

BASS TIPS

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Pedal Tones

The pedal tone also known as pedal note and pedal point is when you play a stationary or fixed single note (root/bass note) over chord changes. This form of playing is used in all styles of music to create tension. Eventually the pedal tone has to be released.

Don't be afraid to experiment with this technique. But remember, the pedal tone is not for a light feel, is for to create tension.

Fig. 1 - A very simple and common use of the pedal tone.

The image shows a musical score for a bass line in 4/4 time, featuring a pedal point on the G note. The score is divided into four measures, each with a different chord: G, CG, D/F#, and F#m. The bass line consists of a steady eighth-note pattern on the G note. The guitar part is indicated by 'Gtr I' and shows the fretting for each measure: G (3 3 3 3 3 3 3), CG (3 3 3 3 3 3 3), D/F# (2 2 2 2 2 2 2), and F#m (2 2 2 2 2 2 2). The guitar part is written on a six-string staff with strings labeled T, A, and B.

Fig. 2 - Application of the pedal tone technique in one of the most common rhythmic patterns for bass.

Fig. 3 - An example of how to use techniques such as staccato together with the pedal tone.

*** The pedal tone technique can be used to create ascending and descending lines.**