

# SLAP BASS LESSON



SCOTT'S  
**BASS LESSONS**





## SLAP BASS - BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE (L#74)

Start point:  
08:20

T = Thumb  
p = Pluck  
LS = Left hand Slap

### EX.1 SLAP EXERCISE

*"Focus on your right hand.... rotate the forearm.... it's a loose feeling."*

09:44 **EX.2 SLAP EXERCISE NO.2**

*"Try to play it with no gaps"*

10:58 **EX.3 SLAP EXERCISE NO.3**

12:41 **EX.4 SLAP EXERCISE NO.4. ADD THE LOW E**

*"Practice slow"*

13:54 **EX.5 SLAP EXERCISE NO.5. ADD A HAMMER ON.**

18:24 **EX.6 ADD A PLUCKED NOTE**

15:44 **EX.7 ADD THE HAMMER ON**

*"Now lets add the hammer on."*

13:00

Full slap riff (also played at the start of the lesson)

T LST P T P T T LST P T P T ETC

T P T PIPM ETC

trill

Etc



# **SLAP BASS BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE LESSON (L#74)**

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## **YOUR ACTION PLAN**

1. So right from the start I want you to start listing to the masters of this technique. This will give you a good idea of what you should be aiming for.
2. Here's a list of who I think should be at the top of your list.
  - Larry Graham
  - Marcus Miller
  - Victor Wooten
  - Alain Caron
  - Mark King
  - Louis Johnson
  - Flea
3. Work through the tutorial slowly. Investigate the different plucking arm positions (demonstrated with the lesson) and find what feels most comfortable for you. It's not the end of the world if you change technique either. What I do suggest though is giving yourself enough time for the technique/position change to feel comfortable. If I'm changing any part of my technique it generally takes around a month for it to feel natural so I don't have to think about it.

4. Once you've chosen which arm position you're going to use I want you to learn the riff I present within the lesson. Again, take it slowly making sure you're muting all the strings that aren't being played. Also, remember make sure your arm is rotating correctly so you're using the correct movement.

If you're having problems getting the slap and pop sound it could be a few things. Here's a list for you to check out.

- A. Your technique isn't quite snappy enough yet. You just need to keep at it and it'll come.
- B. Your strings are too high. Having a low-ish action on your bass will help you achieve the slap and pop sounds you're trying to create. If the action of your bass is too high the strings won't make contact with the frets while you're slapping and therefore you won't get that 'slap sound' you're trying to get.
- C. The tone of your bass isn't quite right. Make sure to boost the treble and bass while cutting the mids. Don't go overboard though. When I say boost, I don't mean turn up to 10! If boosting try and aim for around 2 - 3 o'clock and 10 - 11 o'clock when cutting. This actually depends what amp you're using, but these are good starting points.

**Scott Devine**

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