From Bass to Uke

How to Turn Bass Tabs into Ukulele Tabs



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Video Tutorial: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLeif105Pgk

The tuning of a bass guitar, low to high

E A D G

The tuning of an Ukulele, low to high

G C E A

*Technically this might not be low to high because your G string is a Reentrant tuning

Technique Number 1 - The E & A rule



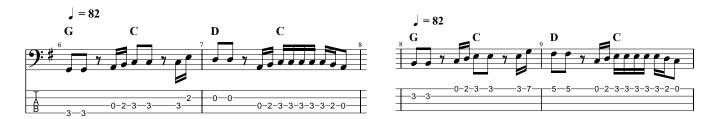
- The first half is the bass the second half is ukulele
- Any time the riff is played only on the E and the A string you can simply play it the exact same on the E and the A string of the Ukulele. This is the easiest technique for sure and the good news is a lot of bass lines are only played on these two strings they are the lowest.

SONG USED: Another One Bites the Dust

ARTIST: Queen

BMP: 110 KEY: Em

Technique Number 2 - Adding the D string



- Here we have two notes on the D string of the bass, the rest is on the E and the A, making most of it easy but those two other notes need some kind of technique.
- The D note is the 5^{th} fret of the A string, so when you see 0 on the D string you simply play the 5^{th} fret of the A string
- You also treat that note as the open D, so when you see 2nd fret D string you count up two more frets from the D note, in this case it would the the 7th fret of the A string.

SONG USED: The Joker

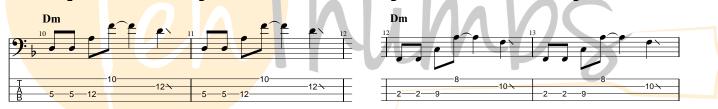
ARTIST: Steve Miller Band

BMP: 82

ORIGINAL KEY: F

KEY USED: G

Technique 3 - Finding the notes and using fretboard knowledge



- The first note is on the 5^{th} fret of the A string, we have an A string so we can count to the 5^{th} fret to know the note.
 - A-> Bb -> B -> C -> Db -> D
 - O Remember you start on A, so A is zero and Bb is 1
- For the 12^{th} you know the note because it is on the A string, it is an A note, you can also see that it is 7 frets above the D note (12-5=7)
- Knowing that our D note is the lowest note it is best to play the 2nd fret of the C string instead of the 5th. If the note is the lowest in the riff try and find the lowest possible note, in this case the 2nd fret of the C string and not the 5th fret of the A string
- If you have a low G you have 5 more notes in pitch, B to G
- The 10 is on the G string, we have a G string so you can count it out on our G string
 - \circ A faster way though is to say that 12 is an octave, also a G string, so the $10^{\rm th}$ fret is just two frets below G
 - G -> Gb -> F
- We are only missing one note, the $12^{\rm th}$ fret of the D string, which is a D note, again the octave helps us.

- O After finding the F note on the 8th fret of the A string, we could play the D note on the 5th fret, but to keep the shape similar to the original riff we play the 10th fret of the E string instead.
- $_{\odot}$ How did we know it was the $10^{\rm th}$ fret? Using our octaves again, we know the $12^{\rm th}$ fret is an E note, making 11 Eb and 10 D

SONG USED: Come Together

ARTIST: The Beatles

BMP: 83 KEY: Dm

Technique 4 - Transposing phrases



The entire verse is played just on the E and the A, so we use technique 1



- It is just the little intro lick that needs to be transposed
- We can see that it is significantly higher in pitch than the rest of the bass line, but because we are already playing on the two highest strings we won't be able to play that lick that high.
- So we are going to find the notes and transpose the lick, to actually play it lower in pitch than the verse
- We know using the G string that the 7th fret is a D note
 - With the D string you can either play it on the C string and add two to each tab, so it would 9h11
 - Or if you play it on the E string you can subtract two, making it 5h7
- We go with the E string method, finding the D note on the A string, which is $5^{\rm th}$ fret, and we get the intro lick.



SONG USED: Hey Joe ARTIST: Jimi Hendrix

BMP: 82 KEY: E

