

(Book 5) Lesson 9b.

Resolution of Dominant 7th Chords: Bass Notes on "A" (5th) String

In the Root Pos. to Root pos. resolution, nothing would prevent you from playing the Eb6 chord with low note on 4th string.

Move each measure chromatically up the fingerboard, thinking the key and spelling the chords.

The first system of musical notation shows two measures of Bb7 and Eb6 chords. The bass line for the first measure shows a root-to-root resolution (Bb to Eb). The second measure shows the root of the first chord (Bb) moving to become the 5th of the second chord (Eb). The third and fourth measures show a 3rd-to-root resolution (D to Eb) and another 3rd-to-root resolution (Eb to Bb).

Root to Root Root becomes 5th 3rd rises to Root 3rd rises to Root

The second system of musical notation shows two measures of Bb7 and Eb6 chords. The bass line for the first measure shows the 5th of the first chord (F) falling to the root of the second chord (Eb). The second measure shows the 5th of the first chord (F) falling to the root of the second chord (Eb). The third and fourth measures show the b7th of the first chord (Ab) falling to the 3rd of the second chord (Eb) and the b7th of the first chord (Ab) rising to the 5th of the second chord (Eb).

5th falls to Root 5th falls to Root b7th falls to 3rd b7th rises to 5th

Notice that the "bass" staff does not always reflect the movements of the lowest chord tones. A bass line that would resolve to the 6th of the tonic chord would be rather unsatisfactory because it would in effect be resolving to the root of the "vi7" chord.

Resolution of Dominant 7th Chords: Bass Notes on "E" (6th) String

The Bb6 chord could be played with bass on 5th string.

Move each measure chromatically upwards or for that matter downwards. Think the key and be sure to spell the chords.

The first system of musical notation shows two measures of F7 and Bb6 chords. The bass line for the first measure shows a root-to-root resolution (F to Bb). The second measure shows the root of the first chord (F) remaining as the 5th of the second chord (Bb). The third and fourth measures show a 3rd-to-root resolution (Ab to Bb) and another 3rd-to-root resolution (Bb to F).

Root to Root Root remains as 5th 3rd rises to Root 3rd rises to Root

The second system of musical notation shows two measures of F7 and Bb6 chords. The bass line for the first measure shows the 5th of the first chord (Cb) falling to the root of the second chord (Bb). The second measure shows the 5th of the first chord (Cb) rising to the 3rd of the second chord (Bb). The third and fourth measures show the b7th of the first chord (Eb) falling to the 3rd of the second chord (Bb) and the b7th of the first chord (Eb) rising to the 5th of the second chord (Bb).

5th falls to Root 5th rises to 3rd b7th falls to 3rd b7th rises to 5th

If no other source of "bass" is available, hum the bass notes in as low an octave as your voice will endure. Remember that each chord progression can be played against any one of the bass suggestions. As an example, all of the above chord movements could be played with a Root to Root bass line.