

# NCA12 - Bass Line Control

A simple and powerful way to build bass lines

## **Letting the chord hang and the bass line move**

Following a sequence of one down from Am creates this progression:

Am G F E

Staying on the A-Minor and letting the bass line progress until we reach the E-chord creates this progression:

Am Am/G Am/F E

Following a sequence of two down / on up from the chord D-Minor creates this chord progression:

Dm Bdim C Am Bdim G Am A

(We added the A-Major chord since it is the dominant of the D-Minor chord)

Staying on each chord twice as long, letting the bass line continue creates this progression:

Dm Dm/B C C/A Bdim Bdim/G Am A

## **Building chords on top of a precomposed bass line**

We build a simple bass line going from the note A to the note D:

A B C D E

We are still in the key of A-Minor and we want to establish that Tonic in the listeners ear, so we start by putting an A-Minor Chord on top of that first A-Note in the bass:

Am (B C D E)

Then we investigate what chord the B note could be part of. We know that it can be the root note of Bdim. But it can also be the third or the fifth of a chord. We find these two chord by:

- 1. Going down to steps in the scale from the B**
- 2. Going down a fifth from the B**

Going down two steps from B will give us G. So the B is the third of the G-Major chord.

Going down a fifth from the B will give us E. So B is the fifth of the E chord. We choose the E-Chord and change it from minor to major because we like the sound of that. So the second chord will then be E with the B in the bass:

Am E/B (C D E)

Now we are looking at the C. We could choose to play C-Major on top of that C. Or we could go down two steps in the scale to A and play A-Minor

over that C. We could also go down a fifth and play the F-Major chord over that C. We like the F so we go with that:

Am E/B F/C (D E)

The next note in the bass line is D. We could play D-Minor on top of that. But also Bbim (2 steps down) or G (Down a fifth) we like the Bdim very much so we will go with that:

Am E/B F/C Bdim/D E

Next note up is E - and since the E-Major chord is the dominant to Am, we are going to stay with playing the E-Chord on top of that E. So the chord progression is complete:

Am E/B F/C Bdim/D E

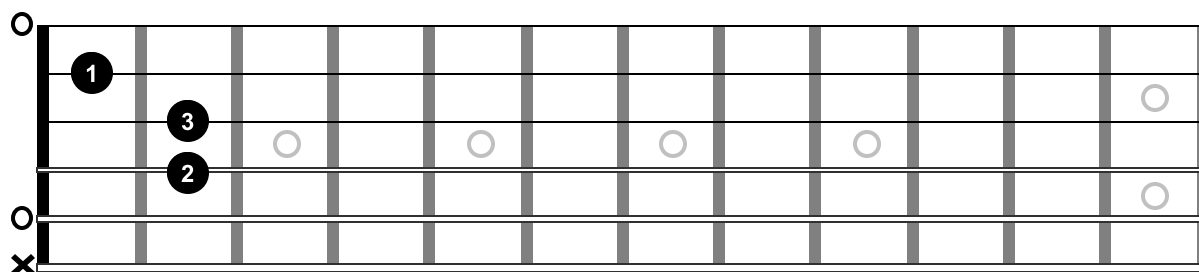
These two simple tools can bring endless variety to your chord progressions and make a simple sequence sound very interesting.

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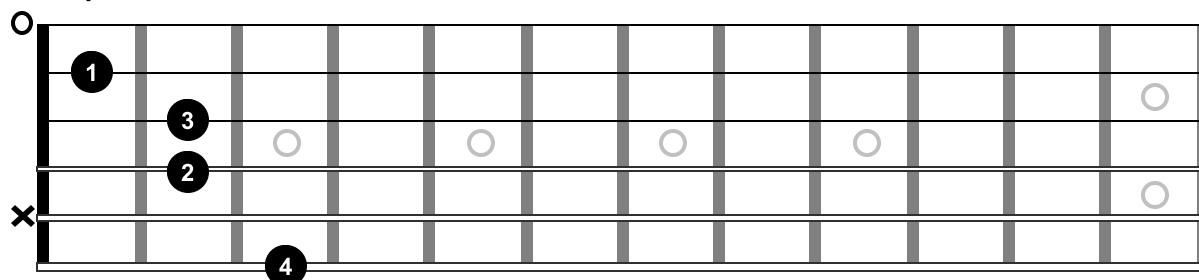
## Chord Charts

