

Shuffle Bass

Shuffle Bass is a left hand accompaniment pattern that is commonly used with the 12 bar blues. The pattern: Root-5-6-5-b7-5-6-5 can be used with each of the chords used in a traditional blues (I-IV-V).

Example No. 1

Shows the **Root-5-6-5-b7-5-6-5** used with both the C6 & the F6 Chords

Note: This left hand pattern works whether the chord symbol is C, C6, C7 or C9; it does NOT work for Cmaj7.

Shuffle Bass Example No. 1

R-5-6-5-b7-5-6-5

Shuffle ♩=108

When playing the left hand **Shuffle Bass** pattern with standards such as *Route 66*, *Canadian Sunset* and *Sentimental Journey*, you will need to use two variations of this pattern due the chord structure of the songs.

Example No. 2

Shows the **Root-5-6-5-6-5-6-5** for one chord in one measure and

Root-5-6-5-6- Root-5-6-5-6 used for two chords in a measure.

Shuffle Bass Example No. 2

R-5-6-5

Shuffle ♩=108

Example No. 3 Shows the **Root-5-b7-5-b7-5-b7-5** for one chord in one measure and **Root-5-b7-5- Root-5-b7-5** used for two chords in a measure.

Shuffle Bass Example No. 3

R-5-b7-5

Shuffle ♩=108

The difference between playing standards such as *Route 66*, *Canadian Sunset* and *Sentimental Journey* as well as a more jazz oriented version of the 12 bar blues and a traditional 12 bar blues is that the turn arounds (places at the end of the verses) that require a walking bass pattern for the ii-V chords.

There are two parts to the turn around:

First, there is a ii-V chord progression:

You can learn more about this by looking at **Example No. 4** in my website music theory lesson: [ii-V-I Progression](#).

Second, there is a I-vi-ii-V chord progression:

You can learn more about this by looking at my website music theory lesson which includes an instructional video: [Walking Bass](#)

Playing the Shuffle Bass

Although the notes in the examples are written as 8th notes, you will need to play them as jazz 8th notes. This means that you will need to play the **Shuffle Bass** patterns with a **swing** feeling in order for it to work with this style of music.

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