

TRANSCRIPTION OF PAUL SIMONON'S BASSLINE TO "SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO" by THE CLASH

The image displays a musical score for bass guitar, transcribing the bassline of the song "Should I Stay or Should I Go" by The Clash. The score is presented in three systems, each consisting of a bass staff and a corresponding tablature staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 7/8. The first system is labeled 'A' and the second system is labeled 'B'. The tablature includes fret numbers and triplets. Blue double-headed arrows indicate phrasing or breath marks above the staff, and blue square icons are on the right side of each system.

A

B

by **PAUL WOLFE**
www.how-to-play-bass.com

TRANSCRIPTION TO SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO

The transcription lays out like this:

Section A: Intro 0.10

Section B: Verse 1 0.15

Section C: Verse 2 0.40

Section D - Chorus/Double Time 1.08

Section E - Verse 1.28

Section F - Vocal Ad Lib 1.58

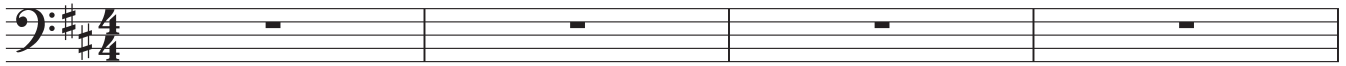
Section G: Chorus /Double Time - 2.23

Section H: Chorus 2.42

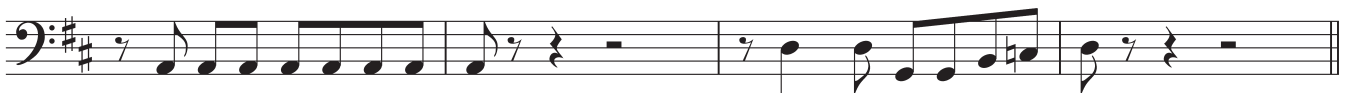
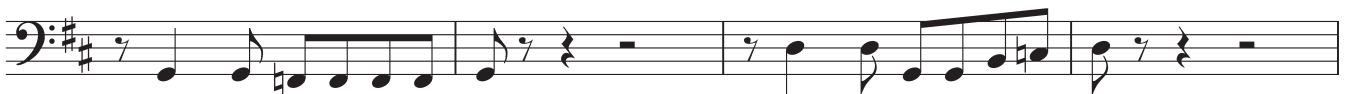
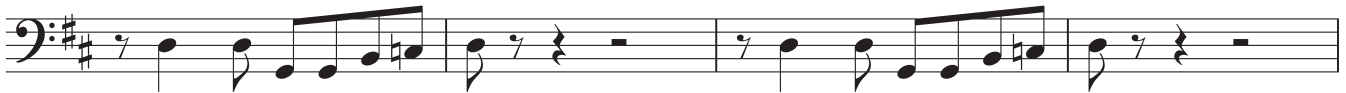
The transcription is presented in notation only, and then notation with bass tab. Tabbed positions marked out are where I'd probably play it... but you may want to experiment depending on your fingering system, hand size and scale of your bass.

SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO

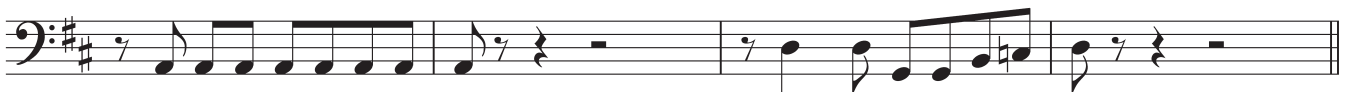
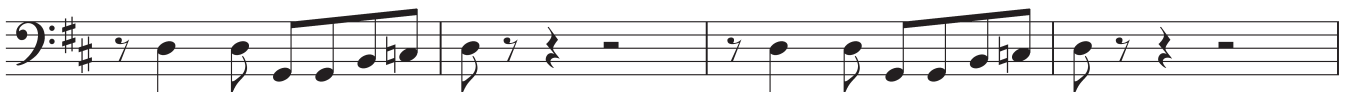
A



B



C



D

Two staves of bass notation for chord D. The first staff contains four measures of eighth-note patterns. The second staff contains four measures, with the first two featuring sixteenth-note triplets and the last two continuing the eighth-note patterns.

E

Two staves of bass notation for chord E. The first staff contains four measures, with the first two featuring sixteenth-note triplets and the last two featuring eighth-note patterns. The second staff contains four measures, with the first two featuring eighth-note patterns and the last two featuring sixteenth-note triplets.

F

Two staves of bass notation for chord F. The first staff contains four measures, with the first two featuring eighth-note patterns and the last two featuring sixteenth-note triplets. The second staff contains four measures, with the first two featuring eighth-note patterns and the last two featuring sixteenth-note triplets.

G

One staff of bass notation for chord G, containing four measures. The first two measures feature eighth-note patterns, and the last two feature sixteenth-note triplets.

