• WALKING BASS

A moving bass line with notes usually of the same value. It often moves by step, but not always so. Features heavily in **jazz/swing / rock & roll music.**

Listen to the following music that features a WALKING BASS. Identify the instruments present:

Look at the **WALKING BASS LINE** shown right in the **BASS CLEF**. It's written in the key of **C MAJOR** and is created on the notes of **CHORD I** in **C MAJOR.**



a) What 3 notes make up **CHORD I** in **C MAJOR** (root, third and fifth)?
b) Mark and identify these notes from **CHORD I** each time they occur in the **WALKING BASS LINE** above.
c) There are some **'extra'** notes **NOT** used in **CHORD I** in **C MAJOR** in the **WALKING BASS LINE** above, these are called **PASSING NOTES**: notes which are not 'chord notes' but help give the **WALKING BASS LINE** a smooth 'walking' feel, preventing too many large leaps/gaps between notes. Mark and identify these.
d) Perform this **WALKING BASS LINE** pattern on a keyboard (choose a suitable voice/tone/timbre), piano, your own instrument or a **BASS GUITAR**, keeping a steady tempo and repeating it several times.

Create a **WALKING BASS LINE** pattern using CHORD IV in **C MAJOR**, following the steps below:
f) What 3 notes make up CHORD IV in **C MAJOR** (root, third and fifth)?
g) Work out the following notes using **F** as the **ROOT** of CHORD IV in **C MAJOR**, writing the notes onto the stave using **BASS CLEF NOTATION**. Mark the **PASSING NOTES** (non-chord notes) clearly.



Root of CHORD IV	Third of CHORD IV	Fifth of CHORD IV	6 notes above the root	7 notes above the foot (flat!)	6 notes above the root	Fifth of CHORD IV	Third of CHORD IV

g) Perform this **WALKING BASS LINE** pattern on a keyboard (choose a suitable voice/tone/timbre), piano, your own instrument or a **BASS GUITAR**, keeping a steady tempo and repeating it several times.
h) Move between the **WALKING BASS LINE** pattern on **CHORD I** in **C MAJOR** and CHORD IV in **C MAJOR** so that you can perform each of the smoothly.

h) Using the same pattern given above, see if you can construct a **WALKING BASS LINE** on CHORD V in **C MAJOR** (Hint: the note for '7 notes above the root' can be used a natural/white note).

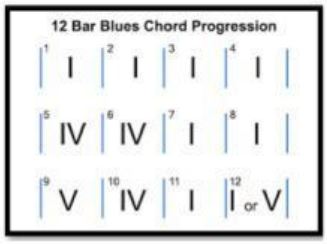


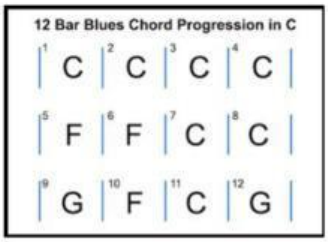
LIVEWORKSHEETS

• WALKING BASS EXAMPLES

Listen to Glen Miller's *In the Mood* this is an example of SWING music and which characteristically features a WALKING BASS.

It follows the **12-bar blues** chord progression, , so named because of the **length of the music is twelve bars.**

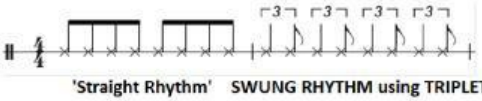


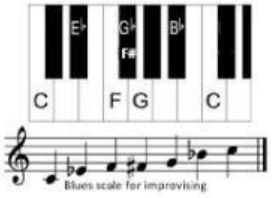




SWING music - Key features:

- Large brass and reed section **('swing band')**
- Dotted 'swung' rhythms
- Fast tempo
- Walking bass
- Mostly instrumental but some vocals
- Improvised sections for soloists, often using the BLUES SCALE





Listen again to the music of 'In the Mood' and write down concepts you hear below:

