

# BLUES WITH A WALKING BASS

©5-23-87  
Ted Greene

## Approach Chords Used to Harmonize a Riff

Ted Greene - 1987-05-23

Performance notes: 1) Play this page with lots of drive (and taste) although a medium-slow tempo is intended. 2) Add ghosts [ghost bass notes] and 3) Remember to keep the bass lines' *tone* round and full, and not too loud in the mix.

INTRO: Play a few bars of walking bass (by itself) until this makes you hunger for some harmony. Then play the following:

Key of E

F7#9 E9 Bb7/6 A7

F9 E7 Bb7/6 A13

opt.: slide to Ab

Bbm7 Am7 Bb7/6 Eb9

Blues with a Walking Bass (Approach Chords) - Ted Greene, p.2

The image displays three systems of guitar chord diagrams and musical notation for a blues progression in the key of F#m. Each system includes guitar chord diagrams with fret numbers and a corresponding musical staff with a walking bass line and a melodic line.

- System 1 (Measures 7-8):** Chords shown include Am7, G#m7, Gm7, and F#m7. The notation shows a bass line starting on F# and moving through various intervals, with a melodic line in the treble clef.
- System 2 (Measures 9-10):** Chords shown include F#m7, G7/6, F#13, C9, B7, A7, and G#7#5. The notation continues the walking bass and melodic lines.
- System 3 (Measures 11-12):** Chords shown include C#m9, F#1, B7sus, F#9, and E9. The notation concludes the progression with a double bar line.

I have not labeled the approach or pickup chords on this page for 1) visual ease and 2) better intellectual grasp of the *real structure* of this blues progression. Do you see what I mean?

Assignment: Learn to play this arrangement fluidly and soulfully. Then transpose to the key of Eb. Finally transpose to F, Gb (or F#), G, and Ab. This will take "some time" but it's a *nice* use of time if you love the blues.

ON EACH CHORD PLAY "HEAD+TAIL" type over two chords at a time

BLUES with a WALKING BASS: APPROACH CHORDS used to HARMONIZE a RIFF. *although a medium-slow tempo is intended*

PERFORMANCE NOTES: ① PLAY THIS PAGE w/ LOTS OF DRIVE (+ TASTE) *although a medium-slow tempo is intended*  
 ② ADD GHOSTS and REMEMBER to KEEP THE BASS LINES TONE ROUND + FULL + NOT TOO LOUD IN THE MIX.

INTRO: play a few bars of walking bass (by itself) until this makes you hungry for some harmony. Then play the following:

Key of E

apr.: slide to A7

anticip.

BACK TO THE TOP

\* I have not labeled the approach or pickup chords on this page for ① VISUAL EASE and ② BETTER INTERSECTION GRASP of the REAL STRUCTURE of this blues progression. Do you see what I mean?

ASSIGNMENT: learn to play this arr. fluidly and soulfully. Then transpose to the key of E<sub>b</sub>. Finally transpose to F, G, A, F#, G and A<sub>b</sub>. This will take "some time" but it's a nice use of time if you love the blues.