reading contemporary electric bass rhythms

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FOREWORD

Contemporary Electric Bass Rhythms mean many things to many people; fast repetitive funk vamps, long low sustained notes behind a singer, walking lines composed on the spot that shape a framework for a jazz soloist, and many more.

The rhythms and bass lines in this book are representative of what I've been playing in many different areas of performance — Theatre, Pop, Recording, Jazz, Dance, Funk, Fusion, Latin, Disco . . .

The Contemporary bassist must play, read, and compose in a variety of different styles.

Some general rules to think about:

- Don't get fooled by the apparent simplicity of basic foundation lines and rhythms. It takes good musicianship to play them right!
- Develop a vocabulary of basic rhythms and styles and use it as a basis on which to constantly expand. Be as versatile and flexible as possible.
- Be solid and supportive; Develop a good time feel and good sound before trying to be an out front lead-type player.

Some hints for practicing these exercises:

- Always play slowly and perfectly when learning something new.
- Play at different tempos with different phrasing.
- Try playing the lines and rhythms in all keys. Memorize the lines you especially like and expand upon them.
- Chord symbols have been omitted to make certain that the book is used to develop reading skills.
- Don't just play notes . . . make music!

Good Luck,

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SECTION I
Regular Bass Line Rhythms. "Walking Bass": "Two Feel".
SECTION II
Syncopated, More Active Bass Lines and Rhythms, Eighth-Note Feel.
Top 40, Soft Rock, Country/Western, Radio and TV Jingles.
Med. "2" (Latin)  To Coda

D sof al coda

Coda

Fine
SECTION III
Busier, More syncopated Lines and Rhythms. Eighth and Sixteenth
Note Feel. Funk, Rock, Disco, Contemporary Musical Theatre.
Long Notes
To Coda

D$ al coda
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Vamps, Repetitive Phrases Using Moderately Active Rhythms.
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Found in Professional Performing Situations.
Coda

To Coda

D.C. al coda

Coda