MELODY/ HARMONY	RHYTHM/ TEMPO	TIMBRE *(INSTRUMENTS/ TECHNIQUES*	STRUCTURE/ FORM/TEXTURE

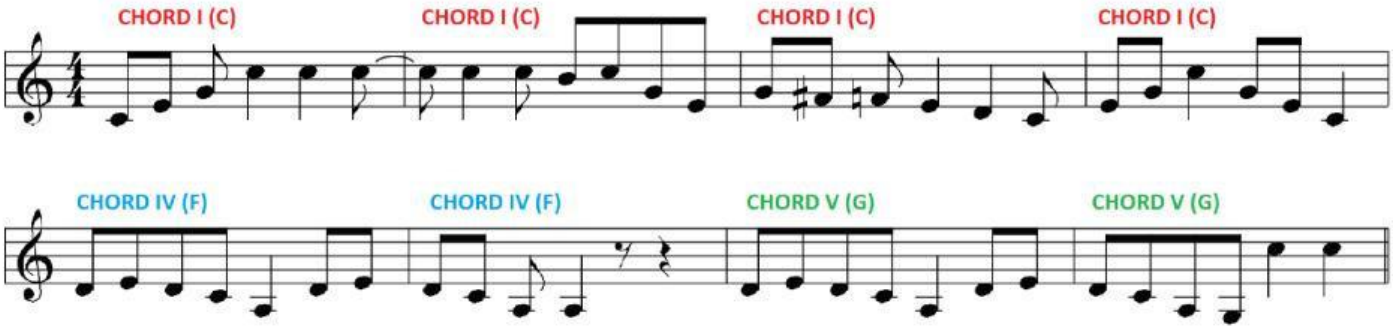
LIVEWORKSHEETS

Perform the **WALKING BASS LINE** and the **MELODY LINE** to *"In the Mood"* together. Choose a suitable voice from your keyboard *(think of the sounds and sonorities associated with jazz and "Big Bands")* and look for a "swing" rhythm backing track to accompany your performance.



"In the Mood" Introduction Melody Line and Chords

Challenge – Add the INTRODUCTION section to "In the Mood" using the melody line and chords below. The rhythm features lots of SYNCOPATION and should be performed with a SWUNG RHYTHM feel



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Rock & Roll - Key attributes:

- Vocals, vocals, 2 guitars (lead/rhythm), bass, and drum kit
- **Walking bass**
- Sometimes harmonica and brass
- Often 12 bar blues chord structure
- Fast tempo
- Energetic delivery of vocals *(screaming and shouting)*



Name the key of the music _____

Listen to 'Rock around the clock' and write down any concepts that you hear in the grid

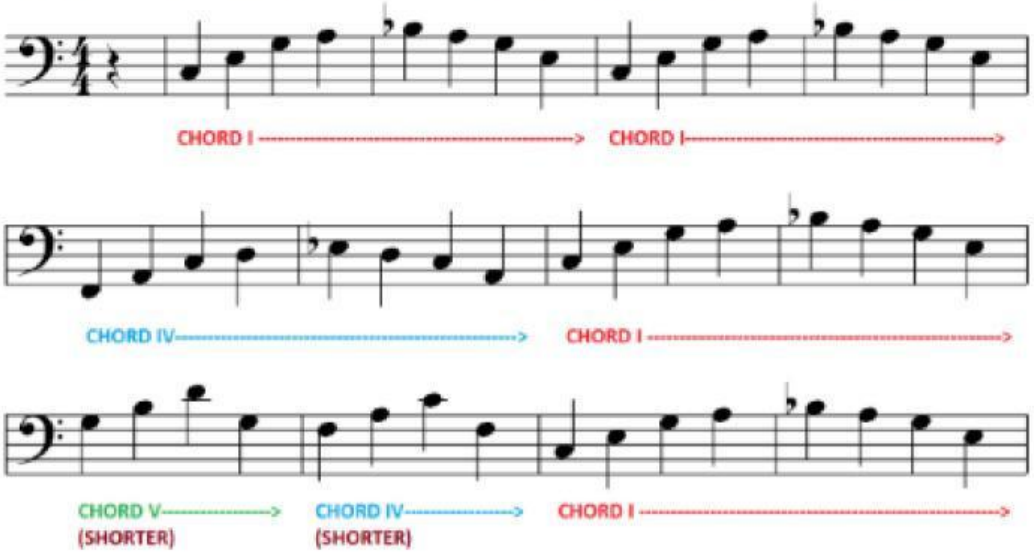
MELODY/ HARMONY	RHYTHM/ TEMPO	TIMBRE *(INSTRUMENTS/ TECHNIQUES*	STRUCTURE/ FORM/TEXTURE

