



TalkingBass

# Chord Tone Essentials

**Course Breakdown  
and FAQ**



# Chord Tone Essentials

## Unlock The Door To A World Of Musical Possibilities

### Chord Tones Are Your Key To Better Bass Practice!

“The study and application of chord tones will change your bass playing FOREVER!

Do you ever wonder how some players can create interesting bass lines through any chord progression? How they can weave a melodic line through chords while effortlessly moving around the fretboard? You might even have noticed some players adding lots of interesting chromatic notes into bass lines, fills and solos while still outlining the chord changes. How do they do this?

Well, the answer lies in the study and practical application of CHORD TONES!

By learning the principles of chord construction, applying the chord tones to the bass fretboard (in the form of arpeggios) and then employing those notes in our practice we can gain a deeper understanding of bass lines and music in general.

Chord tones are the single most useful area of study a bass player can practice.

Chord Tone Essentials will show you how to create bass lines, melodies or solos through ANY chord or progression while providing a system for unlocking the ENTIRE fretboard”

**Mark J Smith (Creator of Talkingbass)**

# Chord Tone Essentials

## Course Breakdown

### Module 1: Principles Of Chord Construction

#### Lesson 1-0 – Course Introduction

An introduction to the concepts we'll be covering in the course

#### Lesson 1-1 – Interval Basics

Intervals are the building blocks of music and essential in understanding all aspects of harmony and chord creation. Here we cover the basic major and perfect intervals.

#### Lesson 1-2 – Minor Intervals

Minor intervals are the next step in our interval journey

#### Lesson 1-3 – Augmented & Diminished Intervals

Major, minor and perfect intervals are the most common intervals but augmented and diminished intervals are also essential study and more common than you might think!

#### Lesson 1-4 – Alternative Fingerings

We've covered the most popular fingerings for intervals but there are two common ways of fretting any interval and these will play a huge part in future lessons.

#### Lesson 1-5 – Triads

Triads are 3 note chords and the foundation of all chords that follow

#### Lesson 1-6 – Triad Isolation Practice

Triad arpeggios can be practiced in isolation over the supplied backing tracks

#### Lesson 1-7 – Triad Progressions

Playing Triad arpeggios through a progression is great practice for learning how they work in context

#### Lesson 1-8 – Seventh Chords

Seventh chords are our next port of call as we sail deeper into tertian harmony

#### Lesson 1-9 – Seventh Chord Isolated Practice

Again, we can practice the seventh arpeggios in isolation for more focused practice

#### Lesson 1-10 – The Essentials

We now have a large number of arpeggios to practice but we can break these down to four essential chord types as our main focus

## **Lesson 1-11 – Seventh Chord Progressions**

Let's practice our essential seventh arpeggios through some common chord changes

## **Lesson 1-12 – Extensions**

Extensions are added to seventh chords in a very systemized way. In this lesson we work through all extensions from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>

## **Lesson 1-13 – Altered Extensions**

Extensions may be altered in a variety of ways. In this lesson we exhaust all of the possibilities.

## **Lesson 1-14 – Added Note Chords**

Added note chords are very popular extensions to the basic triad. Let's look at the various additions to the major and minor triads.

## **Lesson 1-15 – Suspended Chords**

Suspended chords are variations on both the triads and seventh chords. In this lesson we'll look at how we can apply suspensions to any arpeggio.

## **Lesson 1-16 – Inversions**

Chords aren't always voiced from the root note upwards. Inversions provide more variations to the set of chords we've covered.

## **Lesson 1-17 – Slash Chords**

Slash chords are all about variation in the bass note of a chord. Important information for us as 'bass' players!

## **Lesson 1-18 – Alternative Notation**

Chords may be written in a variety of different ways on the page. In this lesson we look at the many different symbols you're likely to encounter in chord symbol notation.

## **Module 2: Mapping The Fingerboard**

### **Lesson 2-1 – Cycle Of 4ths**

The Cycle Of 4ths is an essential aspect of studying harmony but also a great foundation for practicing music in general

### **Lesson 2-2 – Running The Cycle**

In this lesson we learn how to run our arpeggios through the cycle for better practice

### **Lesson 2-3 – The Three Patterns**

In this lesson we look at three core patterns that form the foundation of our fretboard mapping

### **Lesson 2-4 – Cycling In One Position**

By cycling in a single position we can make use of our three core patterns in application more effectively

### **Lesson 2-5 – Second Position**

Let's expand our look at the fingerboard by moving into the second position

### **Lesson 2-6 – Tonic Positions**

Tonic positions are a great way of moving into different areas of the fretboard

### **Lesson 2-7 – Extended Patterns**

Extending our core three patterns allows us to see every note of a chord in any area on the fretboard

### **Lesson 2-8 – D String Tonic Position**

We've previously looked at tonic positions on the E and A string. We can also use the D string as a transitional position.

### **Lesson 2-9 – Position Shifts**

Now we have a mapping of the fretboard let's look at shifting between the various positions for added fluidity.

