

BREAKING DOWN A GROOVE

ORIGINAL BASS LINE BY HERBIE HANCOCK

VERSION 1

3 4 5 6 8 3 4 5 6 8 6 3 4 5

HERE IS THE ORIGINAL BASS LINE - IT'S PROBABLY ABOUT A 5 ON THE 'INTENSITY SCALE'

VERSION 2

6 8 6 8 6

HERE, YOU'VE TAKEN AWAY THE CHROMATIC WALK-UP. THE ESSENCE AND INTEGRITY OF THE BASS LINE IS STILL THERE, IT'S JUST A LITTLE LESS BUSY

VERSION 3

6 8 6 8 6

THIS IS AN EVEN MORE SPARSE VERSION OF THE BASS LINE. THROUGH SUBTRACTION OF A LOT OF THE BASS LINE'S ELEMENTS, YOU START TO GET A BROKEN DOWN VERSION OF THE BASS LINE.

VERSION 4

6 6

THIS IS A VERY MINIMALIST VERSION OF THE ORIGINAL BASS LINE. YOU COULD POTENTIALLY GO ONE STEP FURTHER AND ONLY PLAY THE B-FLAT OF THE FIRST BAR FOR A TRULY BROKEN DOWN LINE.

VERSION 5

The image shows a musical score for a bass line. The top staff is a bass clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes. The bottom staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with six strings and a key signature of three flats. The fret numbers are: 6, 6, 6, 4, 5 | 6, 6, 6, 4, 5.

WHEN YOU START BUILDING YOUR GROOVE BACK UP, YOU CAN PLAY AROUND WITH DIFFERENT RHYTHMS, ADDING NOTES THAT WEREN'T IN THE ORIGINAL BASS LINE AND LET YOUR CREATIVITY TAKE OVER

The image shows a more complex musical score for a bass line. The top staff is a bass clef with a key signature of three flats and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is more rhythmic, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes. The bottom staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with six strings and a key signature of three flats. The fret numbers are: 6, 6, 6, 8, 10, 6 | 6, 6, 8, 8, 5, 6, 5, 6, 3, 4, 5.

HERE IS A FAIRLY BUSY VERSION OF THE ORIGINAL BASS LINE. THIS WOULD BE PEAKING AT AROUND 7 OR 8 ON THE INTENSITY SCALE. THIS WOULD BE SOMETHING THAT YOU'D PLAY CLOSE TO THE HEIGHT OF THE SONG. NOTICE THE 'BUSYNESS' OF THE LINE, BUT ALSO HOW THE ESSENCE OF THE ORIGINAL GROOVE IS STILL THERE