LIVEWORKSHEETS

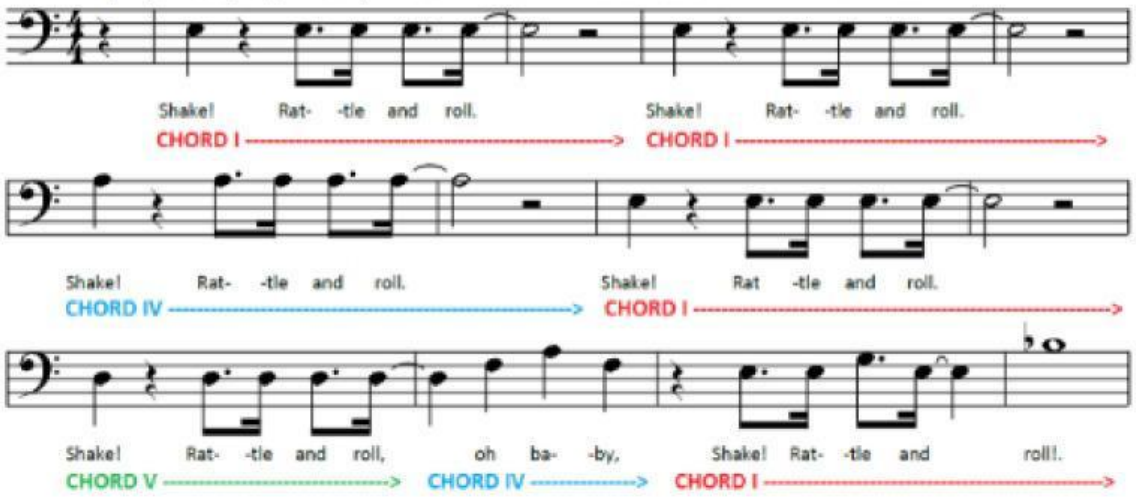
ROCK AND ROLL AROUND

"Rock and Roll Around" is a Rock and Roll song that uses both a **WALKING BASS LINE** and **BASS LINE RIFFS**.

1. Learn to perform the **WALKING BASS LINE** to "Rock and Roll Around". It's based on a **TWELVE-BAR BLUES CHORD SEQUENCE** using **CHORD I**, CHORD IV, and CHORD V in **C MAJOR**. Where the bass line pattern goes over 2 bars (shown by long arrows, **CHORD I** and CHORD IV), the root, third and fifth of the chord have been used, along with some 'extra' **PASSING NOTES**. The shorter bars (bottom line , CHORD V and CHORD IV) just use the root, third and fifth. Use a Bass Guitar or Keyboard but remember to select an appropriate tone/timbre/voice/sound for an effective **WALKING BASS LINE** pattern.

