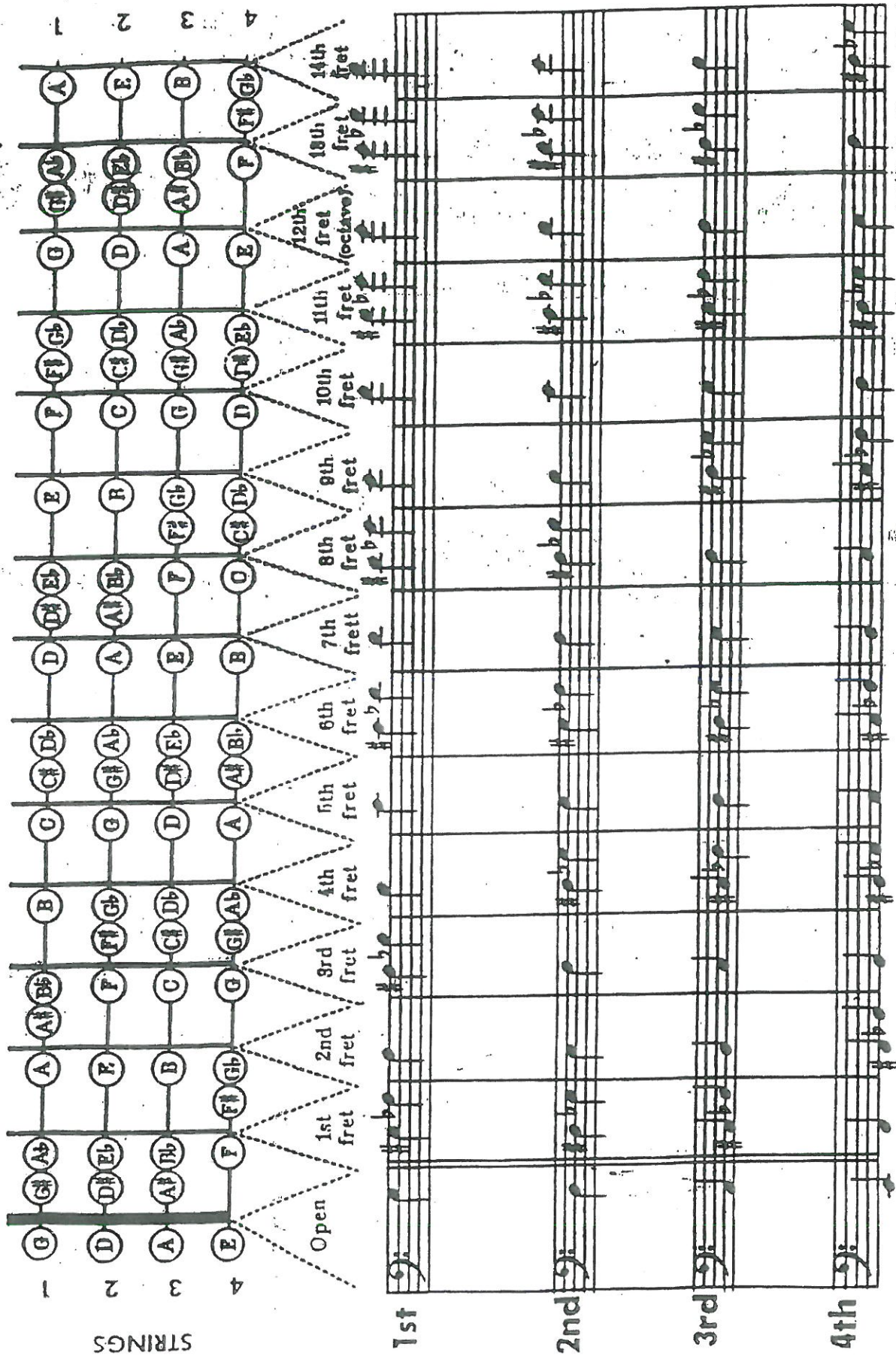


# Electric Bass Fingerboard Chart



# MUSIC SYMBOLS

Music is written (notated) on a staff. The staff has five lines and four spaces. Where the note is written on the staff determines its pitch (highness or lowness). The higher on the staff the note is written, the higher it sounds (and vice versa).



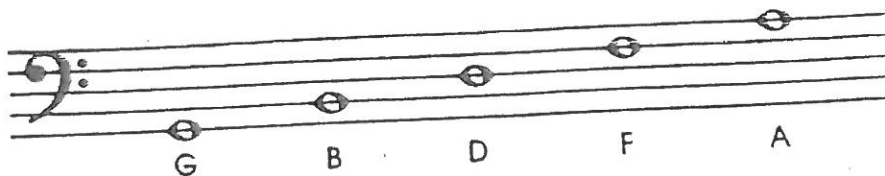
STAFF

At the beginning of the staff is a clef sign. The clef sign used for electric bass is called the bass clef.



