

Discover all the inside secrets to playing gospel music on the bass guitar!
This Comprehensive Guide is filled with close-up demonstrations and diagrams. It contains everything beginners need to know to start playing the bass with confidence and authority.

Gospel Bass Secrets By Ear!

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Gospel Bass Secrets By Ear

Fran Scott

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hello my name is Fran Scott and I have been playing gospel music for 16 years and giving gospel lessons for about 8 years. When I began playing the bass, I knew absolutely nothing. There was no music teacher giving bass lessons outside of the traditional methods. Further, my parents could not afford the cost of music lessons. My oldest brother who played electric guitar taught me how to hold a note and one or two bass patterns.

Several years later, my parents bought me a Peavy Foundation Bass guitar and a TNT 130 Combo amp which I continue to play today. The opportunity came during a Sunday morning praise and worship service. Well, let's just say the performance was not very good. I wanted to continue to play but was a little uncertain if I could really learn how to play the instrument. Perhaps, if you are just beginning in gospel music you probably can relate to my experience.

Unfortunately, the story gets worse before it gets better.

During my college years, I would continue to struggle finding notes, playing songs, and performing with other musicians. As a result, I decided to take the traditional steps which many beginners take to play a new instrument. I purchased some music books. However, learning to read music was like trying to learn how to speak a new language. So then, I decided to take music lessons. To my surprise, music instructors did not understand how to teach the non-traditional style of gospel music and many gospel musicians were not interested in sharing any tips.

Consequently, there was just not enough information available for individuals who wanted to learn how to play non-traditional gospel music on the bass.

For this reason, I decided to create a system for learning how to play gospel music on the bass. The system is entitled "**Gospel Bass Guitar Secrets by Ear**" which would assist anyone who was interested in getting started in gospel music. These secrets are easy to understand and revealed later in the book.

My bass playing went from beginner to intermediate in months and advanced in a few years. Performance opportunities increased with choirs, quartet groups, and churches. In addition, I received more and more recognition as a gospel bass player.

For several years I played at one of the largest churches in Southwest Georgia and during the time, I was blessed to perform with gospel greats such as Minister Marvin Sapp, Lashaun Pace and later with Evangelist Shirley Caesar on more than one occasion.

STAY POSITIVE!!!

Hey, I will show you how to start to play, even if you have never picked up a bass guitar before no matter what type of bass you play. Do not feel discouraged if the first techniques you try seem difficult. That's ok, but do not stop trying.

You will need the practice and it will be worth mastering one technique thoroughly before moving on to the next. Remember: if something sounds a little strange when you first try it continue practicing until it sounds right. As you become more and more confident, your fingers will become stronger and nimbler and without a doubt, build up speed.

PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

WHY GOSPEL BASS SECRETS BY EAR???

First, there is just not enough help for individuals who desire to play in our non-traditional churches (hand-clapping, toe-tapping and foot-stomping churches). Second, playing in these churches is not easy for any musician because there is no precise order of song service.

Understandably, there will be songs from the praise and worship team but what about un-announced songs from church members, special guests, or the pastor which will require the musician to have an advanced ear for music.

The purpose of this guide is to discuss the characteristics of the ear musician, reveal the *secrets* to mastering the bass by ear, provide easy-to-follow exercises with diagrams and photographs and give some tips on how to play basic songs with simple bass patterns and progressions.

WHAT IS AN EAR MUSICIAN?

Before we expose the *secrets*, let's outline the *Characteristics of an Ear Musician*.

Ear Musicians desire:

To play at church, accompany singing groups or choirs, and be able to perform at special occasions such as wedding receptions and so on.

To sit down with the bass and **play exactly what you feel**.

To hear something on the t.v. or radio and immediately understand what's happening in the song without being on the bass.

To hum a tune, then immediately play it on the bass in minutes.

To play in a group with other musicians who play by ear and be able to follow along and improvise at the right time.

To play bass without having to rely on music sessions.

To learn music at your own pace without being forced to pay a teacher \$25-\$50 or more per hour.

Basically, all the things you cannot learn at a college, institution or with a traditional music teacher. Course, if you can, just prepare to pay some hefty fees.

TABS

In this final section, tabs have been included because they are an easy read and simple to understand for the beginner. Tabs will also help the bassist find notes quicker and develop the ear faster.

