

My Top 10 Slap Bass Riffs #9

♩ = 105

Em⁷

First riff notation showing bass staff, rhythm staff (t lh t lh t t lh t t lh t p lh t t t lh t lh t t lh t t t t t), and fretboard diagram (0 x 0 x x 0 x x 0 x x x x 5 7).

Second riff notation showing bass staff, rhythm staff (t lh t lh t t lh t t lh t lh t p t t lh t lh t t lh t t lh t t t t t), and fretboard diagram (0 x 0 x x 0 x x 0 x 0 x x x 5 7).

'Love Games' by Level 42

This track - which appears on Level 42's debut album - is a great piece to learn for anyone looking to cop Mark King's innovative 'linear' style of slap bass playing. As you'll discover, the key to playing lines of this nature is in the interplay between the two hands.

On the first beat of bar 1, the low E is slapped and immediately followed by a ghost note, which is performed by hammering-onto the fretboard with the fretting hand. The two notes are then repeated. Throughout the remainder of the bar, a syncopated rhythm is built up using three key elements: slapped open E's, fretting hand ghost notes, and slapped ghost notes. Using these three elements, it's possible to play long, linear sixteenth note-based slap grooves, something that is a key part of Mark's playing. I recommend fretting the popped D at the end of the third beat with the first finger. Doing so will leave the other three fingers free to perform the fretting hand slap that follows this note.

In the second bar, a double hammer-on figure finishes the line.

In the third bar, a sixteenth note triplet is played on the second half of beat 2. To play this, slap the open E, perform a fretting hand ghost note, then slap a ghost note, all in quick succession. As each of these notes is played with alternating hands, you should find it possible to play this quickly.

If you require additional help with the techniques used in this line, be sure to check out the **Slap Bass - Intermediate Level** video course on the Bassline Publishing website. This course covers the use of fretting hand slaps, triplets and linear slap lines in extensive detail.

In this video I used a Jaydee Supernatural bass, the same kind of instrument that Mark used on the original recording.