

Tune Learning Sequence

Below is an order suggested upon common forms, and most common destinations. Strive to learn each tune from a recording — by ear — and only check the real book if necessary (to confirm what you're hearing).

You've got this!

I. FOUNDATIONAL TUNES

Repertoire using the I & V chord

Song	Key	Form
Mary Ann	C Major	ABAC
Mary Had a Little Lamb	[All]	ABAC
London Bridge	[All]	ABAC
Long Long Ago	[All]	16-bar

Repertoire using the I, IV, and V chord

Tune	Key	Form
Happy Birthday	C Major	ABA'C
Down By the Riverside	F Major	ABA
12 Bar Blues	[All]	
Amazing Grace	[All]	

With this foundation, you'll have learned to hear the relationship between tonic and dominant (I&V). Many bassists — including those working steadily — can have difficult picking out dominant movement.

It should also be noted that forms like **Rhythm Changes** can be explored at this phase, with emphasis on the 1-6-2-5 progression.

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II. DIATONIC DESTINATIONS

Tunes moving between Major and Relative Minor (I and vi, or i and bIII)

Tune	Key	Form
Autumn Leaves*	G Minor/Bb Major	AABC
Blue Skies	C Minor/Eb Major	AABA
Lullaby of Birdland	F Minor/Ab Major	AABA
Love Me or Leave Me	C Minor/Eb Major	AABA
Softly as in a Morning Sunrise	C Minor/Eb Major	AABA

Tunes moving to IV

Tune	Key	Form
Take the A Train	C Major	AABA
Exactly Like You	Eb Major	AABA
Satin Doll	C Major	AABA
I Wish You Love	Db Major	AABA
Misty	Eb Major	AABA
Sunny Side of the Street	C Major	AABA
Let's Cool One	Eb Major	AABA
But Not For Me	F Major	ABAC
Pennies From Heaven	C Major	ABAC
In A Mellow Tone	Ab Major	ABAC
On A Clear Day	F Major	AA'BA''

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Tunes moving to ii

Tune	Key	Form
Bye Bye Blackbird	F Major	AA'BA''
The Lamp Is Low	Eb Major	AABA'
Day By Day	G Major	ABAC
Out Of Nowhere	G Major	ABAC
Smile	Eb Major	ABAC

Cycle 5 tunes (Movement around the circle of 5ths)

Tune	Key	Starts on	Form
Fly Me to the Moon	C Major	vi	ABAC
Alice in Wonderland	C Major	ii	AABA
I Will Survive	A Minor	i	
Autumn Leaves	Bb Major/G Minor	ii	AABC
Yesterdays	D Minor	VI (in B Section)	ABAB
The End of A Love Affair	F Major	ii	AABAC

All Diatonic chords and destinations

Tune	Key	Destinations	Form
What a Difference a Day Makes	Bb Major	IV, vi	ABAC
Just Squeeze Me	F Major		AABA
There Will Never Be Another You	Eb Major	IV, vi,	ABAC
Embraceable You	G Major	I, iii, V	ABAC

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If I Only Had a Brain	F Major	IV, vi	AABA
All of Me	C Major	ii, IV, vi	ABAC
East of the Sun	G Major	ii, VI	ABAC

Tunes with Dominant II extensions

Tune	Key	Form
Take the A Train	C Major	AABA
There Will Never Be Another You	Eb Major	ABAC
East of the Sun	G Major	ABAC
Just Friends	C Major	ABAC
Cherokee	Bb Major	AABA

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III. FURTHER DESTINATIONS

Moves to Major III

Tune	Key	Form
Tangerine	F Major	ABAC
The Song Is You	C Major	AABA
I Love You	F Major	ABAC
I'm Old Fashioned	F Major	ABAC
If I Were A Bell	F Major	ABAC
How About You	C Major	ABAC

Moves to bIII Major

Tune	Key	Form
You Go To My Head*	C Major	AABA
Just The Way You Look Tonight	Eb Major	ABAC
Green Dolphin Street	Eb Major	ABAC
I'll Remember April	C Major	ABAC
Cherokee	Bb Major	AABA
Love for Sale	Bb Major	AABA

Destinations a third away [multiple]

Tune	Key	Destination	Form
Long Ago And Far Away	F Major	Ab Major, C Major	ABAC
I'll Remember April	G Major	Bb Major, E Major	ABAC

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Have You met Miss Jones	F Major	Bb Major, Gb Major, D Major	AABA
Giant Steps	N/A	B Major, G Major, Eb major	AA'
I Remember You	F Major	D Major	AABA'
Emily	C Major [Or G]	A Major (or E Major)	ABA'C