The idea is this: you start out with 4 lines (on bass). These correspond to the strings of the instrument. The top line is the highest pitch which is the bottom string on the bass guitar, (G) string, and the bottom line is the lowest pitch which is the top string on the bass, (E) string. Below is a blank bit of TAB with the string names at the left.

```
G-----  
D-----  
A-----  
E-----
```

Numbers are written on the lines to show you where to fret the string with the left hand. If a zero appears, this means play the open string. Simply, you read from left to right to find out what order to play the notes. The following piece of TAB would mean play the sequence of notes (E F F# G G# A) on the E string by moving up a fret at a time, starting with the open string.

```
G-----  
D-----  
A-----  
E--0--1--2--3--4--5-----
```

ANOTHER EXAMPLE,

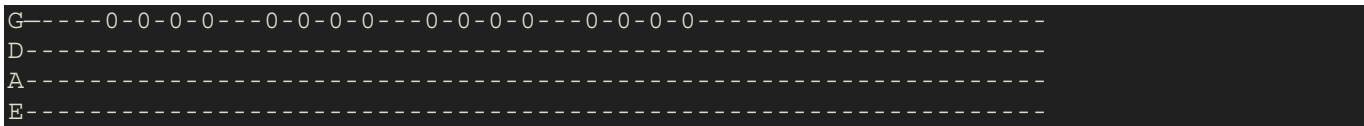


1ST string 2ND string 1ST string 3RD string 4TH string
3RD fret 4TH fret open note 5TH fret 7TH fret

Practice playing these notes on the bass. Remember when playing make sure you press down hard, close to the fret to get a clear sound.

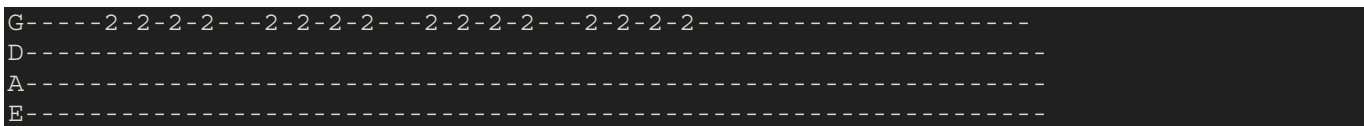
Playing open note on the G-string (1st string) Cd Track 3

Count: 1 2 3 4



Playing 2nd fret on the G string Cd Track 4

Count: 1 2 3 4



Playing 3rd fret on the G string Cd Track 5

Count: 1 2 3 4

A bass staff diagram with four strings labeled G, D, A, and E. The G string has four measures of a quarter note G3, indicated by the number '3' on the first line. The other strings are empty.

Playing 4th fret on the G string Cd Track 6

Count: 1 2 3 4

A bass staff diagram with four strings labeled G, D, A, and E. The G string has four measures of a quarter note G4, indicated by the number '4' on the first line. The other strings are empty.

Playing open note on the D string (2nd string) Cd Track 7

Count: 1 2 3 4

A bass staff diagram with four strings labeled G, D, A, and E. The D string has four measures of an open note, indicated by the number '0' on the second line. The other strings are empty.

Playing 2nd fret on the D string Cd Track 8

Count: 1 2 3 4

A bass staff diagram with four strings labeled G, D, A, and E. The D string has four measures of a quarter note D3, indicated by the number '2' on the second line. The other strings are empty.

Playing 3rd fret on the D string Cd Track 9

Count: 1 2 3 4

A bass staff diagram with four strings labeled G, D, A, and E. The D string has four measures of a quarter note E3, indicated by the number '3' on the second line. The other strings are empty.

Playing 4th fret on the D string Cd Track 10

Count: 1 2 3 4

```
G-----  
D----4-4-4-4---4-4-4-4---4-4-4-4---4-4-4-4---  
A-----  
E-----
```

Playing open note on the A string (3rd string) Cd Track 11

Count: 1 2 3 4

```
G-----  
D-----  
A----0-0-0-0---0-0-0-0---0-0-0-0---0-0-0-0---  
E-----
```

Playing 2nd fret on the A string Cd Track 12

Count: 1 2 3 4

```
G-----  
D-----  
A----2-2-2-2---2-2-2-2---2-2-2-2---2-2-2-2---  
E-----
```

Playing 3rd fret on the A string Cd Track 13

Count: 1 2 3 4

```
G-----  
D-----  
A----3-3-3-3---3-3-3-3---3-3-3-3---3-3-3-3---  
E-----
```

Playing 4th fret on the A string Cd Track 14

Count: 1 2 3 4

A bass staff diagram with four strings labeled G, D, A, and E from top to bottom. The A string contains a sequence of 16 notes, each marked with a '4' to indicate the 4th fret. The notes are grouped into four sets of four, with a dashed line separating each set. The G, D, and E strings are empty.

Playing open note on the E string (4th string) Cd Track 15

Count: 1 2 3 4

A bass staff diagram with four strings labeled G, D, A, and E from top to bottom. The E string contains a sequence of 16 notes, each marked with a '0' to indicate an open string. The notes are grouped into four sets of four, with a dashed line separating each set. The G, D, and A strings are empty.

Playing 2nd fret on the E string Cd Track 16

Count: 1 2 3 4

A bass staff diagram with four strings labeled G, D, A, and E from top to bottom. The E string contains a sequence of 16 notes, each marked with a '2' to indicate the 2nd fret. The notes are grouped into four sets of four, with a dashed line separating each set. The G, D, and A strings are empty.

