

EXAMPLE 3: The following example demonstrates a slow 12/8 blues walking line. The bass line uses basic setup fills. A setup fill steps into an upcoming chord change from a half step above or below that chord's root. The fill alerts the band that a change is going to happen. Slow 12/8 blues are common in about every style of blues music.

Basic pattern:

Basic pattern musical notation in bass clef, 12/8 time signature. The staff shows a sequence of notes: R, 3, 5, 6, 5. Below the staff, the letters T, A, and B are written vertically. The fretboard diagram below shows fingerings: 1, 5, 3, 5, 3.



Tr. 3 full band
Tr. 28 backup only

Musical notation for the first system, featuring a bass line with a walking line and a chord change to F7. The staff shows notes and a final triplet ending. The fretboard diagram below shows fingerings: 1 5 3 5 3 | 1 5 3 5 3 | 1 5 3 5 3 | 1 5 3 1 5 3 2.

Musical notation for the second system, featuring a bass line with a walking line and chord changes to B \flat 7 and F7. The staff shows notes and a final triplet ending. The fretboard diagram below shows fingerings: 1 5 3 5 3 | 1 5 3 5 4 3 | 5 3 5 3 | 1 5 3 5 4.

Musical notation for the third system, featuring a bass line with a walking line and chord changes to C7, B \flat 7, F7, and C7. The staff shows notes and a final triplet ending. The fretboard diagram below shows fingerings: 3 7 5 3 2 | 1 5 3 5 4 3 | 5 3 5 4 | 3 7 5 7 5.