

# Bass Notation Legend

Bass music can be notated two different ways: on a musical staff, and in tablature.

**THE MUSICAL STAFF** shows pitches and rhythms and is divided by bar lines into measures. Pitches are named after the first seven letters of the alphabet.

**TABLATURE** graphically represents the bass fingerboard. Each horizontal line represents a string, and each number represents a fret.

Notes:

Strings: high E, D, G, C, low E

3rd string, open      2nd string, 2nd fret      1st & 2nd strings open, played together

**HAMMER-ON:** Strike the first (lower) note with one finger, then sound the higher note (on the same string) with another finger by fretting it without picking.

**PULL-OFF:** Place both fingers on the notes to be sounded. Strike the first note and without picking, pull the finger off to sound the second (lower) note.

**LEGATO SLIDE:** Strike the first note and then slide the same fret-hand finger up or down to the second note. The second note is not struck.

**SHIFT SLIDE:** Same as legato slide, except the second note is struck.

**TRILL:** Very rapidly alternate between the notes indicated by continuously hammering on and pulling off.

**TREMOLLO PICKING:** The note is picked as rapidly and continuously as possible.

**VIBRATO:** The string is vibratoed by rapidly bending and releasing the note with the fretting hand.

**SHAKE:** Using one finger, rapidly alternate between two notes on one string by sliding either a half-step above or below.

**NATURAL HARMONIC:** Strike the note while the fret hand lightly touches the string directly over the fret indicated.

**MUFFLED STRINGS:** A percussive sound is produced by laying the fret hand across the string(s) without depressing them and striking them with the pick hand.

**BEND:** Strike the note and bend up the interval shown.

**BEND AND RELEASE:** Strike the note and bend up as indicated, then release back to the original note. Only the first note is struck.

**RIGHT-HAND TAP:** Hammer ("tap") the fret indicated with the "pick-hand" index or middle finger and pull off to the note fretted by the fret hand.

**LEFT-HAND TAP:** Hammer ("tap") the fret indicated with the "fret-hand" index or middle finger.

**SLAP:** Strike ("slap") string with right-hand thumb.

**POP:** Snap ("pop") string with right-hand index or middle finger.

## Additional Musical Definitions



(*accent*)

- Accentuate notes (play it louder)

*D.C. al Fine*

- Go back to the beginning of the song and play until the measure marked "*Fine*" (end)



(*accent*)

- Accentuate note with great intensity

**Bass Fig.**

- Label used to recall a recurring pattern.



(*staccato*)

- Play the note short.

**Fill**

- Label used to identify a brief pattern which is to be inserted into the arrangement.



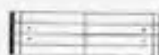
- Downstroke

**tacet**

- Instrument is silent (drops out).



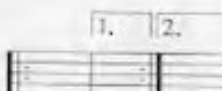
- Upstroke



- Repeat measures between signs.

*D.S. al Coda*

- Go back to the sign (  $\text{DS}$  ), then play until the measure marked "*To Coda*," then skip to the section labelled "*Coda*."



- When a repeated section has different endings, play the first ending only the first time and the second ending only the second time.

**NOTE:**

Tablature numbers in parentheses mean:

1. The note is being sustained over a system (note in standard notation is tied), or
2. The note is sustained, but a new articulation (such as a hammer-on, pull-off, slide or vibrato begins), or
3. The note is a barely audible "ghost" note (note in standard notation is also in parentheses).

# JACO PASTORIUS

THE GREATEST JAZZ-FUSION BASS PLAYERS

- 4 Barbary Coast
- 9 Birdland
- 18 Black Market
- 29 Cannonball
- 34 Harlequin
- 40 Havana
- 51 Palladium
- 59 Port of Entry
- 67 Punk Jazz
- 74 A Remark You Made
- 78 River People
- 82 Slang
- 88 Speechless
- 92 Teen Town
  
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