Am - Am/G - Am/F - E

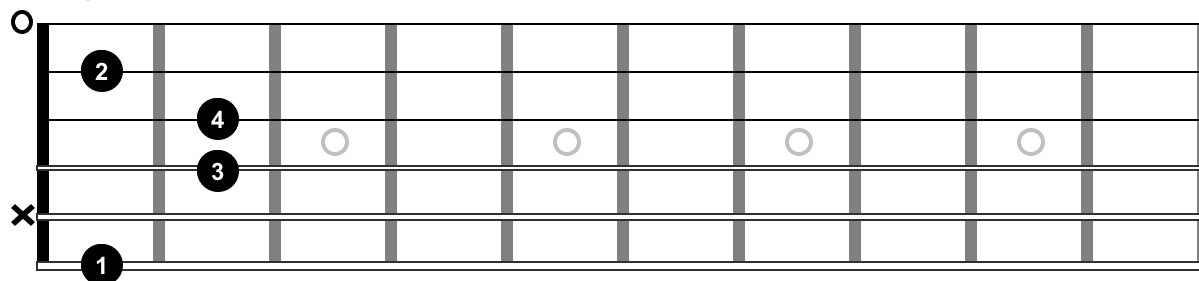
**A-Minor**



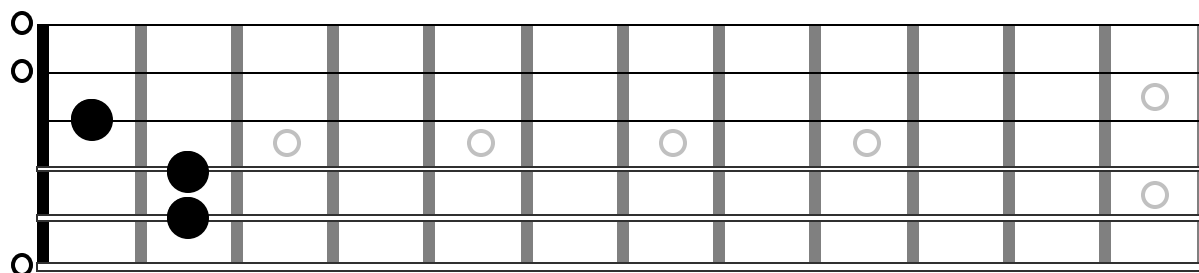
**Am/G**



**Am/F**



**E**



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## Chord Charts 2

Dm Dm/B C C/A Bdim Bdim/G Am A

**Dm**

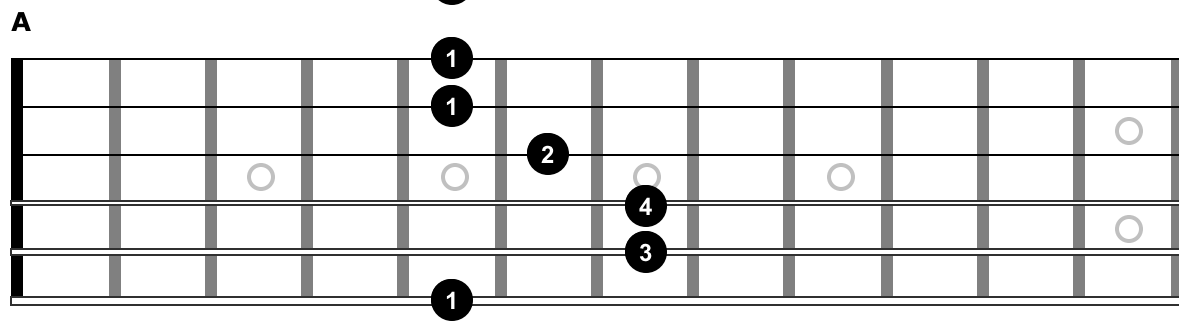
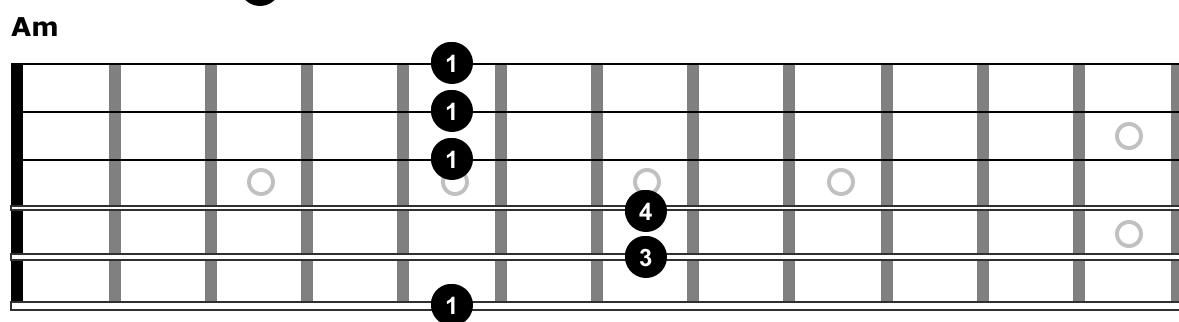
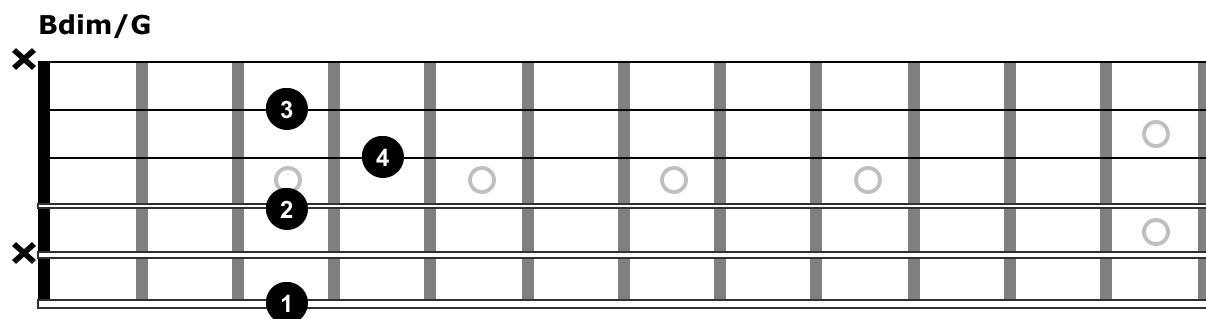
**Dm/B**

**C**

**C/A**

**Bdim**

The image displays five bass line diagrams for the chords Dm, Dm/B, C, C/A, and Bdim. Each diagram is a six-line staff with an 'X' at the top and bottom. Fingering is indicated by numbers 1-4 in black circles. Open strings are shown as open circles. The diagrams are arranged vertically. The C and C/A diagrams have an 'O' at the bottom line, indicating an open string. The Bdim diagram has an 'X' at the bottom line, indicating a muted string.



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## Chord Charts 3

Am E/B F/C Bdim/D E

