

## CHAPTER SIX

## Fills & Phrasing

All good bass players mark the phrases in a song. This is commonly done by playing a fill at the end of four and eight bar phrases. In the Motown style, the form and phrasing is very clearly heard in the bass line. Each section of the song has a definite cadence style lick that ends the phrase and sets up the beginning of the next section. In Jamerson's playing, these fills are abundant.

Below are examples of phrase marker fills. All of the fills use just the pitches in the pentatonic scale.

### Example 43 Fill 1



An effective way to practice these short fills is to play a sustained root on beat one and count until the fill starts. Then play the fill, ending on a sustained root. Again, count while holding the root note, and play the fill at the correct time. Example: count 1 2 3 4 and on beat one, play an Eb. While sustaining the note, count and come in on the & of beat two. Finish by holding the Eb note, counting 1 2 3 4, 1 2 & starting the fill again on the & of beat two.

What we want to do is isolate the fill, but practice playing it in time, in a two or four-bar phrase. The fill becomes the marker for the start of a new phrase.

[Video - Real Bass Lessons YouTube - Video - Real Bass Lessons 39 - Motown Fills](#)

### Example 44 Fill 2

