

A person is playing a yellow bass guitar. The image is semi-transparent, serving as a background for the text. The person's hands are visible on the fretboard and strings.

 Talking Bass

Chords For Bass Guitar

Course Breakdown



Chords For Bass Guitar

Push Through The Boundaries Of Your Bass Playing

Discover A World Of Chordal Possibilities!

Module 1: Getting Started With Double Stops

Lesson 1-0: Intro

In this introductory lesson we look at the course concepts and how we should approach our journey into walking bass lines

Lesson 1-1: Example Riffs

Let's first take a look at two simple double stop riffs as a demonstration of the technique and how they might be integrated into a line.

Lesson 1-2: Interval Basics

Intervals are the building blocks of music and an essential foundation for understanding any further chord construction principles. In this lesson we look at the basic intervals of the major scale.

Lesson 1-3: Minor Intervals

Next let's expand on the previous lesson with a look at Minor Intervals.

Lesson 1-4: Augmented & Diminished Intervals

Major and Minor intervals are without doubt the most common, but Augmented and Diminished intervals are also an fundamental aspect of harmony and key to understanding the construction of certain chords.

Lesson 1-5: Alternative Fingerings

In this lesson we look at some less common, alternative fingerings for the intervals covered previously.

Lesson 1-6: Harmonic Intervals

Up to this point, we've only looked at Melodic Intervals (played one note at a time) but as we move into chordal playing we need to look at Harmonic Intervals (notes played together).

Lesson 1-7: Power Chords

The Power Chord is probably the easiest chord to play and one of the most accessible in terms of bass line integration.

Lesson 1-8: Extended Power Chords

Power chords can be played as a simple double stop but also as an extended three note chord as shown in this lesson.

Lesson 1-9: Inverted Power Chords

As well as root position power chords we can also play them inverted. This provides some interesting options for position playing and voice leading.

Lesson 1-10: Thirds Through A Scale

Thirds are the key to understand chord construction. In this lesson we learn to harmonise any scale in third intervals.

Lesson 1-11: Applying Thirds

Thirds are a great option for adding interest to a bass line. In this lesson we integrate third intervals into our bass playing.

Lesson 1-12: Open String Drones

Open Strings can be used as a drone in order to outline the tonic of a key or mode. This is a great way to practice a variety of intervals and harmonisations through a scale.

Lesson 1-13: Inverted Thirds

When we invert a third we open up many more possibilities in terms of sound, position and voice leading.

Lesson 1-14: Embellishments

Embellishments can be made to any interval as a way of creating more interest in our lines.

Lesson 1-15: Tenths

Tenths are a great way of integrating the sound of thirds into a bass line in the lower register. In this lesson we apply major and minor tenths into our bass lines.

Lesson 1-16: Five Chordal Riffs

Let's finish Module 1 with five interesting riffs making use of the double stops covered in the previous lessons.

Module 2: First Steps In Chordal Comping

Lesson 2-0: Introduction

An introduction to the topics covered in this module.

Lesson 2-1: Two Basic Progressions

Let's start with two simple chord progressions to demonstrate the comping styles ahead.

Lesson 2-2: Major Triads

Triads are the most basic of tertian chords. In this lesson we look at the daddy of them all: The Major Triad.

Lesson 2-3: Minor Triads

Let's expand on our chord construction basics with a look at the Minor Triad.

Lesson 2-4: Augmented & Diminished Triads

As well as the more common Major and Minor Triads we also need to look at the more dissonant and spicy, Augmented and Diminished Triads.

Lesson 2-5: Open Voicing

So far we've only looked at basic closed voicings of a triad. In this lesson let's diversify with a look at Open Voicing.

Lesson 2-6: Triads Of The Major Key

Learning the chords within a key is a fundamental part of harmony and music theory. In this lesson we look at the Triads within the Major Key.

Lesson 2-7: Triad Chord Progressions

Let's try applying our Triads in a variety of different chord progressions.

Lesson 2-8: Spelling Drills

It can be all too easy to rely on geometric fretboard patterns when learning chords on bass, but it's also important to understand the actual notes at play. Spelling Drills are great practice in memorising any musical content.

Lesson 2-9: Seventh Chord Construction

Now we've looked at Triads, let's move onto the next logical step in chord construction: The Seventh Chord.

Lesson 2-10: Essential Seventh Chords

Even though we've covered every seventh chord in common use, there are 4 essential Seventh Chords that are featured much more than others.

