**BASS GUITAR TABLATURE EXPLANATION**

**Bass tablature** is a four-line staff that graphically represents the bass fingerboard. By placing a number on the appropriate line, the string and fret of any note can be indicated. The number 0 represents an open string. For example:

![Bass tablature example](image)

3rd string, 3rd fret  
4th string, open

**Definitions for Special Bass Notation (For both traditional and tablature bass lines)**

- **Bend:** Strike the note and bend up 1/2 step (one fret).

- **Legato Bend and Release:** Strike the note. Bend up 1/2 (or whole) step, then release the bend back to the original note. All three notes are held; only the first note is struck.

- **Ghost Bend:** Bend the note up 1/2 (or whole) step, then strike it.

- **Pull-Off:** Both fingers are initially placed on the notes to be sounded. Strike the first (higher) note, then sound the lower note by pulling the finger off the higher note while keeping the lower note fretted.

- **Hammer-On:** Strike the first (lower) note, then sound the higher note with another finger by hitting it without picking.

- **Palm Mute:** If using a pick, the note is partially muted by the right hand lightly touching the string just before the bridge.

- **Muffled String:** A percussive sound is produced by laying the left hand across the string without depressing it to the fretboard and strumming it with the right hand.

- **Slap and Pop:** Slap (↑) the string with the side of the thumb. Pop (↓) or snap the string with the index or middle finger by pulling and releasing it so that it rebounds against the fretboard.

- **Slide:** The first note is struck and then the same finger of the left hand moves up the string to the location of the second note. The second note is not struck.

- **Slide:** Same as above, except the second note is struck.

- **Fretboard Tapping:** Hammer (↑lap) onto the fretboard with the index or middle finger and pull off to the note fretted by the left hand (↑tail indicates "tapped" notes).

- **Natural Harmonic:** The left hand lightly touches the string over the fret indicated, then it is struck. A chime-like sound is produced.

- **Artificial Harmonic:** The note is fretted normally and the harmonic is produced by lightly touching the note point on the string with the edge of the right-hand thumb while simultaneously plucking with the right-hand index or middle finger.