

BASS LINES

Fundamental Patterns

1. Arrive at roots on downbeats
2. Connect stepwise (half or whole step) over the barlines
3. Remember the chord quality & key signature
4. Typically, chord tones on beats one and three

1: 1-2-3-5 pattern. The 5 could be flatted.

2: Up the scale. A chromatic passing tone leads to the next root.

Am7 D7 Am7 D7

3: Broken chord, leap from root down to third, steps chromatically down to next root.

4: Descending diatonic steps.

Am7 D7 Am7 D7

5: Arpeggio, then chromatically down to next root. Compare with 3.

6: Arpeggio, steps into next root with diatonic note.

Am7 D7 Am7 D7

7: Octave leap (up or down) stepping into next root chromatically from above or below.

8: Descending arpeggio, lead chromatically above or below to next root.

Am7 D7 Am7 D7

9: Just tonic and dominant (1-5-1-5) movement.

10: 1-2-1 then step into next root with diatonic or chromatic movement.

Am7 D7 Am7 D7

11: 1-2-1 then step into next root with diatonic or chromatic movement.

12: Use of repeated notes.

Am7 D7