### **Lesson 2-10 – Arpeggio Sequences**

Sequencing arpeggios can be an effective method for creating practice drills in any position.

### **Lesson 2-11 – Two Octave Triads**

Triads over two octaves can be problematic from a shifting perspective. Let's look at developing more fluidity in our movement.

### **Lesson 2-12 – Two String 7th Chords**

Arpeggios over two strings can provide a foundation for moving over multiple octaves.

### **Lesson 2-13 – Two Octave 7th Chords**

Two octave seventh arpeggios may be played in many different ways. Let's look at some of the most efficient and effective shifts.

### **Lesson 2-14 – Spelling Drills**

Fretboard patterns are OK but nothing beats learning chords by note name. Spelling drills can be an effective method for practice both on and away from the bass.

### **Lesson 2-15 – Spelling Minor Triads & More**

More spelling drills for your practice routine

### **Lesson 2-16 – One String Arpeggios**

Practicing arpeggios on a single string can be tough but also provide dividends in terms of shifting and fretboard knowledge.

## **Module 3: Chord Tone Application**

### **Lesson 3-1 – Chord Tone Application**

In this module we'll look to apply everything we've worked on in the course up to this point. In this lesson we're going to set the scene by looking at a set of progressions in a variety of styles.

### **Lesson 3-2 – Applying The 5<sup>th</sup>**

In lesson 1 we used a simple root note as the basis for our lines. Now let's add the next most common and useable note: The Fifth.

### **Lesson 3-3 – Applying The 3<sup>rd</sup>**

The third carries a lot of the emotive drive of a chord so let's look to apply that effectively in our lines.

### **Lesson 3-4 – Applying The 7<sup>th</sup>**

The seventh is another emotive chord tone that can be applied very effectively in even the most simple of bass lines.

### **Lesson 3-5 – Non Chord Tones**

Chord tones are the foundation of everything we play in tonal music but non chord tones are equally important and we need to look at how to apply them around that chord tone framework.

### **Lesson 3-6 – Neighbour Notes**

The Neighbour Note is our first melodic device. Let's look at applying it within a bassline.

### **Lesson 3-7 – Passing Notes**

Passing Notes are a great device for developing melodic bass lines and developing more scalar ideas.

### **Lesson 3-8 – Mixing Devices**

So far we've looked at melodic devices in isolation, now let's look to combine them in application.

### **Lesson 3-9 – Approach Notes**

Approach Notes are another melodic device we can use to effectively connect chords.

### **Lesson 3-10 – Enclosures**

Enclosures are a great device for targeting any chord tone.

### **Lesson 3-11 – Chromatic Notes**

So far we've only covered diatonic melodic devices but chromatic notes are equally important and can add some extra spice and interest to our riffs and bass lines.

### **Lesson 3-12 – Deconstructing Bass Riffs**

In this lesson we look at bass line analysis and how to understand the underlying components of a riff. This is key to developing our own musical vocabulary.

### **Lesson 3-13 – Walking Bass Lines**

When it comes to applying the concepts we've covered in this course, nothing beats the practice of walking bass lines.

### **Lesson 3-14 – Fills**

Bass fills are another great application of our chord tone framework. In this lesson we look to add some fills into our chord progression over each chord in turn.

### **Lesson 3-15 – Soloing #1 Chord Changes**

Chord Tones are an essential part of learning how to solo through chord changes.

### **Lesson 3-16 – Soloing #2 Melodic Devices**

Chord tones are fine as a launching point in our solo practice but the addition of scalar melodic devices makes for a much smoother melody.

### **Lesson 3-17 – Soloing #3 Guide Tones**

Guide tones are a fantastic tool for developing solo ideas through a chord progression. In this lesson we develop a solo using various guide tones as our chord tone targets.

### **Lesson 3-18 – Conclusion**

# Chord Tone Essentials

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the Chord Tone Essentials Course?**

Chord Tone Essentials is a complete, step by step guide to understanding chord construction principles and how chord tones can be applied to every area of music from bass lines to melodies and solos.

**Note:** This is not a 'bass chords' course. The chord tones are presented in arpeggio form.

### **How Long Are The Lessons?**

The lessons vary in length but the complete course is over 8 hours in length.

### **What level of player is the course aimed at?**

The course is aimed at any player from beginner to advanced level.

### **What Will I Learn?**

After completing all 3 Modules you will understand the construction principles behind EVERY chord you're ever likely to see, you'll know the notes of EVERY chord, you'll have the ability to see chord tones and arpeggios over the entire fretboard and you'll be able to apply all of this knowledge to every area of your bass playing.

### **How is the course presented? Do I Download Anything?**

The course is hosted on the Talkingbass website so there are no video files to download.

There is a Dropbox folder for each module containing a Course Workbook and any relevant practice tracks.

### **Is There A Time Limit On Taking The Course?**

No. You can take as long as you want. There are no time limits.

### **Do I Have Lifetime Access To The Course?**

If you purchase the course then yes, you have lifetime access to the course and its material. If you are an All Access Pass member, then you obviously only have access for the duration of your subscription.