70s Funk & Disco Bass

101 Groovin' Bass Patterns

by Josquin des Prés

CD includes 99 demo tracks
Introduction

Funk music came about in the mid '60s as an offshoot of R&B. Newly prominent, the electric bass rapidly became the bottom end of popular music. When the style spilled over into the '70s, great bassists like James Jamerson, Anthony Jackson, Bernard Edwards, Larry Graham, Bootsy Collins, Louis Johnson, and Verdine White provided the grooves that sent the world to the dance floor. The disco era was born.

Unlike '80s, '90s, and contemporary dance music, which rely mainly on monotonous, programmed bass patterns, funk and disco bass lines of the '70s were intricate, sometimes complex. Along with the upbeat hi-hat cymbals, the bass played a key role in creating these grooves. Groups like The O-Jays, Kool & The Gang, Graham Central Station, Chic, Sister Sledge, and Earth Wind & Fire (to name just a few) were supported by these pioneering bass players that helped create the disco phenomenon.

I started playing bass in the early '70s. Listening to and learning to play funk and disco bass lines quickly made me understand the importance of “groove” in popular music. Funk music and groove defy traditional music-book study methods—I believe they're better learned by “on the job” training, using your ears and your feel to just play. '70s Funk & Disco Bass approaches the music from this organic perspective. It does not cover techniques and concepts. There are no exercises, just 101 bass patterns in this style. You go straight into learning how to play the grooves. After all, this is how the bassists who created this style learned to play back in the day! Enjoy.

—Josquin des Prés

CD recorded and mastered at Track Star Studios, La Mesa, California.
Recording engineer Rolf Doelling, mastering engineer Tristan des Prés

About the Author

Born in St. Tropez, France, Josquin des Prés is a world-renowned bassist who has shared credits with such players as Jeff Porcaro, Steve Lukather, Vinnie Colaiuta, Billy Sheehan, Bunny Brunel, Jimmy Crespo, David Garibaldi, Alex Acuna, and Jerry Goodman, among others. Many of his bass lines can be heard on various loops sample CDs. In addition to his career as a bass player, Josquin des Prés is the author of twelve bass instruction and music reference books, as well as an accomplished producer and songwriter, with credits on over 40 CDs and numerous songs covered by international artists including multiple collaborations with Elton John’s lyricist, Bernie Taupin.
Pattern 61

Pattern 62

Pattern 63

Play 4 times
Pattern 75

Pattern 76

Pattern 77
• 101 Authentic Funk and Disco Bass Lines
• CD Includes 99 Full-Demo Tracks
• Standard Notation and Tablature