



Lesson Twenty Four

Gigajam Bass School Lesson 24 IBS DT

Developing Triads

Lesson Objectives

- Developing further our understanding of Triads.
- Introduce creative use of triads in *bass riffs*.
- Perform combinations of major and minor triad riffs which include dots and ties.

Using triads

Using the notes of a Triad is a particularly useful tool for a bass player. A triad contains all the notes of a chord so it's easy to use these notes to create a **Bass Riff**.

Because the notes of a triad are the notes of the chord there is no possibility of playing a 'wrong' note, all the notes are safe and should sound correct to the ear.

Major or minor?

It is essential to know if the chord is major or minor, so find this out first if you can. If not, just choose one or the other and try playing your choice. Listen carefully. If you guessed correctly you can now try to create a riff. If not, try the other choice! You should now be able to tell the difference.

Power chords

In some cases the guitarist will be playing a **Power Chord**. A power chord has only two notes (root and fifth). It does not have a third in the chord and is therefore neither major or minor. In this instance you may decide what sounds best. Try both before you choose.

Creating triad riffs with major chords

The following examples are all based on major triads. The only difference between them is the rhythm. Make sure you understand both the notes used and the rhythm before you try to play along. Also, make sure you understand the notes of the triad and how they are used to create each riff.

Use your, what are now, quite highly developed reading skills to work the exercises out. As always, you can use the multimedia files to check your understanding.

Exercise 1 lesson024.ibsdt.01



Exercise 2 lesson024.ibsdt.02



Mixing triads

The following examples feature a mixture of major and minor triads moving freely around the fingerboard. Remember to play a major triad starting with the middle finger and minor with the index finger. You will have to move your left hand around (change position) for some of these examples, so think carefully about your hand position and fingering very carefully, as this should start to become natural.

You will need to be mindful also of the alteration to the standard pattern when using the open E! Make good use of the multimedia files to confirm fingerings and movement.

Exercise 7 lesson024.ibsdt.07



Exercise 8 lesson024.ibsdt.08



Exercise 9 lesson024.ibsdt.09



Exercise 10 lesson024.ibsdt.10



More practice

You can see from this lesson that we have taken our previously studied skills and combined them to produce bass riffs that incorporate the use of many skills and knowledge, such as; minor and major triads, dots and ties, notes of varying lengths together with knowledge of minor and major scales which we have acquired through our studies.

Combining skills and applying them through various exercises is how we develop and grow as both musicians and as a bass player. You will need to keep practising these skills and developing them, so that as you continue to build on the skills learned and developed you can keep making progress.

Keep practising all of the skills you have learned and increasing the level of your Performance.