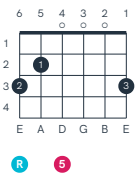
Boom-Chick on Guitar: Bass, Strum, Walk

Bass note on 1 and 3, a brush of strings 3, 2 and 1 on 2 and 4, and a bass walk to the next chord. Key of G.

1 · THREE CHORDS, TWO BASS NOTES EACH

Two bass notes per chord: the **root** (R) and the **5th** (5), the **alternate bass** (one common choice). Note names are sounding pitches.

G

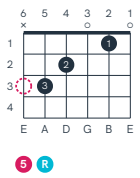


R **G2** string 6, fret 3

5 **D3** string 4, open, above the root

Both bass notes are already in the shape.

C

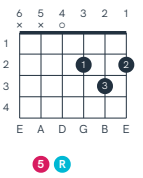


R **C3** string 5, fret 3

5 **G2** string 6, fret 3, below the root

For beat 3, finger 3 moves to the dashed ring (string 6, same fret), then back.

D



R **D3** string 4, open

5 **A2** string 5, open, below the root

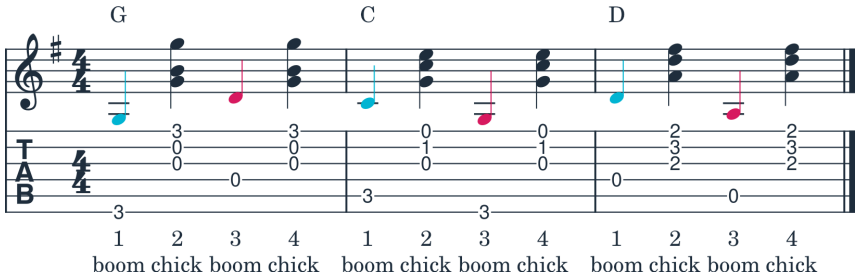
String 5 is a bass note only: the chord shape leaves it out (×).

Nut at top, string 6 at left. ○ open, × not in the shape, dots = fingers (1 index, 2 middle, 3 ring; other fingerings exist).

2 · BOOM-CHICK: BASS, STRUM, BASS, STRUM

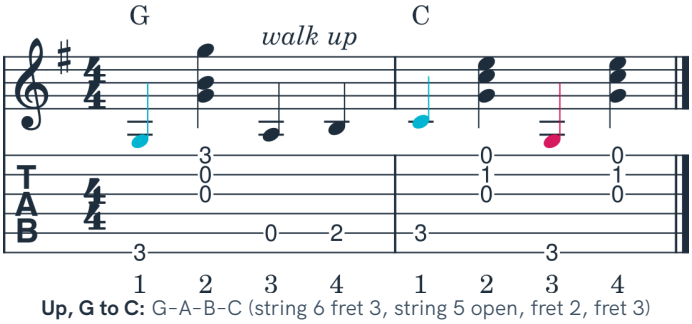
Count **1 2 3 4**. **Boom:** pick one bass note, the root on 1 and the 5th on 3. **Chick:** a short downstrum of strings 3, 2 and 1 on 2 and 4. The piano sheets have it too: Handout 230's stride (low on 1 and 3, chord on 2 and 4) and, in 2/4, Handout 359 (low on the beat, higher on the "&"). Guitarists also call it **boom-chuck**.

Staff notes are written an octave higher than they sound. In the tab, the top line is string 1.

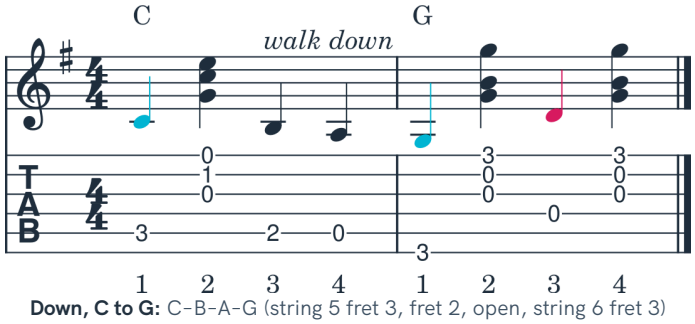


3 · WALK TO THE NEXT CHORD

In a walk bar the root still sounds on 1 and the strum on 2. On 3 and 4 two notes of the G major scale climb or fall, and the **new root lands on beat 1**. Walk notes are bass notes, so they are booms too.



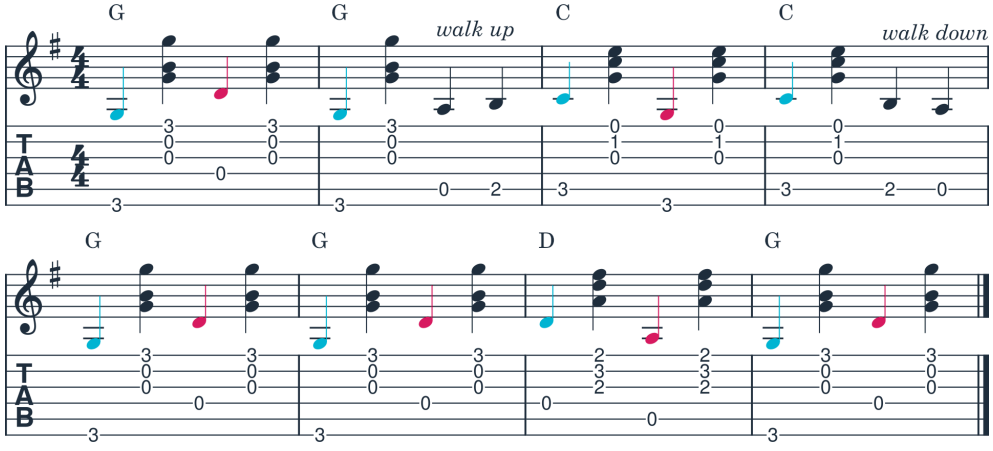
Up, G to C: G–A–B–C (string 6 fret 3, string 5 open, fret 2, fret 3)



Down, C to G: C–B–A–G (string 5 fret 3, fret 2, open, string 6 fret 3)

4 · PUT IT TOGETHER: G | G WALK | C | C WALK | G | G | D | G

Play slowly and keep the count going. On a walk bar, let go of the chord shape after the strum on 2.



Try it

On D, which open string gives the alternate bass? Say it, then play D boom-chick for four bars.

Answer: string 5 (A). · Practice: Exercise 208. · Listen: scan or visit tissimo.co/worksheets/guitar-boom-chick-alternating-bass (quarter = 80, two bars of clicks first): each chord, the walks, the chart; a synthesized pitch-and-rhythm model.

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