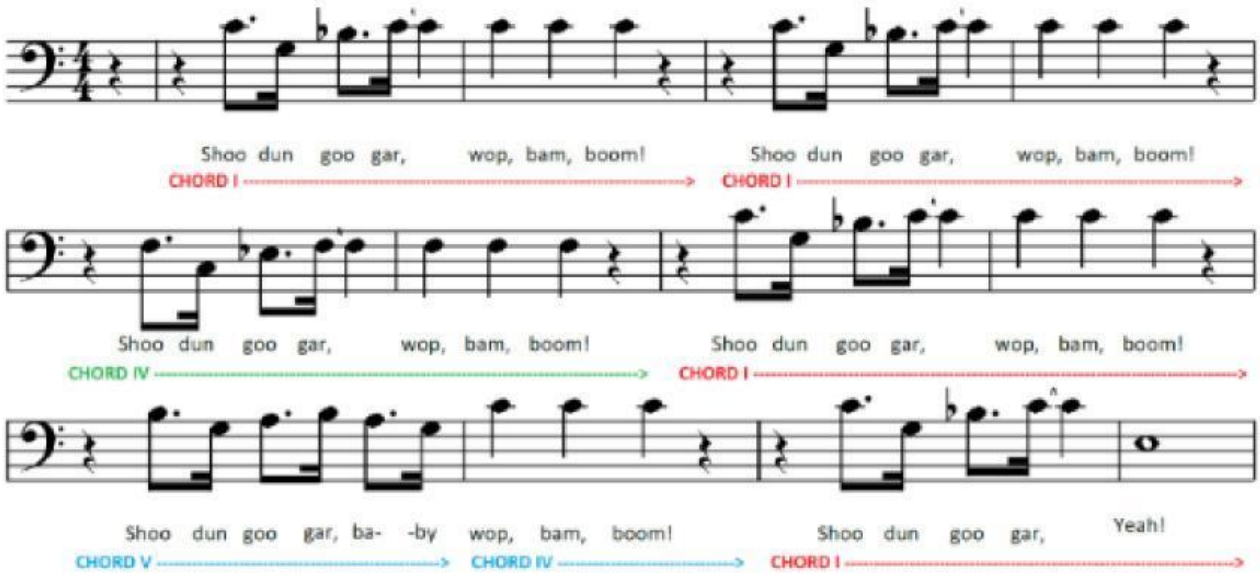


2. Now add and/or sing a **BASS LINE RIFF** to the **WALKING BASS LINE** pattern. The rhythm may look a little tricky, but if you say the words "Shake! Rattle and Roll.", this should help you. First, work out which notes the **BASS LINE RIFF 1** uses: like the **WALKING BASS LINE**, it's given in **BASS CLEF NOTATION**. Then learn to play these, separately first and then add then to the **WALKING BASS LINE.**



LIVEWORKSHEETS

3. Here's another **BASS LINE RIFF** to add to the song, along with the **WALKING BASS LINE** and **BASS LINE RIFF 1** on the previous page. This can be played or sung: the words are 'nonsense syllables' and example of *scat singing*, popular in Rock and Roll and Jazz and Blues music. The chords have been given below.



4. Finally, add the song melody: either played or sung. It's given here in **TREBLE CLEF NOTATION**. Note that this starts with an **UPBEAT** (an **ANACRUSIS** start) on the words 'We'll be' before the other parts



Put together a performance of "Rock and Roll Around", starting with the **WALKING BASS LINE** (keep repeating), then add **BASS LINE RIFFS 1** and **2** and finally the **SONG MELODY**. Add a suitable rhythm backing track, suitable to the Rock and Roll genre

