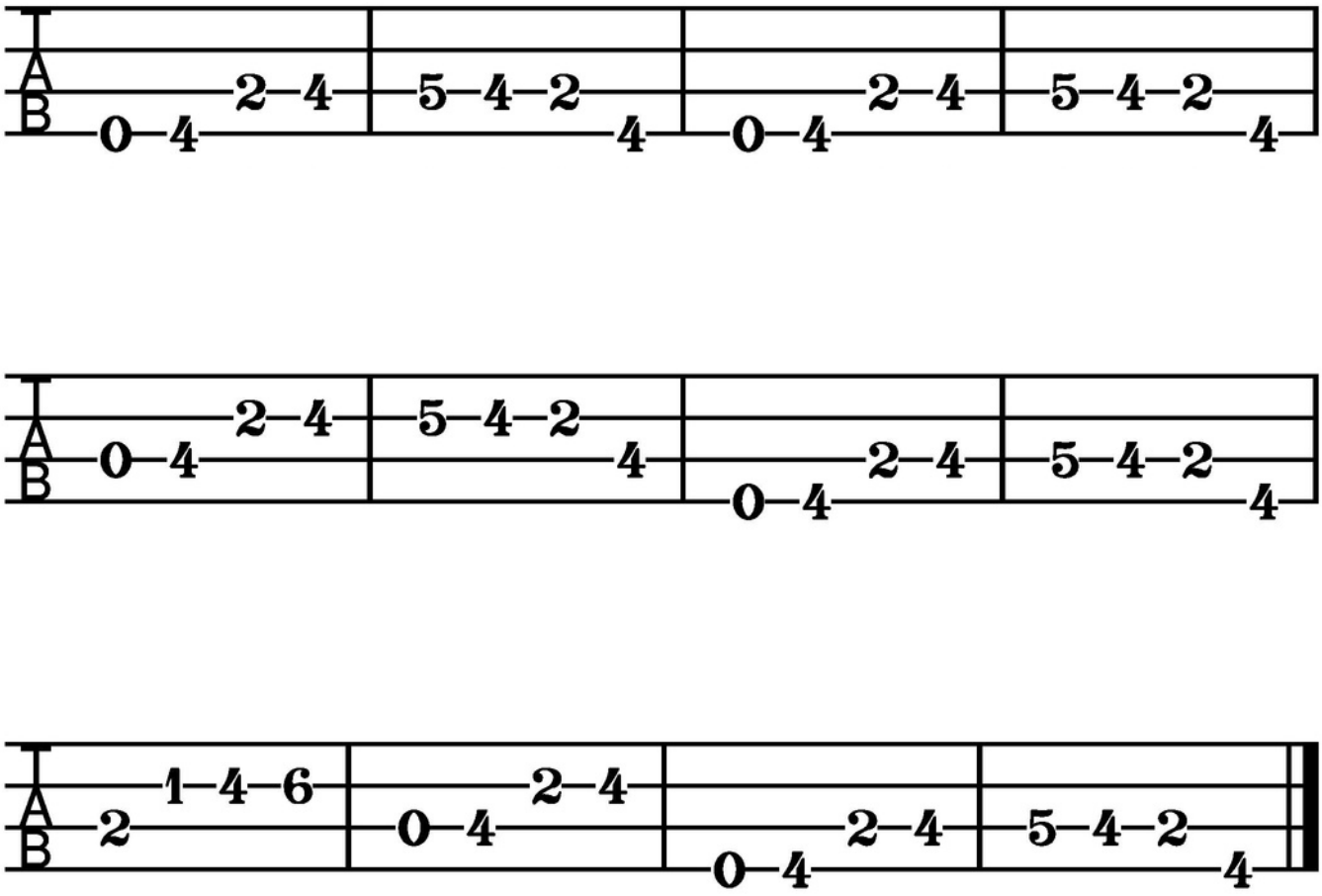



I've colour-coded this tab so you can see where the chord changes.

This Walking Bass is in the key of E major.

There are plenty of backing tracks you can jam along to on YouTube, e.g. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMbnRaRpZi4

# Walking bass



# Nice work!

Now that you've come this far, you have made some serious progress.

