

# Bass by Numbers!

As easy as 1 2 3 4

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\*\*You may find the Circle of 5ths is a GREAT asset to bass players at this stage.\*\*

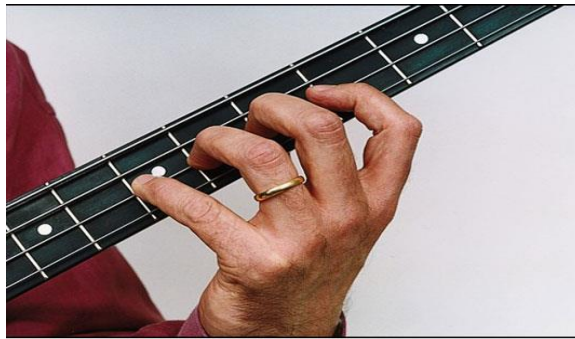
\*\*Reading up the neck is often easiest, especially for those with smaller fingers\*\*

**On bass your fretting hand fingers are numbered:**

- |   |   |                |
|---|---|----------------|
| 1 | - | Pointer Finger |
| 2 | - | Middle Finger  |
| 3 | - | Ring Finger    |
| 4 | - | Pinky Finger   |

**Quick Pointers on LEFT Hand (or fret hand)**

- Thumb is between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> finger. Try to have thumb point UP and not sideways for easy movement on fretboard.
- Like a Clarinet/Flute/Sax/Oboe/WW – you try to keep fingers close to the keys. On fretted instruments, hover over the fret. Keep fingers close to string.
- Always better to “*shift*” over a long stretch. If you think about the numbers, the shift is nothing more than starting on different fret.



**Easy Hand Exercises: (without instrument)**

Finger taps or tennis ball squeeze

Move finger in order of rhythms, scale patterns

**Did you know??**

A 4<sup>th</sup> on fretted instrument is 1<sup>st</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> finger placement.

A 5<sup>th</sup> on fretted instrument is a 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> (or 4<sup>th</sup>) finger placement.

An 8<sup>th</sup> on fretted instrument is 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> (or 4<sup>th</sup>) finger placement.

**FRET BOARD**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb	B	C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E
Bb	B	C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A
Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb	B	C	C#/Db	D
G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb	B	C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G

**Exercises to better find chord progressions: ROOT position on bass is great!**

*Octave Jumps* - 1 3 (or 1 and 4)

*Fifth Jumps* - 1 3 (or 1 and 4)

*Turn Arounds* - VI ii V7 I  
(1 4 4 2)

*Scale Exercise* - move in note segments of 3 notes UP the scale and DOWN the scale (to add 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>) through any or all scales!



# “Blue Monk”

## Blue Monk

Subtitle

Thelonious Monk

The musical score for "Blue Monk" is presented in three systems. Each system consists of a piano (right) staff and a bass (left) staff. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. Chord symbols are placed above the piano staff, and fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 below the bass staff.

**System 1 (Measures 1-4):**

- Chords: Bb, Eb7, Bb, F7, Bb, Bb7
- Fingerings: 4 3 1 4, 2 2 4 3, 2 4 4 2, 1 4 4 3

**System 2 (Measures 5-8):**

- Chords: Eb, Edim7, Bb, F7, Bb, F7
- Fingerings: 2 2 2 4, 3 1 4 3, 2 1 4 1, 1 3 4 2, 4 1 2 3

**System 3 (Measures 9-12):**

- Chords: F7, Bb, Bb, (F7)
- Fingerings: 4 2 1 4, 2 2 1 1, 4 3 4 4