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PLAYING WITH A DRUMMER

As members of a band, the bassist and drummer need to be a tight, indivisible team. The bass player needs to be sure that what he plays locks in with what the drummer is playing. One way to do this is to focus in on one particular part of the drum kit, such as the bass drum or snare, and play so that it and the bass sound as one instrument. Following are several common patterns to help you practice this.

Example 6: Ballad pattern

This first pattern is a common ballad feel. Play the root of the C chord with the bass drum (Ex. 6A), then when that feels comfortable, play the fifth of the C chord (G) with the snare (Ex. 6B), and finally, alternate between the two patterns (Ex. 6C).

Example 6A

Example 6A shows a bass line and a guitar line. The bass line is in 4/4 time, starting with a C chord. The notes are: C (quarter), G (quarter), F (quarter), C (quarter), G (quarter), F (quarter), C (quarter), G (quarter), F (quarter), C (quarter), G (quarter), F (quarter), C (quarter). The guitar line consists of a series of chords: C, G, F, C, G, F, C, G, F, C, G, F, C.

Example 6B — Adding 5th (G) with Snare

Example 6B shows a bass line and a guitar line. The bass line is in 4/4 time, starting with a C chord. The notes are: C (quarter), G (quarter), F (quarter), C (quarter), G (quarter), F (quarter), C (quarter), G (quarter), F (quarter), C (quarter), G (quarter), F (quarter), C (quarter). The guitar line consists of a series of chords: C, G, F, C, G, F, C, G, F, C, G, F, C.

Example 6C — Variation

Example 6C shows a bass line and a guitar line. The bass line is in 4/4 time, starting with a C chord. The notes are: C (quarter), G (quarter), F (quarter), C (quarter), G (quarter), F (quarter), C (quarter), G (quarter), F (quarter), C (quarter), G (quarter), F (quarter), C (quarter). The guitar line consists of a series of chords: C, G, F, C, G, F, C, G, F, C, G, F, C.