SONG MELODY

BASS LINE RIFF 2

BASS LINE RIFF 1

RHYTHMS/DRUMS/PERCUSSION

WALKING BASS LINE

LIVEWORKSHEETS

- RIFF

As we have seen, a **riff is a repeated phrase** usually found in jazz, rock and roll and swing. It is also often fond in rock and other popular music. It is similar to an ostinato *(see next page).*

e.g. Smoke on the Water – Deep Purple



e.g. Listen to Black Sabbath's "The Iron Man



e.g.. Listen to Dav tripper – The Beatles



BASS CLEF RAP RIFFS TO PERFORM



Rap music is often based on repeated patterns or **RIFFS** – the 'catchy bit' of the song. Below are four famous **RIFFS** from famous rap songs. Learn to perform each one on a keyboard where the focus of the riff is in the **BASS LINE PART** given in the **BASS CLEF**. The treble clef part here are sequences of repeated chords – the main interest lies in the **BASS LINE – make this the loudest and most important LAYER!** Choose a suitable voice/tone/timbre on which to perform the riffs. If you're able to use the "Split Voice" function you may be able to use different voices for the treble and bass clef parts, or otherwise use two different keyboards set to different **TIMBRES** and **SONORITIES**.

1. "Still D.R.E." – Dr. Dre feat. Snoop Dog



2. "What's The Difference" – Dr. Dre feat. Eminem & X-Zibit



3. "The Next Episode" – Dr. Dre feat. Snoop Dogg, Kurupt, Nate Dogg



4. "California Love" – 2Pac



LIVEWORKSHEETS

• OSTINATO *(Rhythmic & Melodic)*

An OSTINATO ia a short musical pattern repeated many times.

It can be purely **rhythmic** e.g. Ravel's Bolero , Holst – Mars, Pirates of the Caribbean







or it can be **melodic.**

e.g. Carillon – Bizet – Here the 3 note ostinato represents the pealing of bells



e.g. Carol of the Bells



BASS RIFFS – Short, repeated, 'catchy' and memorable Bass Line Patterns used in Rock, Rap, Hip Hop, R'n'B, and Pop songs often performed on Bass Guitar. Bass Riffs 'fit' with the notes in the chord, but also use other '**EXTRA**' notes (**PASSING NOTES**) to make them more memorable.



WALKING BASS – used in Jazz, Blues, Rhythm and Blues, and Rock'n'roll, and featuring **a note on every beat**. Using the **ROOT, THIRD** and **FIFTH** of the chord, and '**EXTRA**' notes (called **PASSING NOTES**) to create a smooth bass line often moving mainly by step **(CONJUNCT)**.



ALBERTI BASS – a type of **ACCOMPANIMENT PATTERN** in the **BASS LINE** using the **ROOT, THIRD** and **FIFTH** notes of a **CHORD** played in a **specific order**:

ROOT	FIFTH	THIRD	FIFTH
Lowest	*Highest*	*Middle*	*Highest*

The pattern repeats, but notes change as chord changes and a melody is added 'on top' of the Alberti Bass. Used by Classical composers such as Mozart, especially in solo piano music, as well as modern composers.



ARPEGGIO: Playing the notes of a chord separately and **in order** *root, third fifth, root, third, fifth etc*, can be ascending (going up) or descending (going down).



BROKEN CHORD – Playing the notes of a chord separately but **not necessarily in strict order** *(e.g., like an Alberti Bass)*, often creating a repeated musical pattern, can be ascending (going up) or descending (going down).



(BASS) PEDAL (POINT/NOTE) – either **SUSTAINED** notes of **LONG DURATION**, or **REPEATED LONG NOTES**, often in **BASS LINE PART**, using the **ROOT** (a **TONIC PEDAL**) or the **FIFTH** (a **DOMINANT PEDAL**). Changing chords, harmonies, and a melody line "fit over the top" of a **PEDAL** note.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Concepts checklist Write what each of these terms mean	
Tempo	
Dynamics	
Texture	
Staccato	
Legato	
Passing notes	
Alberti bass	
Pedal	
Inverted pedal	
Ground bass	
Walking bass	
Ostinato	
Riff	
Arpeggio	
Broken chord	
Passing notes	

CHORDS CHECK – write the notes in the following chords	
C	
F	
G	
Am	
Em	
D	

REVISION QUIZZES

- Bass lines
- Ostinato and Riff
- Texture, bass lines & dynamics

LIVEWORKSHEETS