

4A. Fretting Open String Notes

"Can't Get Enough" detail 1

The bass line of "Can't Get Enough" (see 4D) involves the notes D, C, E, F, G and A.

How to fret open string notes

The open string notes can also be fretted. Their position on the fingerboard is easy to determine. Playing a string at the **fret 5** produces the same note as the open string above it. This is useful for tuning your bass by matching the fretted note and the open string:

finger	3	0	3	0	3	0
string:	E	A	A	D	D	G

The following exercises feature both open strings and their fretted counterparts. They're not as easy as they seem, so play them slowly. Pay attention to the fingering which indicates open and fretted notes.

FRETTING OPEN STRING NOTES

♩ = 60 BPM

TOM BOENEMANN

The image shows three staves of bass guitar notation. Each staff starts with a circled number (1, 2, or 3) in the first measure. Above the notes are fretting instructions: 'fret' above a '3' with a slur, and '0' for open strings. Below the notes are string labels: 'E STRING', 'A STRING', 'D STRING', and 'A STRING'. The notation includes slurs and accents to indicate the specific fretting technique for each note.

The bass line of "Can't Get Enough" uses fretted open string notes exclusively. Make sure to follow the indicated fingering!

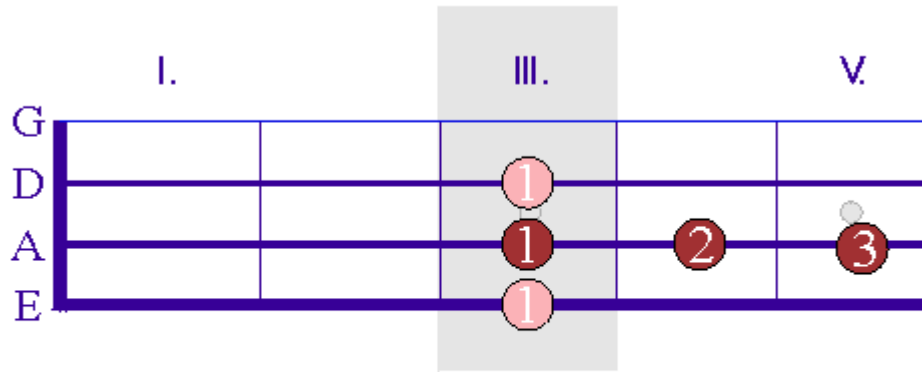
4B. Position Playing And The Close Position

"Can't Get Enough" detail 2

The bass line of "Can't Get Enough" includes a few difficult parts like this one:

The image shows a single staff of bass guitar notation with seven notes. Above each note is the number '1', indicating that the index finger is used to fret each note. The notes are on the A, E, and D strings, demonstrating position playing.

The index finger is hopping from string to string in this passage. Always at fret 3, it fingers the C on the A string, the G on the E string, and finally the F on the D string. This is called position playing: each finger covers a fret, and the index finger determines the position. In the passage above you're playing in the **third position**, i.e. your middle finger covers fret 4 while your ring and fourth fingers cover frets 5 and 6 respectively.



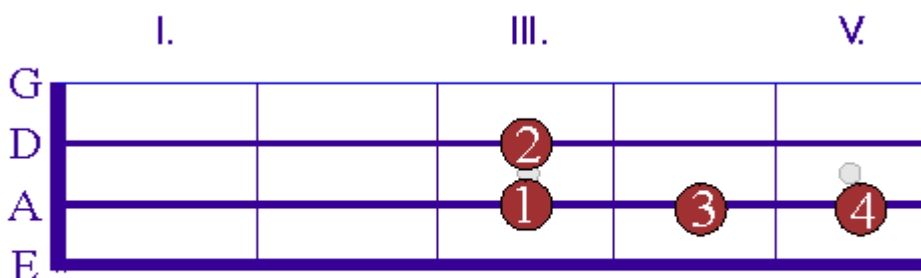
III. position

My instruction book features a dedicated exercise to practice string hopping (book 1, lesson 7.3, p. 50). The tablature is explained in lesson 5 on page 35.