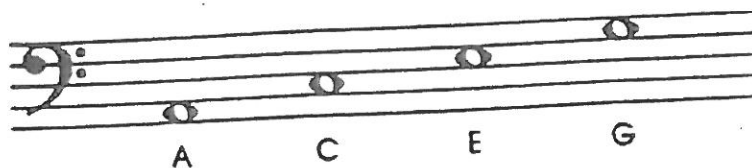
BASS CLEF

Each line and space of the clef have letter names. The lines are from bottom to top G, B, D, F, A (good bassists do fine always).



LINES

The spaces from bottom to top are: A, C, E, G (all cars eat gas).



SPACES

We need one other control over the note besides pitch. This is called rhythm or time value. In music, time is determined by a beat (or pulse). Beats are grouped together into bars (or measures) with the bar line. A double bar line is used to show that there is a transition approaching, or that it is the end of the piece.



DOUBLE BAR LINE

BAR LINES

# TIME SIGNATURES

In this book you will find that most pieces have four beats per measure. The top number in a time signature tells you how many beats there are in each measure. The bottom number tells you what kind of a note gets one beat.

**4** — Four beats per measure

**4** — A quarter note (♩) gets one beat

You will be using three different kinds of notes in the first half of this book. They are:

## QUARTER NOTE



In  $\frac{4}{4}$ : 1 beat

## HALF NOTE



2 beats

## WHOLE NOTE



4 beats

Each kind of note has a corresponding rest which indicates silence for the same number of beats.

## QUARTER REST



## HALF REST



## WHOLE REST



Ledger lines extend the range of the staff by continuing the alternation of spaces and lines using the musical alphabet (A through G).

The Hal Leonard Electric Bass method is written in a unique new combination of the music staff and tablature. The rhythm is indicated only on the staff. The tablature will show you where to play the notes on the fingerboard.

# Bass Fingerboard

The diagram illustrates the fretboard layout for a four-string bass guitar. The strings are numbered 1 to 4 from top to bottom. The frets are labeled from 'Open' to '14th fret'. Each fret position shows the notes for all four strings. Below the fretboard, four musical staves (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th) show the corresponding notes for each string across the frets.

Corresponding notes on the staff and fingerboard

This section shows the correspondence between notes and fret numbers. The top part is a musical staff with a bass clef, showing the notes E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D. Below the staff is a fretboard diagram with two lines representing the strings. The fret numbers are indicated below the strings: 0, 1, 3, 5, 2, 3, 5, 2, 3, 5, 2, 4, 5, 7.

A simplified fretboard diagram showing the notes for strings 1, 2, 3, and 4 across frets 1 to 5. The notes are arranged in a grid:

G		A		B		C		D
D		E		F		G		A
A		B		C		D		E
E	F	G		A		B		

## Coordination exercises for guitar and bass

1234	0234	1034	1204	1230
1243	0243	1043	1240	1203
1324	0324	1304	1024	1320
1342	0342	1340	1042	1302
1423	0423	1403	1420	1023
1432	0432	1430	1402	1032
2134	2034	0134	2104	2130
2143	2043	0143	2140	2103
3124	3024	3104	0124	3120
3142	3042	3140	0142	3102
4123	4023	4103	4120	0123
4132	4032	4130	4102	0132
2314	2304	0314	2014	2310
2341	2340	0341	2041	2301
2413	2403	0413	2410	2013
2431	2430	0431	2401	2031
3214	3204	3014	0214	3210
3241	3240	3041	0241	3201
3412	3402	3410	0412	3012
3421	3420	3401	0421	3021
4231	4230	4031	4201	0231
4213	4203	4013	4210	0213
4312	4302	4310	4012	0312
4321	4320	4301	4021	0321



We'll play all quarter notes to a very common chord progression. Practice the following along with the CD or video tape.

## GETTING STARTED

\* The repeaters are two signs that mean to play the measures between them again. In the exercises and songs in this book, keep repeating them until you feel comfortable and are producing clear, distinct notes.

### Buzzing, Muffled, Or Unclear Notes

If you aren't getting a clear, distinct sound when playing, check for the following problem areas:

1. Not pressing firmly enough with the left hand. Press the strings firmly, but not so hard as to be painful.
2. Fingers too far from the fret wires or on top of the frets. The fingers of the left hand should be directly behind the fret wires. Check the diagrams in Exercises 5, 6, and 7.

Many different songs are played using eighth notes. Listen to Song 3 on the CD to play along to **Old Time Rock & Roll** by Bob Seeger.



