

A Few Styles With Very Distinct Rhythmic Vocabulary

There are certain styles of music that have very distinct and recognizable rhythms. It's essential to know these rhythms, because most professional musicians will expect you to know them and if you don't, the music will no longer sound like the style you are trying to play.

1. Jazz

The image shows a musical staff for a walking bass line in jazz. The top staff is a bass clef with a sequence of notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The bottom staff shows fret numbers: 3, 2-5-4, 3, 2-3-4, 5, 2-3-4, 5, 4-3, 2.

If you're playing jazz, there's a good chance people want you to play a walking bass line. A walking bass line is just a quarter note on every beat, with the occasional 8th note thrown in to spice things up.

2. Bossa Nova

The image shows a musical staff for a walking bass line in Bossa Nova. The top staff is a bass clef with a sequence of notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The bottom staff shows fret numbers: 3, 3-3, 3, 3, 3-3-2, 1, 3-3, 1, 1, 3-3, 1.

There are many styles of Latin American music, each with their own unique rhythm that serves as the foundation of everything. Bossa Nova is one of the most commonly played in Western pop and jazz, so this is a very handy one to know.

3. Rock

22

The image shows a musical score for a bass instrument. The top staff is a bass clef staff with a series of eighth notes. The notes are: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature staff with four lines labeled T, A, B, and G. The fret numbers are: 0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0, 3-2-0-3-2-0, 3-0, 1-1-1-1-1, 0-2-3, 3-3-3-3-3, 2-5-7.

If you're playing rock, there's a decent chance that just playing consistent 8th notes will sound good. And they're probably going to be straight 8ths, unless you're playing some Stevie Ray Vaughan or other more bluesy stuff. However, make sure you listen to the rest of the band and decide whether it's working, because it won't work in 100% of situations!