

### Bass Notes and Chords

Every chord has two fundamental bass notes which can be used to make a chord accompaniment rhythmically more interesting. This "alternating-bass-chord" style accompaniment is particularly effective when you are the only rhythm instrument in the group. Some changes can be made to this when you have a bass player in your ensemble.

Each chord has a "root bass note" and an "alternate bass note". (The alternate bass note is technically called the "5th" but for now we can just refer to it as the alternate bass note.)

With the G and D7 chords, the bass notes are captured in the chord fingering but for the C chord, you must juggle your third finger between the 5th string for the Root bass note and the 6th string for the Alternate Bass note. (maybe a teacher demo)

In between the bass notes, strum the appropriate chord. When you strike the chord, aim at mostly the first three strings of the guitar so the chord does not bury the sound of the bass note which will still be sounding.

The musical notation consists of four staves in G major (one sharp). Each staff shows a sequence of chords with alternating bass notes. The first staff shows G and C chords. The second staff shows D7 and G chords. The third staff shows G and C chords. The fourth staff shows G and D7 chords. Bass notes are indicated by dots on the staff with labels 'root' and 'alt.' below them. The rhythm is a steady quarter-note accompaniment.

You might take a look at the back of the book for the larger images of the chord fingerings. The bass notes are demonstrated in the chord diagrams.

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