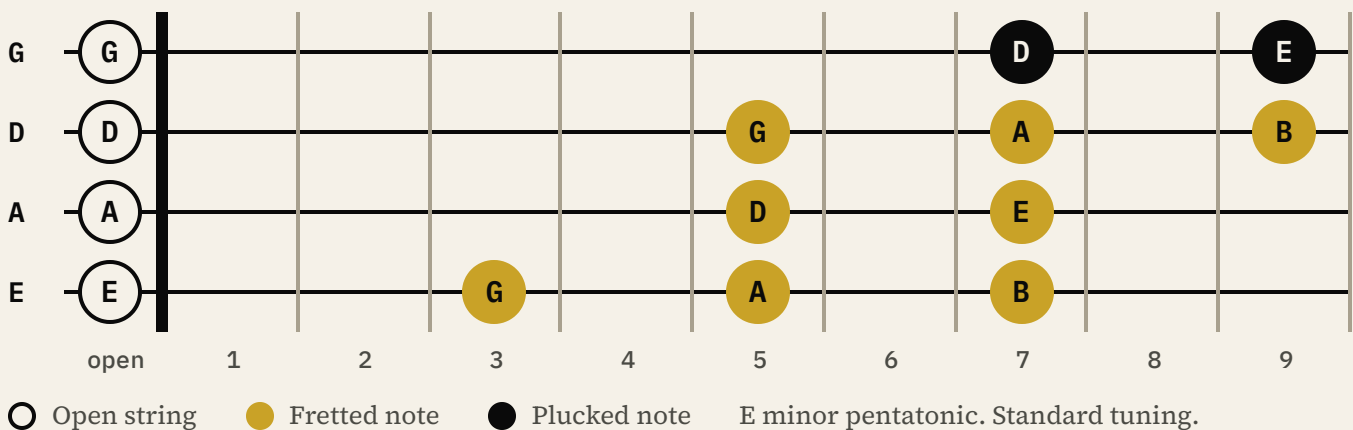


THE THUMP PRIMER

Four thumb moves that show up in funk bass lines everywhere. Learn the moves first. Every thumb groove you chase after this comes faster.

01 LEARN THE NOTES FIRST

Funk shows up in every key. It lands in E a lot because of that low E thump. Every drill in this primer lives in E minor pentatonic: E, G, A, B and D. Thump the low notes on the E and A strings. Pluck the D and E up on the G string. You'll pluck that D a lot. It's the flat seven against E, and funk leans on it constantly.



02 SET UP YOUR HANDS

THE THUMB

Rest the bass and bring your arm up. Your hand lands where it needs to be. Hitchhiker thumb, parallel to the string, near the end of the fingerboard.

THE TOUCH

Keep it light. The string has to vibrate. Thump through the string and let your thumb land on the next one. No recoil.

THE OTHER HAND

This hand mutes. Lay it flat and relaxed across the strings. Sometimes the fleshy part of your pinky catches a note. That's fine.

THE FOUR DRILLS

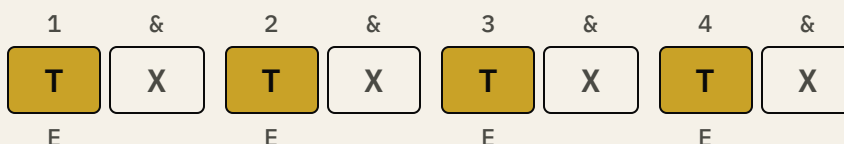
Metronome at 80. Every drill is written in eighth notes. Loop it until it feels comfortable, then double it into sixteenth notes at the same tempo. Clean before fast.

T Thumb **X** Fretting-hand mute or ghost **P** Pluck **H** Hammer-on

Drill 1

THUMP AND MUTE

Thumb on the open E on every beat. The fretting hand drops on every &. That hand is a mute.



Drill 2

ADD THE PLUCK

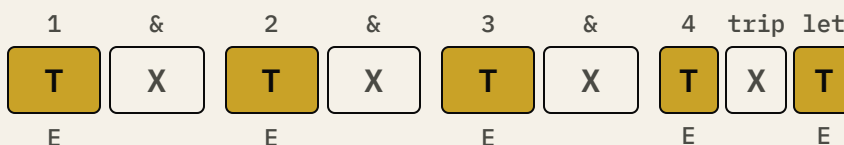
Same thump and mute. Pluck the D octave, G string fret 7, on the & of 2 and the & of 4.



Drill 3

THUMP, GHOST, THUMP

The triplet all over funk records, packed into beat 4. Once it's clean, move it to beat 2, then beat 3. Easier than it looks.

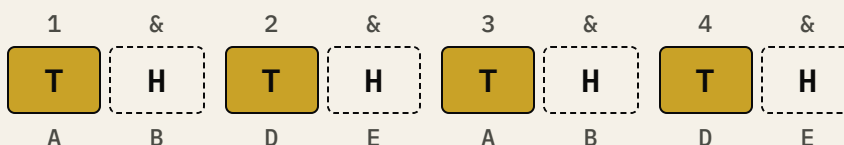


Drill 4

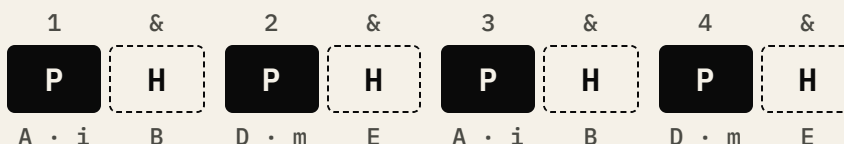
HAMMER-ON, THEN PLUCK

Thumb first. Then pluck it: index on the first hammer-on, middle on the next. The hardest of the four. Give it the most reps.

A • THUMB VERSION



B • PLUCK VERSION



i = index, m = middle. E string: A at fret 5 hammers to B at fret 7. A string: D at fret 5 hammers to E at fret 7.

80 TO 108

04 FIND YOUR BREAKING POINT

The groove in my thump reels sits around 107 bpm. That's your target. Push your tempo up until the groove gets sloppy. That number is your breaking point. Drop to 80 and climb back up a few clicks at a time. Climb the ladder in eighth notes first. Then start back at 80 in sixteenths.

THE RESET RULE Pick a number of clean reps. Five works. Play the drill that many times in a row. Miss the last one and you start over at zero.

My breaking point today: _____ bpm

TEMPO	FIVE CLEAN REPS	DATE
80	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	_____
84	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	_____
88	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	_____
92	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	_____
96	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	_____
100	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	_____
104	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	_____
108	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	_____

05 PUT IT IN A GROOVE

Chain Drills 1, 2 and 3 over a drum loop at your breaking point. Two bars each, no stopping between them. Then pick a funk record you love, slow it down and listen for these four moves. You'll hear them everywhere. I use Song Master Pro: aurallysound.com/tedtalksbass

WANT ME TO HEAR IT?

Start the 7-day Groove School trial. Film Drill 4 at your breaking point and post it in the Request Lane. I'll review it at Monday Office Hour. Then you're inside the weekly loop: one lesson, one backing track, one assignment, every Monday.

Try it for 7 days: tedtalksbass.com/groove-school

IT AIN'T ROCKET SCIENCE. IT'S POCKET SCIENCE.