The line below is a variation of the passage above. The F is fretted by the middle finger:

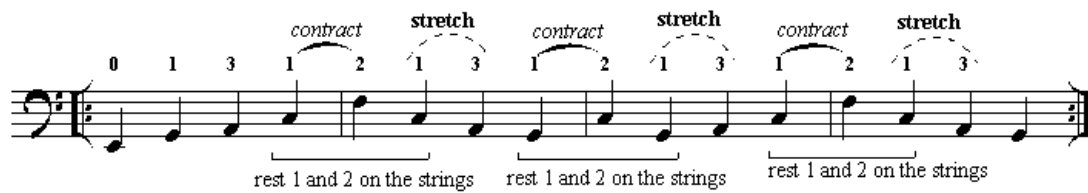


This is a close position with two fingers covering a single fret as opposed to the normal or wide position where the fingers cover one fret each. Close positions facilitate fluent playing by reducing the amount of string hopping.



III. position (close)

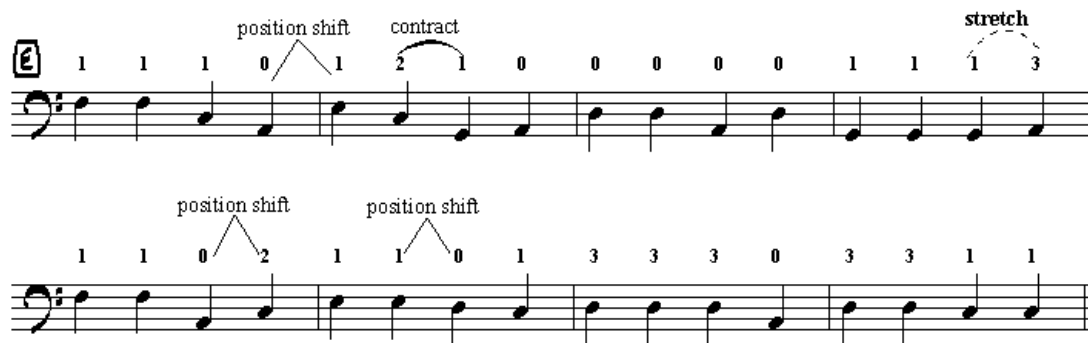
In the close position the fretting fingers cover three frets only, and the ring and fourth fingers move forward one fret. The close position should be used only temporarily, and the bass line permitting you should always revert to the wide position again. Moving from a close position to the normal position and vice versa involves fret-hand stretching and contracting. Practice these motions with the exercise below:



4C. Position Shifts With Open Strings

"Can't Get Enough" detail 3

Part E of "Can't Get Enough" features the close position in conjunction with position shifts:



To fret the E on the D string (fret 2) your index finger must temporarily shift from the third position to the second. This isn't difficult since you're playing an open string before the E. While picking the open A aim your index finger at the E and fret at the right instant. Then shift from the close third position to the normal third position. These shifts and techniques are most important to play fluently at higher tempos. I really recommend to practice them thoroughly from the very start.

4D. PlayAlong "Can't Get Enough"

Enough details! Here's the complete bass line of "Can't Get Enough":

CAN'T GET ENOUGH

TOM BOENGMANN

$\text{♩} = 120$

INTRO 3 1 1 1 1 3

5 3 3 1 1 1 3 1 1 1 3 3 3 3

10 **A** 3 1 1 1 1 0

14 3 3 1 1 1 1 2 2 1

18 **B** 3 3 1 1 1 3 1 1 1 3 3 1

22 **C** 3 0 3 1 1 0 1 3 1 1 3 1 3 3 0 1

26 **D** 3 0 3 1 1 3 1 2 1 3 0 1 3 1 3 1

80 **E** 1 1 1 0 1 2 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 3

84 1 1 0 2 1 1 0 1 3 3 3 0 3 3 1 1

88 **B** 3 3 1 1 1 3 1 1 1 3 3 1

92 **D** 3 0 3 1 1 3 1 1 1 3 0 1 3 1 3 1

96 **F** 3 3 3 3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 3 3 3 3

50 **E** 1 1 1 0 1 2 1 0 0 0 0 3 1 1 1 0

54 1 1 0 2 1 1 0 1 3 3 3 0 3 3 1 1

FACE OUT