



## Lesson Twenty

Gigajam Bass School Lesson 20 IBS PAS02

### Performing A Song-The Buzz

#### Lesson Objectives

- Introduce a piece of music to be played on the electric Bass Guitar.
- Follow a **Bass Guitar Chart**.
- Introduce and learn how to play Ties to develop greater rhythm reading and playing skills.
- Apply the learning points developed in lessons 1-9 focusing on;
  1. Fluency of performance through string crossing and fingerboard symmetry.
  2. Time Keeping.
  3. Playing Bass grooves with a Band.
  4. Playing Octave shapes.
  5. Reading Pitch, rhythm and note values.

#### Following a Bass Guitar Chart

You have learned so much in these lessons from 11 through to 19, it is time to start putting it all into practice by playing a song.

This lesson focuses on playing a song whilst following the music from a **Bass Guitar Chart**. A Bass Guitar Chart, or **Bass Guitar Guide**, is the music **Session Bassists** are given to follow when they are asked to perform a tune, be it **live**, or in a **recording session**.

To do this though we need to prepare ourselves.

### Understanding the Chart

Let's go through the chart together step by step looking at each bit and understanding what the Chart is asking us to do.

#### Step One

The first thing you will see is the name of the tune 'The Buzz' and the name of the **Composer**. The title is the important one, as if you had a number of songs to play it is essential that you play the correct one!

#### Step Two

At the top left hand side before the tune starts you will see the note, 4 **Clicks**. This means that you will hear four clicks before the tune starts. Note though that the clicks take you into a bar where the drums play a 2 beat drum fill into the **Introduction chorus**.

#### Step Three

Next is the **Time Signature** C which is the sign for **Common Time** and means there are 4 Beats in each Bar. This is familiar territory to you.

## Step Four

You will see that we have a repeated four bar section for the first part of the song. This is the Introduction to the song and is the chorus section. Accordingly it is called the ***Introduction chorus***.

## Introducing Ties

Ties are used in music notation to extend the length of a note to tie two notes together. This piece of music gives you an opportunity to develop this new skill with the use of a very common rhythm.

Take a look at the first bar and you will see that we have a dotted quarter note on beat 1. This lasts for 1 and a 1/2 beats and therefore the next note is on the + of 2. The eighth note has to last for the rest of the bar, as the next note is to be played on beat one of the next bar. We do not have a note that lasts for 2 and a half beats, so the best way to write this simply is to attach the eighth note to a half note, extending our eighth note to last for 2 and a half beats. This will complete the bar.

The rhythm has one variation and that is between bar 3 and 4. Here you will see that the half note on beat 3 of bar 3, is also tied to the half note in bar 4. Accordingly, you are extending the note by two further beats, across the bar line. This is a very common way of writing rhythms that cross bar lines so it is well worth you while taking a good look at the rhythm and listening to the way it is played.

These tied rhythms are very common examples and therefore provides us with a good example of the use of Ties, and a great opportunity to practise them. Accordingly, to practise introducing Ties into your playing, read and then play each bar developing your ability to understand how Ties create rhythm by extending the value of notes.

Remember to cycle the Xtractor around the bars of the chorus so that you can practise around and around.

This first section is quite a difficult rhythm for you to read and play as it uses both dots and ties. This is really quite a sophisticated rhythm, but it is also a commonly used rhythm so it is well worth investing some time into becoming familiar with its feel and sound. One of the challenges is that there are only two notes to play in the two bar pattern, so you will need to use all your counting skills to ensure you play in time.

## Step Five

After you have played the first introductory chorus, then you are into the verse. The verse has Ties in the rhythm as well. This time the ties are extended with the half note tied to the whole note in the next bar. Effectively, we are making the eighth note on the + of 2 in bar one worth 6 and a half beats. Ties are extremely useful in being able to create rhythms that cannot be written with note values.

One of the biggest problems you will encounter when playing ties, is the fact that you spend a lot of time simply holding notes and this is much harder than punctuating time with more notes. Accordingly, this is a great and important skill to develop.

Again practise these bars so that you become comfortable with the playing of these rhythms.

You will see that the verse section is a sixteen bar phrase, which largely follows the same rhythm as the chorus. However, note that although the section is made up of four, 4 bar sections, the notes change in the last two bars as each section alternates.

## Step Six

The third section of the song is a chorus and is the same as the introduction. It is an 8 bar section written as a four bar phrase repeated.

## Step Seven

The next section is a second verse and is the same as the first verse.

## Step Eight

At the end of the second verse we go into middle eight section, which is in fact a 16 bar section. You will see that the Middle eight is made up of four 4 bar phrases.

This section provides a contrast to the rest of the song and this is largely due to the use of the eighth note rhythm, which should be played with some excitement, picking up the dynamic of the song.

## Step Nine

The middle eight dynamic then moves the song into the final chorus, which is played twice. The final chorus section will have been lifted in dynamic terms after the middle eight.

The penultimate bar will have to be counted accurately so that you finish in time with the final note of the tune on beat 1 of the last bar.

The word ***Fine*** at the bottom of the piece means finish.

## Step Nine

Now, I would suggest that you watch and listen to the Multi media files and follow the chart through a couple of times. Once you have done that have a go yourself.

You can play with the bassist or mute the bass track so that you can play with the band on your own.

Remember to:

1. Concentrate.
2. Count.
3. Look at the chart as you play.
4. Cycle the difficult bits and practise them.
5. Slow it down to a tempo you can play and read at.
6. Have fun.



# The Buzz

4 Clicks

*Introduction/Chorus*  
1



*Verse 1*

9



13



17

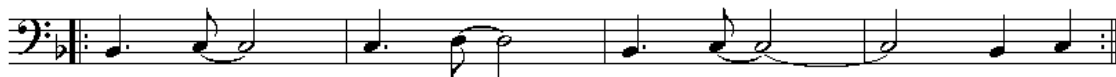


21



*Chorus 1*

25



*Verse 2*

33



37



41



45



2 Middle 8

49



53



57

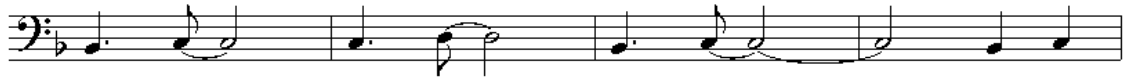


61

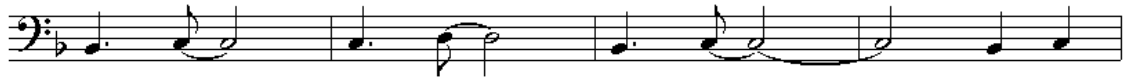


Chorus 2

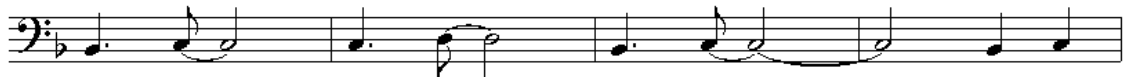
65



69



73



77



Fine