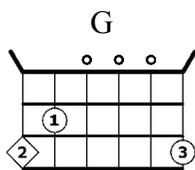


BOOM CHICK WITH ALTERNATING BASS

THE ROOT NOTE

The root note is the note that identifies the chord. This means that the name of that note gives the name to the chord. The root of each chord is designated by a diamond shape as shown in the diagram below. The 6th string, third fret is the note G. Therefore, the name of this chord is G.



ALTERNATING BASS

The boom chick rhythm sounds more interesting if we alternate the bass notes. When we play boom chick the lowest notes are the root note and the fifth interval. (There is more on intervals on Page 65.) By alternating the root and the fifth interval, we achieve the sound that is so prevalent in most styles of music.

When we alternate our bass notes, in essence we are playing the bass notes as a bass player would, on the first and third beat, while strumming the chord on the second and fourth beats. The exercises below will help you learn this rhythm. The chart after them summarizes the strings played on the roots and fifth intervals in each key.

On the exercises, pluck the root on the first beat. Strum the remaining strings on the second beat. Pluck the alternate bass note (fifth intervals) on the third beat. Strum the remaining strings on the fourth beat. Use all down pick strokes in these exercises.

Most chords in these exercises require no fretting-hand chord fingering changes. However, there are three chords that do need fingering changes to accommodate the alternate bass notes. They are C, B7 and F. The fingering diagrams are given under the chord in all three instances.

Ex. 1

Key of G

	G					C					D7	
	•	/	•	/	•	/	•	/	•	/	•	/
Bass Note:	root		alt.		root		alt.		root		alt.	
Strings:	6	strum	4	strum	5	strum	6	strum	4	strum	5	strum