

BASS TIPS

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Mastering The Double Thumb Technique - Part I

Welcome to the first of a series of bass tips for mastering the famous double thumb technique. I have some basic and easy to understand exercises for developing an accurate performance for thumb slapping and thumb popping. Both techniques are very popular for bass players like Victor Wooten, Marcus Miller, etc.

Thumb Slap (TS)

Slap the string with the side of the thumb and land on the next string.

Thumb Pop (TP)

Pop the string with the thumb by pulling it up then releasing it so that it rebounds against the fretboard.

* **Thumb Slap** is also known as **Thumb down** and **Thumb Pop** as **Thumb up**.

Ex.1

The image shows a musical exercise for bass guitar. It consists of two parts: a notation staff and a fretboard diagram. The notation staff is in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. It contains two measures of music, each with a repeat sign. The first measure contains eight eighth notes, and the second measure contains eight eighth notes. Below the notation staff is a fretboard diagram for the bass guitar, showing the strings from top to bottom: Treble (T), A, and Bass (B). The diagram shows the first two frets. The first measure of the exercise is marked with a dot on the first fret of the B string, and the second measure is marked with a dot on the second fret of the B string. Below the fretboard diagram, the technique for each note is indicated: TS (Thumb Slap) and TP (Thumb Pop). The sequence of techniques for the first measure is TS, TP, TS, TP, TS, TP, TS, TP. The sequence for the second measure is TS, TP, TS, TP, TS, TP, TS, TP.

