



DAILY TECHNICAL EXERCISES

Electric Bass

BASIC TECHNIQUE CHECKLIST



General

- ✓ Proper sitting posture (straight back, 90° leg)
- ✓ Strap adjusted to keep same bass height as when sitting
- ✓ Natural position
- ✓ Relaxed hands and body
- ✓ Economy of movement

Fretting hand

- ✓ Minimal amount of pressure
- ✓ Perpendicular thumb hidden behind neck
- ✓ Thumb flat on the back of the neck (roughly aligned with middle finger)
- ✓ Traditional (straight) vs slanted hand position
- ✓ Straight wrist
- ✓ Fretting hand muting
- ✓ Curved fingers (avoid collapsing knuckles)
- ✓ Fingertips on the string
- ✓ Spaced fingers (virtually on the fret)
- ✓ Three (1-2-4) and four-finger technique (1-2-3-4)
- ✓ Flexibility (pivot as needed)
- ✓ Experiment with forearm, hand, and neck angles
- ✓ Adaptability in different regions of the neck

Plucking hand

- ✓ Forearm rested on the bass body
- ✓ Natural hand position on the strings (between 45–90° angle)
- ✓ Straight wrist (rather than bent)
- ✓ Alternate plucking (even sound)
- ✓ Raking
- ✓ Plucking hand muting
- ✓ Fleshy part of the fingertips
- ✓ Rest stroke vs free stroke
- ✓ Fixed anchor vs movable anchor vs floating thumb
- ✓ Full-sounding tone (solid but not rasp)
- ✓ Location placement awareness (fretboard vs bridge)

TECHNICAL EXERCISES

Electric Bass

Elton Machado

1. Three-finger Technique

1 2 4 1 2 4 *sim.*

play accross the neck...
(up to the 12th fret)

Finger permutations

- 1-2-4
- 1-4-2
- 2-1-4
- 2-4-1
- 4-1-2
- 4-2-1

2. Four-finger Technique

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 *sim.*

play accross the neck...

Finger permutations

1-2-3-4	2-1-3-4	3-1-2-4	4-1-2-3
1-2-4-3	2-1-4-3	3-1-4-2	4-1-3-2
1-3-2-4	2-3-1-4	3-2-1-4	4-2-1-3
1-3-4-2	2-3-4-1	3-2-4-1	4-2-3-1
1-4-2-3	2-4-1-3	3-4-1-2	4-3-1-2
1-4-3-2	2-4-3-1	3-4-2-1	4-3-2-1

Consider experimenting with string permutations, as well as with different articulations.

5. Nathan East's Exercise on One String

1 4 3 4 2 4 3 4 1 4 3 4 2 4 3 4 *sim.*

T
A
B 1 4 3 4 2 4 3 4 2 5 4 5 3 5 4 5 3 6 5 6 4 6 5 6 etc.

6. Three-finger Daily Warm-Up (Tao of Bass)

0 1 0 1 2 1 2 4 2 1 2 1 2 4 2 1 2 1 0 1 0 1 2 1 0 1 2 4 2 1 4 2 1 0 1 2 *sim.*

T
A
B 0 1 0 1 2 1 2 3 2 1 2 1 2 3 2 1 2 1 0 1 0 1 2 1 0 1 2 3 2 1 3 2 1 0 1 2 etc.

7. Max's Magic

1 2 4 2 1 4 2 4 *sim.*

T
A
B 2 3 4 3 2 4 3 4 3 4 5 4 3 5 4 5 4 5 6 5 4 6 5 6 etc.

8. "Spanish" Exercise

4 3 4 2 4 3 4 1 4 3 4 2 4 3 4 1 4 3 4 3 4 3 4 2 4 3 4 1 4 3 2 1

9. Clarke's Trumpet Drill

1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 *sim.*

11. Pyramid

A R.H. i m i m m m i m i m m m m i m i i i m i m i i i
 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4

etc.

B R.H. i i i m i m m m m i m i m m m i m i i i i m i m i i i m i m
 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 2 3 4 2 3 4 2 3 4 2 3 4 2 3 4 2 3 4

etc.

C R.H. i m i m i i i i m i m i m m m m *sim.*

etc.

12. Slurs

D R.H. i m m i i m m i m i m i m i m i i m m i i m
 1 2 2 1 1 4

i m i m i m i m
 4 1 2 3 3 2

i m m i i m m i m i m i m i m i i m m i i m
 1 2 2 1 1 4

i m i m i m i m
 4 1 2 3 3 2

etc.

E R.H. i i i i m i m i m m m m i m i m i i i i m i m i
 1 2 1 4 2 4

etc.

T
A
B

F R.H. i m m i i m m i m i m i m i m i m i i m m i i m
 1 2 2 1 1 3

T
A
B

i m i m i m i m *sim.*
 3 1 1 4 4 1

T
A
B

2 3 3 2 2 4

T
A
B

4 2 3 4 4 3

T
A
B

etc.

G R.H. i i i i m i m i m m m m i m i m *sim.*

1 2 2 1 1 3 3 1 1 4 4 1

2 3 3 2 2 4 4 2 3 4 4 3

etc.

13. "L" Exercise

H 1 2 4 1 4 2 1 2 4 2 4 2 1 2 4 4 4 2 *sim.*

etc.

I 1 2 3 4 1 4 3 2 1 2 3 4 2 4 3 2 *sim.*

The first system of musical notation for guitar. It consists of a bass staff and a tablature staff. The bass staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including accidentals (flats and a sharp). The tablature staff shows the corresponding fret numbers (1-4) for each note.

The second system of musical notation for guitar. It consists of a bass staff and a tablature staff. The bass staff continues the melodic line. The tablature staff shows the corresponding fret numbers (1-4) for each note.

The third system of musical notation for guitar. It consists of a bass staff and a tablature staff. The bass staff continues the melodic line. The tablature staff shows the corresponding fret numbers (1-4) for each note.

The fourth system of musical notation for guitar. It consists of a bass staff and a tablature staff. The bass staff continues the melodic line. The tablature staff shows the corresponding fret numbers (1-4) for each note.

The fifth system of musical notation for guitar. It consists of a bass staff and a tablature staff. The bass staff continues the melodic line. The tablature staff shows the corresponding fret numbers (1-4) for each note.

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 2 3 4

etc.

1 2 3 4 1 4 3 2 1 2 3 4 2 4 3 2 1 2 3 4 3 4 3 2 1 2 3 4 4 3 2

14. Whole-tone Scale

1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 4 2 1 4 2 1 4 2 1 4 2 1 *sim.*

etc.

1 3 5 2 4 6 3 5 7 4 6 8 10 8 6 9 7 5 8 6 4 7 5 3 5 7 9 6 8 10 7 9 11 8 10 12

15. Diminished Scale

1 3 4 1 1 3 4 1 1 3 4 1 1 3 4 3 4 3 1 1 4 3 1 1 4 3 1 1 4 3 1 1

sim.

etc.

1 3 4 1 2 4 5 2 3 5 6 3 4 6 7 9 10 9 7 6 9 8 6 5 8 7 5 4 7 6 4 3 4 5 7 8 5 6 8 9 6 7 9 10 12 13 12 10 9 12 11 9 8 11 10 8 7 10 9 7 6



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