Lesson 2-11: Seventh Chords Closed Voicing

Now we've covered the Seventh Chords as arpeggios, let's apply them as closed voicing chords.

Lesson 2-12: Seventh Chords Open Voicing

Open Voicings are a great tool for improving voice leading and our chordal options.

Lesson 2-13: Seventh Chords Of The Major Key

Just as with the Triads, we can also harmonise the Major Scale with diatonic Seventh Chords.

Lesson 2-14: Seventh Chord Progressions

Let's apply some of our Seventh Chords by playing through some popular chord progressions.

Lesson 2-15: The Minor Key

We've now looked at progressions within a Major Key but we can also create progressions in a Minor Key.

Lesson 2-16: Harmonic Minor

The Harmonic Minor scale is often used as an alternative to the Natural Minor scale when working in a Minor Key. Let's look at how and why we might use the Harmonic Minor.

Lesson 2-17: Alternate Triad Voicings

We've covered a couple of basic voicings for the chords covered in this module, but there are other alternatives that may add more fluidity when moving around the fretboard.

Lesson 2-18: Voice Leading

Voice Leading is an important consideration when playing through chord progressions. In this lesson we look at some fundamental concepts of smooth voice leading.

Lesson 2-19: Practice Tips

Let's finish with a look at some great ways to practice chord progressions and comping.

Module 3: Expanding Our Palette

Lesson 3-0: Introduction

In this Module we'll be expanding our look at chord construction principles by way of inversions and added note chords before moving into the creation of a solo arrangement.

Lesson 3-1: Inversions (Closed Voicing)

In this lesson we look at the concept of chordal inversion and their application in music.

Lesson 3-2: Inversions (Open Voicing)

Inversions can be applied to both Closed and Open Voicings of a chord.

Lesson 3-3: Added Six Chords

The next few lessons deal with Added Note Chords. In this lesson we're looking at the Added 6th.

Lesson 3-4: Add9 Chords

The Add 9 Chord is another very popular Added Note chord.

Lesson 3-5: Added 6/9 Chords

6/9 chords are another essential chord in our look at Additions to the Triad.

Lesson 3-6: Suspensions

Suspensions such as the Sus4 and Sus2 are very common in all styles of music.

Lesson 3-7: Diminished 7 Chord

In the previous module we delved into 4 essential seventh chords, but the Diminished 7 chord needs to be addressed if we're going to play through a wide variety of chord progressions.

Lesson 3-8: Simplifying Extensions

In this lesson let's look at how we can address extensions such as the 9th, 11th and 13th on a 4 string bass.

Lesson 3-9: Embellishment

In Module 1 we looked at embellishment of double stops. In this lesson we look at how we can apply the same concepts to any chord.

Lesson 3-10: Voice Leading In The Bass

The previous embellishments were mainly applied to upper voices and as a means of creating fleeting interest. But we can also make melodic choices in the bass voice and create smoother movement between chords.

Lesson 3-11: Solo Bass Arrangement: Learning The Parts

Now let's look at how we can create a solo chordal arrangement on bass guitar. In this lesson we'll be learning the melody and chords in isolation.

Lesson 3-12: Solo Bass Arrangement: Bass & Melody

Next let's look at combining the bass line and the melody as a way of creating a simple framework.

Lesson 3-13: Solo Bass Arrangement: Filling In the Gaps

Finally, let's expand on our basic two voice structure and add the extra voices, substitutions, embellishments and bass movement into the mix.

Lesson 3-14: The Next Step

In this final lesson we look back over all of the topics covered and outline a path for future practice and development.

Chords For Bass Guitar

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Chords For Bass Guitar Course?

Chords For Bass Guitar is a complete step by step approach to understanding chords and chordal playing on the bass guitar.

It is a multimedia course using a combination of video lessons, PDF workbooks and MP3 backing tracks to provide a comprehensive understanding of chord construction and application.

What level of player is the course aimed at?

The course is aimed at any player looking to get started with chordal playing. However, an intermediate level of bass playing ability would be recommended as the minimum entry standard due to the technical hurdles involved.

What Will I Learn?

After completing the course you will have the knowledge and ability to construct bass lines and riffs containing an assortment of chordal structures, play a chordal accompaniment through most chord progressions in a variety of styles and create solo chordal arrangements outlining both melody and harmony on the bass guitar.

How Long Are The Lessons?

The lesson lengths vary but the complete course contains over 8 hours of video content.

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.