

Left Hand Accompaniment Patterns

The image displays three staves of musical notation in bass clef, 4/4 time, illustrating various left hand accompaniment patterns. Each staff is divided into four measures, each with a label above it:

- Simple Block:** A single chord (C major) held for the entire measure.
- Qtr. note block:** Four chords (C major, F major, C major, F major) played as quarter notes.
- 4-beat:** A single chord (C major) held for the entire measure, with a quarter note on the first beat.
- 3-beat (waltz):** A single chord (C major) held for the entire measure, with a quarter note on the first beat.

The second staff shows four measures of patterns:

- Alberti Bass:** A continuous eighth-note pattern: C4, E4, G4, C5, E4, G4, C5, E4, G4, C5.
- Broken Triplets - play all 3 chord notes on each beat:** Four measures, each containing a triplet of eighth notes: C4, E4, G4.
- Boogie Bass notice 1 octave lower:** A pattern of eighth notes: C3, E3, G3, C4, E4, G4, C5, E5, G5, C6, E6, G6.

The third staff shows four measures of patterns:

- Broken Qtrs.:** A continuous eighth-note pattern: C4, E4, G4, C5, E4, G4, C5, E4, G4, C5.
- Broken Eighths:** A continuous eighth-note pattern: C4, E4, G4, C5, E4, G4, C5, E4, G4, C5.
- Simple Pop:** A pattern of quarter notes: C4, E4, G4, C5, E4, G4, C5, E4, G4, C5.
- Virtuoso Bass:** A pattern of quarter notes: C4, E4, G4, C5, E4, G4, C5, E4, G4, C5.

Playing from a fake book or "lead sheet" gives you great flexibility in how you play a song. The simplest way to bring a melody to life is to turn the chords into a good accompaniment pattern.

The best way to learn each of the left hands is to choose a LH pattern and then play 20 different fake songs with that LH pattern. Then choose another LH pattern and play 20 songs with it.

If you play the song more than one time thru, use a different left hand on each chorus. See the example for several different LH patterns with Michael Row the Boat. You can listen to what many different LH patterns sound like by going to the Recordings tab and choosing Demo Impro and then LH Demos.

Examples of LH Accompaniment Patterns with Michael

Simple Block Chords

Musical notation for Simple Block Chords. The right hand (RH) plays a melody of quarter notes: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The left hand (LH) plays block chords in the bass clef: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4.

Four-Beat

Musical notation for Four-Beat. The right hand (RH) plays a melody of quarter notes: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The left hand (LH) plays four-beat chords in the bass clef: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4.

Broken Quarter Notes

Musical notation for Broken Quarter Notes. The right hand (RH) plays a melody of quarter notes: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The left hand (LH) plays broken quarter notes in the bass clef: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4.

Alberti 8th Notes

Musical notation for Alberti 8th Notes. The right hand (RH) plays a melody of quarter notes: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The left hand (LH) plays Alberti 8th notes in the bass clef: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4.

Musical notation for Alberti 8th Notes (continued). The right hand (RH) plays a melody of quarter notes: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The left hand (LH) plays Alberti 8th notes in the bass clef: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4.

Broken 8th note Triplets

Musical notation for Broken 8th note Triplets. The right hand (RH) plays a melody of quarter notes: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The left hand (LH) plays broken 8th note triplets in the bass clef: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4.

Musical notation for Broken 8th note Triplets (continued). The right hand (RH) plays a melody of quarter notes: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The left hand (LH) plays broken 8th note triplets in the bass clef: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4.