Playing 3rd fret on the E string Cd Track 17

Count: 1 2 3 4

A bass staff diagram with four strings labeled G, D, A, and E from top to bottom. The E string contains a sequence of 16 notes, each marked with a '3' to indicate the 3rd fret. The notes are grouped into four sets of four, with a dashed line separating each set. The G, D, and A strings are empty.

Playing 4th fret on the E string Cd Track 18

Count: 1 2 3 4

A bass staff diagram with four strings labeled G, D, A, and E from top to bottom. The E string contains a sequence of 16 notes, each marked with a '4' to indicate the 4th fret. The notes are grouped into four sets of four, with a dashed line separating each set. The G, D, and A strings are empty.

PRACTICE THESE BASS PATTERNS...

Cd Track 19

G-----0-0-0-0---2-2-2-2---0-0-2-2---0-0-0-0-----
D-----
A-----
E-----

Cd Track 20

G-----0-0-0-0---2-2-2-2---3-3-3-3---0-0-2-3-----
D-----
A-----
E-----

Cd Track 21

G-----
D-----0-0-0-0---2-2-2-2---3-3-2-2---3-3-3-3-----
A-----
E-----

Cd Track 22

G-----0-0-0-0---2-2-2-2---3-3-2-2---0-0-0-0-----
D-----
A-----
E-----

Cd Track 23

G-----0-0-0-0---2-2-2-2---3-3-3-3---4-4-3-4-----
D-----
A-----
E-----

Cd Track 24

G-----
D-----0-0-0-0---2-2-2-2---3-3-3-3---0-0-2-3-----
A-----
E-----

Cd Track 25

G-----0--2--0-----0--2--0-----
D---0--2--3-----3--2--0--2--3-----3--2--0-----
A-----
E-----

Cd Track 26

G---2-2-2-2---3-3-3-3---2-2-3-3---2-2-2-2-----
D-----
A-----
E-----

Cd Track 27

G---2-2-2-2---3-3-3-3---4-4-4-4---2-2-3-4-----
D-----
A-----
E-----

Cd Track 28

G---2-2-2-2---3-3-3-3---4-4-3-3---4-4-4-4-----
D-----
A-----
E-----

Cd Track 29

G---3-3-3-3---4-4-4-4---3-3-4-4---3-3-3-----
D-----
A-----
E-----

Cd Track 30

G---3-3-3-3---4-4-4-4---5-5-5-5---3-3-4-5-----
D-----
A-----
E-----

Cd Track 31

G---3-3-3-3---4-4-4-4---5-5-4-4---5-5-5-5-----
D-----
A-----
E-----

Cd Track 32

G-----
D-----
A---3-3-3-3---4-4-4-4---5-5-5-5---4-4-5-6-----
E-----

Cd Track 33

G-----0-----0-2-----
D-----0-2---2-0---2---2-0-----
A---2-----2-3-----2-----
E--3-----3-----

Cd Track 34

G--7-7-7-7---6-6-6-6---4-2-4-6---7-7-7-----
D-----
A-----
E-----

Cd Track 35

G-----
D-----
A---0-0-0-0---2-2-2-2---3-3-3-3---4-4-4-4-----
E-----

Cd Track 36

G---2-2-2-2---2-2-2-2---3-3-3-3---2-2-3-2-----
D-----
A-----
E-----

Cd Track 37

```
G--3-----  
D---5--3-----  
A-----5--1-----  
E-----
```

Cd Track 38 **“Joy To The World”**

```
G--3--2-----  
D---5--3--1--0-----3--5--7--8--3-----  
A-----3--1-----1-----  
E-----
```

Cd Track 39

```
G-----5--3-----  
D---5--3-----5-----  
A-----5--3-----  
E--3-----3-----
```

Cd Track 40

```
G-----  
D-----2-3-4-5-----  
A---2-3-4-5-----  
E---3-----
```

Cd Track 41 **“The Alphabet Song”**

“a, b, c, d, e, f, g..... continue h through p”

```
G---0-0-7-7-9-9-7--5-5-4-4-2-2-0-----  
D-----  
A-----  
E-----
```

“q, r, s, t, u, v..... through z” (Repeat)

```
G---7-7-5-4-4-2-----  
D-----  
A-----  
E-----
```

“Now I know my abc’s.....”

G-----0-0-7-7-9-9-7--5-5-4-4-2-2-0-----
D-----
A-----
E-----

Cd Track 42 “Mary had a little lamb”

G-----3-3-3-----
D---5-3---3-5-5-5--3-3-3--5-----5-3---3-5-5-5--3-3--5-3---
A---6-----6-----6--
E-----

Cd Track 43 “Twinkle Twinkle little star”

G-----
D---5-5-7-7-5-3-3-2-2-----5-5--3-2-2---5-5-3--2-2-----
A---3-3---5-5-3-----5-----5--3-3--
E-----

continued

G-----
D---5-5-7-7-5-3-3-2-2-----
A-----5-5--3-----
E-----

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