

## From Bass Line To Solo, The Organic Way

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### ***First Steps:***

#### Autumn Leaves

Bass Line: chord tones, scale tones, chromatic passing tones (leading tones)

Bass lines emphasize roots on the downbeat.

Melodic bass lines emphasize other chord tones on strong beats.

Melodic solos emphasize colorful, harmonically descriptive notes, in a rhythmically engaging fashion.

### ***Second Steps:***

#### Compose A Good Melody

Spontaneously (Improvise)

First chorus: improvise from the melody.

Second chorus: improvise from the chords using chord tones, scale tones, or licks and patterns.

Third chorus: Use less melodic variation and play repeated rhythms.

“Orchestrate” your solo, as if a great composer wrote it for you.

### ***Exercise 1:***

#### Exercise #1

Chord Tone Target Notes. Check out the melody.

Check out the chord changes (the harmony).

Play roots on beat 1 through the chord changes. (If chords change on beat 3, play beats 1 & 3 in half-notes.)

Play chord tones (3rds & 7ths) on beats 1 & 3.

Think ahead and lead into each chord tone. Anticipate some notes on 4+ or 2+.

**Exercise 2:**

Exercise #2

Know the melody as well as the changes.

Use the melody as a guide to build your solo. Embellish the melody.

Alternate 4 bars of melody and 4 bars of solo.

Play 2 bars of melody, followed by 2 (or more) bars of solo.

**Exercise 3:**

Exercise # 3

Know the melody and changes.

Play a constant stream of 8th-notes through the changes at a slow tempo.

Play a stream of 8th-notes, but add rests in random spots to create a rhythmic flow over the bar line.

Concentrate on still hitting target notes on 1 & 3 or on 4+ and 2+.

Play sparse rhythmic hits through the changes.

**Suggestion:**

Practice Various Types of Tunes

Ballad ("Body And Soul")

Rhythm Changes

Songs with lots of chords ("Giant Steps") Modal Tunes ("Impressions")

Latin Tunes / Brazilian ("Wave")