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## CREATING BASS SOLOS: In The Band And Unaccompanied

### TO BEGIN

#### **Desire**

You've got to *want* to do it

#### **Patience**

Allow yourself time to learn.

You will achieve your goals if you don't quit.

Do not compare your progress to that of others.

#### **Do The Work**

Don't be lazy. Play!! Learn it! Did I mention patience??

### THE TOOLS

Continue to develop:

- All major and harmonic minor scales
- All chord types (major and minor triads, dominant 7<sup>th</sup> and minor 7<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and minor 6<sup>th</sup>, major 7<sup>th</sup>, diminished, augmented, etc.)
- Walking bass lines
- Styles (including swing, Bossa Nova, funk, etc.)

## THE RULES

1. Choose a song you love. It Must Be Fun

1-a. Learn the melody

- **SING** it. If you can sing it, you can play it. If you can't sing it...
- Find a comfortable tempo and sing it a little slower

2. Find a bass friendly key

-Utilize open strings, harmonics, comfortable registers, etc.

3. Present clarity in your playing. Play accurately—the melody, the groove, intonation

## PLAYING A SOLO WITH OTHER MUSICIANS

- Know the melody of the song
- Know the chord changes and pertinent accompaniment info (recurring accents, special rhythms, etc.)
- Experiment with embellishing the melody vs “soloing”
- Focus on the other players for solo inspiration and information. Use their ideas to spur your own
- Synchronize your solo groove and phrasing with the band

## PLAYING UNACCOMPANIED SOLOS

### *The Starter Kit Solo Layout*

• **Intro/Melody/Solo/Melody/Ending** (can also use the Intro)

- Determine the vibe, feel, mood of the song
- “Teach my mom” this song that she doesn’t know. By clearly playing the melodies and accompaniment, you’ll create a piece that sounds complete.

## GENERAL IMPORTANT STUFF

- Hit a wall? No ideas? Find recorded examples of performances that are similar to what you’re trying to express. Analyze the layout, melodies, harmonies, the excitement and joy. By understanding the components, you can use them.
- Play with clarity. Clarity of tone, intonation, note choice, etc.
- Keep the bass in your hands! The more you play, the more your creativity will expand
- Honor the groove
- Simple is cool. Avoid mediocrity
- Bass setup:
  - Strings must be a comfortable distance from the fingerboard
  - Bass height should be comfortable, allowing for fingerboard access and relaxed, natural posture
  - Healthy strings with no gashes, notches, unravelling, etc.