



TalkingBass

# Simple Steps To Sight Reading

Course Breakdown  
and FAQ



# Simple Steps To Sight Reading

## Read Music On Bass Guitar Like A Pro

The Ultimate Step By Step Music Reading Method For Bass Guitar

"I was the perfect example of a NON-READING BASS PLAYER. I had been playing for several years before I even thought about learning to read. It was only when I enrolled at music school that I was embarrassed into working on my reading. But the big question was 'WHERE DO I START?'

Other musicians would tell me to 'just read' but that's like telling a child to read before even learning the alphabet. I knew I would have to overcome my ego, start from the absolute basics and become a beginner again

So, I set out to teach myself. By taking small baby steps of one or two notes and individual rhythms in isolation, before eventually combining them, I was able to develop my reading skills, keeping things incredibly easy and simple at all times

The development started slowly but then rocketed in speed as the fundamentals took shape. With the skills I gained I was able to graduate from university with a First Class Honors Degree before embarking on a career as a sight reading pro

Simple Steps To Sight Reading guides you down the exact same path I walked on my journey to being a professional musician"

### **Mark J Smith (Creator of Talkingbass)**

Simple Steps To Sight Reading has met my goals in just about every way

### **John Humberstone – UK**

I was just interested in learning chord progressions but I got so hooked up on your lessons I can now play from sheet music!!

### **Rene Meevis – Belgium**

I couldn't read any charts at all and found the course worth every penny. Easy to understand and lots [and I mean lots!] of exercises, materials and backing tracks.

### **Ben Kwakman – Holland**

The course was great and the methodical approach to learning each string was very helpful. The exercise and worksheets were great too.

### **Craig Smith – UK**

# **Simple Steps To Sight Reading**

## **Course Breakdown**

### **Level 1**

#### **Lessons 1 to 9: Pitch Reading**

Note exercises for each string in isolation and combination with invaluable tips on positioning, distance and playing while looking at the page

#### **Lessons 10 to 13: Rhythm Reading**

Isolated rhythm exercises dealing with basic Whole Notes through to Half Note rests and ties

#### **Lesson 14: Other Symbols**

Introduction to other essentials such as the repeat sign, the double bar line and tempo markings

#### **Lesson 15: Workbook Exercises**

Guide to the Level 1 Workbook that contains 55 exercises combining all pitches and rhythms covered so far. Backing tracks are included so you can check you are playing the correct notes.

#### **Lesson 16: Sample Pieces**

Four Exam pieces designed to test your sight reading in a real life setting. No practice runs. Just reading at sight along to a complete backing track.

### **Level 2**

#### **Lessons 1 to 11: Pitch Reading**

Here we work through the same isolation/combination exercises as level 1 but with the addition of sharps and flats in 1st position

#### **Lessons 12 to 17: Rhythm Reading**

Isolated rhythm exercises dealing with quarter notes, rests and ties

#### **Lesson 18: Other Symbols**

Here we expand on the level 1 repeat sign by adding the 1st and 2nd time symbols

#### **Lesson 19: Speed Reading**

Quarter note exercises to improve your ability to read ahead.

## **Lesson 20 to 21: Workbook and Sample Pieces**

These final lessons provide tips on the level 2 workbook and the testing Sample Pieces.

## **Level 3**

### **Lessons 1 to 10: Pitch Reading**

With our new ability to negotiate sharps and flats we can safely introduce the concept of keys and key signatures. These lessons deal with the circle of 5ths, tonality and the keys G major and F major.

### **Lessons 11 to 16: Rhythm Reading**

Isolated rhythm exercises dealing with dotted notes and a new time signature: 3/4

### **Lesson 17 to 20: More Symbols**

In this set of lessons we look at section markings, multimeasure rests, dynamic markings and the DS Al Coda

### **Lesson 21: Workbook and Sample Pieces**

These final lessons provide tips on the level 3 workbook and the testing Sample Pieces.

## **Level 4**

### **Lessons 1 to 11: Pitch Reading**

Two new Major keys before moving into the concept of Relative Minor keys. Pitch reading exercises for every key as well as focused practice at double sharps and flats.

### **Lessons 12 to 20: Rhythm Reading**

This level sees the introduction of 8th note rhythms and time signature changes between 4/4, 3/4 and 2/4

### **Lesson 21 to 24: Other Symbols**

Slurs, Staccato markings before delving into DS and DC al Fine.

### **Lesson 25: Workbook & Sample Pieces**

Guide to the Level 4 Workbook that contains 59 exercises combining all pitches and rhythms covered so far. Backing tracks are included so you can check you are playing the correct notes.

## **Level 5**

### **Lessons 1 to 7: Pitch Reading**

Major and Minor keys up to 3 sharps and flats before venturing further up the fingerboard as high as the 12th fret on all strings.

### **Lessons 8 to 13: Rhythm Reading**

More 8th note rhythms including the dotted quarter note and various rest permutation before adding 8th note triplets and Swing feel into the mix!

### **Lesson 14 to 17: Other Symbols**

Anacrusis and Grace Note markings followed by Simile and other types of Alternate Notation

### **Lesson 18: Workbook & Sample Pieces**

Guide to the Level 5 Workbook that contains 38 exercises combining all pitches and rhythms covered so far. Backing tracks are included so you can check you are playing the correct notes.

## **Level 6**

### **Lessons 1 to 6: Pitch Reading**

Major and Minor keys up to 4 sharps and flats and more practice in the higher areas of the fretboard

### **Lessons 7 to 18: Rhythm Reading**

This level we take it up a notch by introducing ties into our 8th note rhythms, triplets and swing. We also introduce compound time signatures in the shape of 6/8 and 12/8

### **Lesson 19 to 22: Other Symbols**

8va and 15ma markings are covered before looking at some 'technique' symbols for ghost notes, vibrato and slides.

### **Lesson 23: Workbook & Sample Pieces**

Guide to the Level 6 Workbook that contains 30 exercises combining all pitches and rhythms covered so far. Backing tracks are included so you can check you are playing the correct notes.

# **Simple Steps To Sight Reading**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the Simple Steps To Sight Reading Course?**

Simple Steps To Sight Reading is the ultimate guide to reading music on bass guitar. It is a multimedia course using a combination of video lessons, PDF workbooks and MP3 backing tracks to provide the most comprehensive, step-by-step approach to sight reading available today.

### **What level of player is the course aimed at?**

The course is aimed at any player from beginner to advanced level. Many advanced bass players are lacking in this very specialized area of playing so the number of playing years and experience is irrelevant.

If you cannot read music – you cannot read music and this course serves to take you from the absolute basics of reading through to an advanced professional level whatever your standard.

### **What Will I Learn?**

After completing the course you will have the knowledge and resources for working on your reading up to a professional sight reading standard. This includes all the notes, rhythms and symbols in common use.

### **How Long Are The Lessons?**

The lesson lengths vary but each level is several hours in length, providing many weeks, months or even years of practice. The accompanying lesson material is several hundred pages in length. This is a BIG course!

### **How is the course presented? Do I Download Anything?**

The course is hosted on the Talkingbass website so there are no video files to download.

There is a Dropbox folder for each module containing a Course Workbook and any relevant practice tracks.

### **Is There A Time Limit On Taking The Course?**

No. You can take as long as want. There are no time limits

### **Do I Have Lifetime Access To The Course?**

If you purchase the course then yes, you have lifetime access to the course and its material. If you are an All Access Pass member, then you obviously only have access for the duration of your subscription.