I hope the song-sheets have helped you find your way around the bass.

Now that you are reading bass tab, you can learn pretty much any song you can think of.

*Ultimate Guitar Tabs* is one of the best sites for bass and guitar tabs.

To find a bass tab for a particular song, just Google:

*"[Song Name] bass tab"*

Usually a few different versions of the song come up on Ultimate Guitar Tab - Pick the one that has the most ratings, it's usually the most accurate version.

Read on for some additional bonus tabs.



**Lovecats - The Cure**

```
G|------------------|-----------------|
D|------------------|-----------------|
A|----7--5--3-------|----5--3--2------|
E|-5------------0-3-|-1----------0-3-|
```

**Smells Like Teen Spirit - Nirvana**

```
[Riff1]
G|----------------------------|
D|----------------------------|
A|-------1-1---------4-4-3----|
E|-1-1-1-----1-4-4-4----------|

[Riff2]
G|-----------------------------------|
D|-----------------------------------|
A|--------1-1-1-1----------4-4-4-3----|
E|1-1-1-1---------4-4-4-4-------------|
```

**Dammit - Blink 182**

```
G|-----------------------------------------|
D|-----------------------------------------|
A|-3-3-3-3-3-------------------------------|
E|------------3-3-3-3-3-5-5-5-5-5-1-1-1-1-1--|
```

**Come Together - The Beatles**

PART A

```
G|--------------10^-------|
D|------------------12\5--|
A|--------10h12-----------|
E|--10-10-----------------|
```

PART B

```
G|-----------5------------|
D|----------------7-------|
A|------------------------|
E|--5--5------------------|

G|------------------------|
D|------------------------|
A|------------------------|
E|--3---------------------|
```

CHORUS

```
G|------------------|----------------|
D|------------------|----------------|
A|------------------|----------------|
E|-7-7-7-7-7-7-5-5  |-3-3-3-3-5------|
```

## Beat It - Michael Jackoson

```
G|-------------11--8--10--8--6--6-|
D|---------8-----------------------|------8--------------------|
A|--6--9---------------------------|-6--9----------------------|
E|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
```

**Stevie Wonder - Superstition**

[Intro]

```
G|-----------------------------------------|
D|----------5-----------------5----------|  x4
A|----7-5-7---5---5h7------5-7---5---5h7--|
E|-0-----------7------5-7---------7------|
```

[Verse part 1]

```
G|---------------------------|
D|---------------------------|  x4
A|---------------------------|
E|-0--0--0--0--0--0--0---0---|
```

[Verse part 2]

```
G|-----------------------------------------|
D|-----------------------------7/9--5----|
A|----7-5h7-------5---5h7-7-5h7--------7--|  x4
E|-0--------5h6h7---7---------------------|
```

[Bridge]

```
G|-------------------------------|
D|-------------------------------|
A|-------------------------------|
E|-7---7--8---8--7---7--6---6--5--|
```

**Foo Fighters - Everlong**

[Main]

```
G|-----------------------------------------------------|
D|-----------------------------------------------------|
A|-5-5-5-5-5-5-5-5-5-5-5-5--2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2--|
E|-----------------------------------------------------|

G|-----------------------------------------------------|
D|-----------------------------------------------------|
A|--------------------2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2|
E|-3-3-3-3-3-3-3-3-------------------------------------|
```

[Pre-Chorus]

```
G|-------------------------------------------|
D|-------------------------------------------|   x3
A|-4-4-4-4--5-5-5-5--7-7-7-7--9-9-9-9--7-7-7-7|
E|-------------------------------------------|
```

[Chorus]

```
G|---------------------------------|
D|---------------------------------|   x2
A|-2-2-2-2-2--------------5-5-5-5-5|
E|------------3-3-3-3-3-----------|
```

Last play of chorus

```
G|-----------------------------------------------|
D|-----------------------------------------------|
A|-2-2-2-2-2--------------5-5-5-5-5--------------|
E|--------------3-3-3-3-3-------------5-5-5-5-5-5|
```