

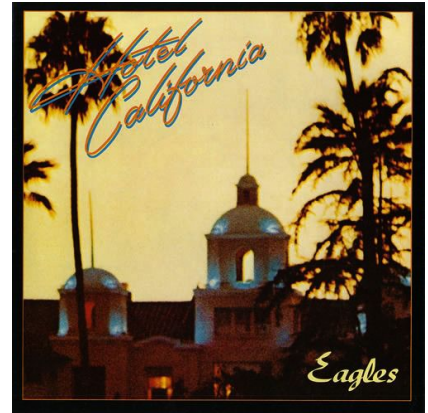


The Hotel California Cheat Sheet

Hey - welcome to eBassGuitar.Com!

James here... if this is your first experience with eBassGuitar.Com, I want to say a massive welcome. We're here to help rookie through to intermediate bass players make progress faster than they ever thought possible. We do this by breaking complex ideas down into simple, bite size ideas. This tutorial is no different...

In this cheat sheet we're going to take the verse and chorus of Hotel California and break the song down into two simple grooves... make sure you watch the two video tutorials that accompany this PDF.



Part One - The Verse Groove

In this part of the cheat sheet we are going to focus entirely on the groove from the verse of Hotel California...

Here are some tips:

- This is a two bar bass groove.
- The rhythm is identical in each bar but the notes change.
- This groove just uses the Root, fifth and Octave of each chord.
- The emphasis of bar one is landing on the 5th, on the last note. (F# in Bar 1 of ex.1)
- The emphasis of bar two is resolving to the root, on the last note. (Low F# of Bar 2 of ex.2)
- Pattern 1 has *bracket 1* above and pattern 2 has *bracket 2* above.

Example 1:



The Verse Chord Sequence:

Once you have learned the two bar groove above you need to apply it to the 8 bar chord sequence that creates the verse.

Here are some notes:

- Patterns 1 & 2 are superimposed over the 8 bar chord sequence.
- The two patterns alternate.
- The brackets above each bar show which pattern you should be playing.
- You can practise the groove in 2 bar pairs. Bars 1&2, bars 3&4, bars 5&6, bars 7&8.

Example 2:

Example 2 shows an 8-bar verse chord sequence in G major (one sharp). The tempo is 74 BPM. The sequence consists of two 4-bar phrases. The first phrase has chords Bm and F#7. The second phrase has chords A(sus2), E9, and G. The third phrase has chords D, Em, and F#7. Brackets above the staff indicate two alternating bass patterns: Pattern 1 (bars 1, 3, 5, 7) and Pattern 2 (bars 2, 4, 6, 8). The notation includes a bass staff with notes and a guitar staff with fret numbers.

Verse 74

1. Bm 2. F#7

1. A(sus2) 2. E9 1. G

2. D 1. Em 2. F#7

Part Two - The Chorus

The Chorus Groove

If you've already watched part one of this tutorial you will know that the basic groove of the verse of Hotel California is based on a two bar bass groove. The chorus is based on a one bar groove:



Here are some notes:

- Notice how the pattern at the front of the bar is now 'descending'. In the verse section the first 4 notes 'ascend'.
- Always aim for the notes on the beat. This is particularly important with beats 3 and 4.
- Treat the note on beat 4+ as a transition note to get to the next chord. In my opinion this is not a major part of the 'core groove'.

The Chorus Chord Sequence:

Once you've learned the 'groove', try playing the full chorus:

The musical notation is presented in three systems, each consisting of a bass staff and a guitar-specific staff below it. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the tempo is marked as 74. The first system starts with a G chord and contains two measures. The second system contains three measures with chord changes to F#7, Bm A/C# Bm A/E, and G. The third system contains three measures with chord changes to D, Em, and F#7. The guitar staff uses numbers to indicate fret positions, with some notes marked with a dot (shorter note) or a line (long note) above them to indicate articulation.

Here are some tips:

- Notice how the ascending bass line in bar 4 breaks away from the groove and gives the chorus section light and shade.
- Try to play the articulation in each bar as this will give your groove subtlety. Notice how bars 1 and 2 have shorter notes (dot above the note) and bars 3 & 4 have long notes (line above the note)
- Try playing this chord sequence using different positions on the neck... the D chord sounds great at fret 10 on the E string, but equally it'll work well at fret 5 on the A string too.

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Keep grooving hard...

James



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