

My Top 10 Slap Bass Riffs #4

♩ = 127

The musical notation for the bass line of "The Sound of Silence" is shown in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of two identical phrases. The first phrase starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, a quarter note D3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note F#3, and a quarter note G3. The second phrase starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, a quarter note D3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note F#3, and a quarter note G3. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff.

5

t l h t p t t t t t t t t t t l h t p t t t t t t t t t t p

X X X 0 2 3 3 4 5 5 6 X 7 X 5 0 X X 0 2 3 3 4 5 5 6 X 7 X

'Running in the Family' by Level 42

This line is a relatively simple slap groove (for a player of Mark King's ability), but it perfectly underpins the Verse sections of this hit song from Level 42. This track is from the band's 1987 album of the same name.

The majority of this line is slapped on the E-string and is simple enough to perform. The key to this line is note-length: make sure that each note is played as a short, punchy eighth note. This will require you to use your fretting hand to mute the open E-string notes, as well as dampen the fretted notes. This is a key part of the slap technique, and is covered in depth in the opening lessons of the **Slap Bass - Beginner Level** course, which is available to subscribers of our video courses. You'll see that ghost notes are used in the second bar of the sequence - these are pitchless notes that are performed by lightly muting the string with the fretting hand whilst slapping it. The use of ghost notes is also covered in the **Slap Bass - Beginner Level** video course, should you require additional help with this.

At the beginning of the fifth bar, a fretting hand slap is performed (indicated by the letters 'lh' in the guides). A fretting hand slap is performed by slapping the fingers of that hand against the lower strings of the bass to perform a ghost note. Mark King often uses these fretting hand slaps to fill in the gaps in his lines. Fretting hand slaps are covered in detail in a video course from my **Slap Bass - Intermediate Level** course.

In this video I used a Jaydee Supernatural bass, the same kind of instrument as Mark King used on the original track.