

Supportive Fingering

The image shows a musical score for a bass guitar exercise. It is written in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. The exercise consists of four measures. The first measure contains a descending sequence of notes: G2 (12th fret), F2 (11th fret), E2 (10th fret), D2 (9th fret), C2 (7th fret), B1 (5th fret), A1 (4th fret), and G1 (3rd fret). The second measure contains an ascending sequence: G1 (3rd fret), A1 (4th fret), B1 (5th fret), C2 (7th fret), D2 (9th fret), E2 (10th fret), F2 (11th fret), and G2 (12th fret). The third measure repeats the descending sequence, and the fourth measure repeats the ascending sequence. The notes are marked with fingerings: 12, 9, 10, 11, 12, 9, 10, 11. The notation includes a treble clef (T), alto clef (A), and bass clef (B) on the left side of the staff.

1. Start with your pinky finger on the 12th fret. Put all 4 fingers down...make sure they are "next to the fret".
2. Play the top note and let it ring.
3. Move only one finger at a time. Descending is the easy part... Ascending is the hard part. Make sure that the ring and pinky fingers don't "sympathetically" follow your index and middle fingers.
4. This exercise is designed to help you develop left hand strength and independence...especially in your weak digits. This will also help you to hang onto each note and eventually control and shape each note you play. It will also help you to get rid of any "wasted motion".
5. Remember that your fingers should have that "relaxed" curl to them.
6. When you can perform this exercise correctly, then and only then should you add the metronome.
7. Slower is better...it exposes flaws and mistakes.