

An essential element of Bossa Nova rhythms is that of the alternating Root-5th bass. The Root note is the alphabetical letter name of the chord. The 5th is the note of the scale which the chord comes from that is five notes or letters higher than the Root of the chord.

For example, our first chord is a Dm9. The Root of the chord is obviously "D". The scale which this chord comes from is the C Major scale which contains the notes C D E F G A and B. If we start on the Root of our Dm9 chord and count the letter "D" as one, we simply then count up until we get to the fifth letter above "D" which is the "A" note (**D** E F G **A**). This is the 5th of our Dm9 chord. These two notes, the Root and 5th are then alternated back and forth.

These bass notes should be played finger style by the right hand thumb and the chords played with the right hand index, middle and ring fingers.

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Practice Tip of the Day: We all know that one of the main things all musicians practice to gain fretboard knowledge, technique and soloing ability is scales. Unfortunately, there is another half to the equation that more often than not gets overlooked and ignored; and that is arpeggios. Arpeggios are the notes of a chord played one at a time. Basically, all soloing can be broken down into either scales or arpeggios. Therefore, it would sense not to overlook such an essential element of music during our practicing time. Start out with three string triad arpeggios and then begin to add one more string to each shape as you get comfortable. After this start working on seventh chord arpeggios. These arpeggios will open up a whole new dimension to your fretboard knowledge, physical left and right hand technique levels and soloing ideas.