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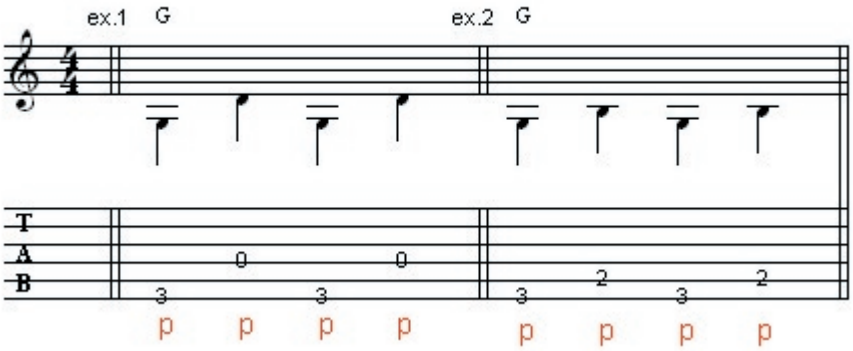
LESSON 23

ALTERNATE BASS NOTES

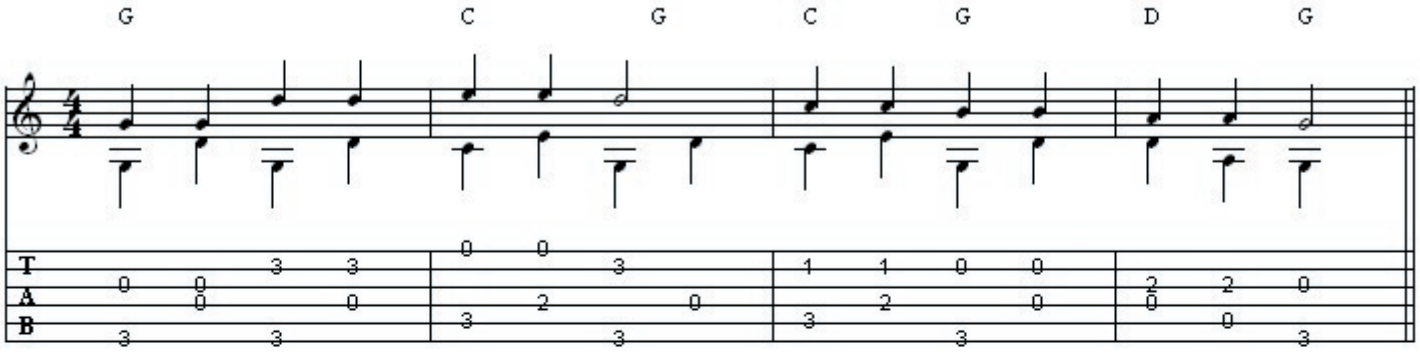
While alternate bass notes are a standard device in country music (listen to Merle Travis or Chet Atkins for example) they can be used to great effect in many styles of music.

The most common method is an alternating root to 5th (ex.1) or root to 3rd (ex.2) using a 1/4 note rhythm. The bass notes are played with the plucking hand thumb (indicated as p).



Here's 2 versions of Twinkle Twinkle given the alternate bass note treatment. The second is more syncopated Try it yourself over other simple tunes.

1



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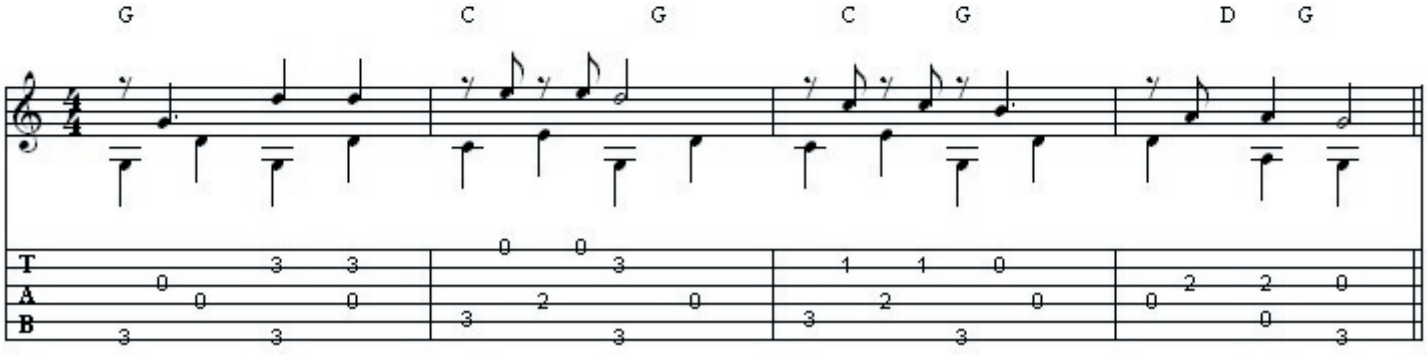

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