LESSON #11: DOUBLE STOPS

One way to add color to bass lines or solos is the technique of playing more than one note at a time. Double stops can provide weight to a repeated note or pattern, as well as add depth to our musical statements. Ultimately, the goal is to have many tools available to express ourselves musically, and this is one surefire skill to keep in our repertoire.

The most basic double stop is a root and perfect 5th. As mentioned above, when played simultaneously, these notes can add “heft” to the sound of the root. I’ve found this particularly effective when performing a single-chord vamp or within a song with many measures of the same chord (e.g., Duke Ellington’s “Caravan”).

In this first exercise, familiarize yourself with the sound and feel of this double stop across the range of the fingerboard. As always, the fingerings for electric and upright bass will differ.

EXAMPLE 1

\[ J = 60 \]

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