## ROCKING EIGHTHS



A D

T  
A  
B

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

i m i m i m i m i m i m i m i m i m i m

E A E

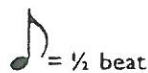
T  
A  
B

7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7

i m i m i m i m i m i m i m i m i m i m

Note - For another technique used to play eighth notes, refer to page 40.

An eighth note receives half of a beat (see page 10).



Beam

Count: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

When you see more than one consecutive eighth note, they are often beamed together. They are counted like this: "1 &, 2 &, 3 &, 4 &."

Practice the following eighth-note rhythm drills.

$\text{♩} = 80$



1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

This rhythm uses quarter and half rests.

$\text{♩} = 80$



1 & (2 &) 3 & (4 &) 1 & 2 & 3 & (4 &) 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & (3 & 4 &)

1 & (2 &) 3 & (4 &) 1 & (2 &) 3 & 4 & (1 & 2 &) 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & (3 & 4 &)

This rhythm uses eighth rests. Count carefully—they can be tricky. It is more difficult to count silence (rests) than notes.

$\text{♩} = 80$



1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & (2) & 3 & 4 & 1 & (2) & 3 & (4) & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &





1 & 2 & (3) & 4 & 1 & (2) & 3 & 4 & 1 & (2) & (3) & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &



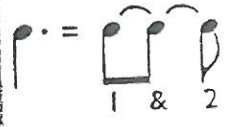
# RHYTHM UPDATE—DOTTED NOTES

When a dot is placed to the right of a note, its duration is increased by half of its original value.

For example, a half note's duration is two beats. Half of that value is one beat. Since two plus one equals three, a dotted half note's duration is three beats. A quarter note's duration is one beat. Half of that value is half a beat, so a dotted quarter note's duration is one-and-one-half beats.


Half note		= 2 beats	Quarter note		= 1 beat
Dotted half note		= 2+1 = 3 beats	Dotted quarter note		= 1+½ = 1½ beats

Remember, an eighth note equals half a beat, so you can think of a dotted quarter note as being equal to the value of three eighth notes.



Dotted quarter notes are commonly followed by an eighth note. Play on the underlined counts and you've got the dotted-quarter/eighth-note rhythm: 1-&, 2-&. The following bass lines use this rhythm.

$\text{♩} = 112$       G7      C7



Count 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

Notice the use of ties in example 46.

$\text{♩} = 104$       F7      G7



Next to each musical example, you will see a black diamond; the number in the diamond corresponds to a track number on the CD. For example, **1** is the tuning track. Make sure that you check your own tuning against this track on the CD before starting.

playing along with the CD, pan your stereo's balance control to the right. To hear more of the bass, pan to the left. All of the music is suitable for either acoustic or electric bass—so practice both!

If you're inexperienced in reading music, the following exercise should help get you started. Play along with the audio to make sure that you're reading the pitches and rhythms correctly.

**1** Tuning: G, D, A, E (high to low)

If you wish to hear more of the backup band when

**2** Notes

count: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 REST 4 COUNTS

REST REST

We'll now combine Exercises 11, 12, and 13 into a song. The songs that we use in this book are generic chord progressions that would fit several different tunes. Listen to Song 2 on the CD, **Good Hearted Woman** by **Waylon Jennings**, to play the following progression.



## ALTERNATING BASS



16:30

**Note** - We'll refer to chords quite a bit. A chord is 3 or more notes played simultaneously, usually on a guitar or keyboard. ~~The bass doesn't play chords.~~ You play individual notes on the bass that correspond to the chords that other instruments are playing. The large letters on the tablature denote chords.

In most of this book, we'll be using major chords. A major chord consists of the 1st, 3rd, and 5th notes of that particular scale (example: G chord = G, B, & D, C Chord = C, E, & G, D chord = D, F#, & A). In this song we're playing the 1st and 5th notes of each chord. Refer to the scale chart on page 46.

**Note** - Each chord progression that we use will fit several popular songs. This is demonstrated on the CD. Also note that there are separate track numbers for the slow & fast versions of each song.

# Jambalaya

by Hank Williams

2  
4

Goodbye Joe, me gotta go, me oh my oh  
Me gotta go pole the pirogue down the bayou.  
My Yvonne, the sweetest one, me oh my oh  
Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the bayou.

chorus: Jambalaya and a craw fish pie and a fillet gumbo.  
'Cause tonight I'm gonna see my cher ami-o  
Pick guitar, fill fruit jar and be gay-o  
Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the bayou.

Thibo-daux, Fontaineaux, the place is buzzin'  
Kin-folk come to see Yvonne by the dozen.  
Dress in style, go hog wild, me oh my oh  
Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the bayou. (chorus)

Settle down far from town, get me a piroque  
And I'll catch all of the fish in the bayou.  
Swap my mon' to buy Yvonne what she need-o  
Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the bayou. (chorus)