MORE OCTAVES

Playing across all four strings, there are more octave shapes available. Here are the new octaves you can play between the A and G strings. Remember that A# and Bb are enhanmonic equivalents.



Now let's use all the octaves you've learned so far. The shifts are indicated with a dash "-".



Because both notes of an octave are the same letter, they can both be considered the root of a chord. On an E chord, for example, both low and high E are the root. Understanding this concept will help you to create your own bass lines.

This 12-bar blues uses the octave on each chord for the bass line. The chords are "seventh chords" (E7, A7, and B7). They are a different type of chord than you've seen, but for now the important thing is to play the root (E, A, and B).

Begin in 1st position; for the B7 chord, shift up to 2nd position. Remember, when playing octaves fingerstyle, the lower note of the octave can be muted with the thumb as you move up to play the higher note on the A or D string. As a general rule, use your middle finger (m) when jumping to the higher note, and your index finger (i) when jumping back down to the low octave.