The image displays five staves of bass guitar sheet music. The key signature is D major, indicated by two sharps (F# and C#) on the treble clef staff. The music is written in a 4/4 time signature. The first four staves contain continuous eighth-note and quarter-note patterns, often with slurs and ties. The fifth staff concludes the piece with a final measure containing a quarter rest and a double bar line.

A

Musical notation for section A, measures 1-4. The bass line is silent, indicated by a whole rest in each measure. The guitar part is also silent, indicated by a whole rest in each measure.

Musical notation for section A, measures 5-8. The bass line plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The guitar part plays a corresponding fretboard pattern.

B

Musical notation for section B, measures 1-4. The bass line plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The guitar part plays a corresponding fretboard pattern.

Musical notation for section B, measures 5-8. The bass line plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The guitar part plays a corresponding fretboard pattern.

Musical notation for section B, measures 9-12. The bass line plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The guitar part plays a corresponding fretboard pattern.

C

Musical notation for section C, measures 1-4. The bass line plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The guitar part plays a corresponding fretboard pattern.

Bass staff with treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and 7/8 time signature. The staff contains four measures of music. Below the staff is a tablature with two lines, T and B. The first measure has notes 3, 3, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1. The second measure has a 3. The third measure has notes 5, 5, 3, 3, 2, 3. The fourth measure has a 5.

Bass staff with treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and 7/8 time signature. The staff contains four measures of music. Below the staff is a tablature with two lines, T and B. The first measure has notes 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5. The second measure has a 5. The third measure has notes 5, 5, 3, 3, 2, 3. The fourth measure has a 5.

D

Bass staff with treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and 7/8 time signature. The staff contains four measures of music. Below the staff is a tablature with two lines, T and B. The first measure has notes 5, 5, 5, 4, 5, 6, 7. The second measure has notes 5, 5, 5, 7, 5, 7, 4. The third measure has notes 5, 5, 5, 4, 5, 6, 7. The fourth measure has notes 4, 5, 5, 7, 5, 7, 4.

Bass staff with treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and 7/8 time signature. The staff contains four measures of music. Below the staff is a tablature with two lines, T and B. The first measure has notes 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3. The second measure has notes 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3. The third measure has notes 5, 5, 5, 4, 5, 6, 7. The fourth measure has notes 5, 5, 5, 7, 5, 7, 4.

E

Bass staff with treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and 7/8 time signature. The staff contains four measures of music. Below the staff is a tablature with two lines, T and B. The first measure has notes 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7. The second measure has notes 7, 7, 7, 0, 0, 0, 0. The third measure has a 0. The fourth measure has notes 5, 5, 3, 3, 2, 3.

Bass staff with treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and 7/8 time signature. The staff contains four measures of music. Below the staff is a tablature with two lines, T and B. The first measure has a 5. The second measure has notes 5, 5, 3, 3, 2, 3. The third measure has a 5. The fourth measure has notes 3, 3, 1, 1, 1, 1.

Bass staff with treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and 7/8 time signature. The staff contains four measures of music. Below the staff is a tablature with two lines, T and B. The first measure has a 3. The second measure has notes 5, 5, 3, 3, 2, 3. The third measure has a 5. The fourth measure has notes 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5.

Musical notation for the first system, including a bass staff and a tablature staff (T/B).

Musical notation for the second system, including a bass staff and a tablature staff (T/B).

Musical notation for the third system, including a bass staff and a tablature staff (T/B).

Musical notation for the fourth system, including a bass staff and a tablature staff (T/B).

Musical notation for the fifth system, including a bass staff and a tablature staff (T/B).

Musical notation for the sixth system, including a bass staff and a tablature staff (T/B).

Musical notation for the seventh system, including a bass staff and a tablature staff (T/B).

The first system of music consists of a bass staff and a tablature staff. The bass staff is in the key of D major (one sharp) and contains four measures of music. The first measure has a quarter note D2, a quarter note E2, and a quarter note F#2. The second measure has an eighth note G2, an eighth note A2, an eighth note B2, an eighth note C3, an eighth note D3, an eighth note E3, an eighth note F#3, and an eighth note G3. The third measure has an eighth note A3, an eighth note B3, an eighth note C4, an eighth note D4, an eighth note E4, an eighth note F#4, an eighth note G4, and an eighth note A4. The fourth measure has a quarter note B3, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note D4. The tablature staff below has four measures: the first measure has fret numbers 4, 5, 5; the second measure has 7, 5, 7, 4; the third measure has 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 3, 3, 3, 3; and the fourth measure has 5, 5, 5, 4, 5, 6, 7.

The second system of music consists of a bass staff and a tablature staff. The bass staff continues from the first system and ends with a double bar line. It contains four measures: the first measure has a quarter note D2, a quarter note E2, and a quarter note F#2; the second measure has an eighth note G2, an eighth note A2, an eighth note B2, an eighth note C3, an eighth note D3, an eighth note E3, an eighth note F#3, and an eighth note G3; the third measure has an eighth note A3, an eighth note B3, an eighth note C4, an eighth note D4, an eighth note E4, an eighth note F#4, an eighth note G4, and an eighth note A4; the fourth measure has a quarter note B3, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note D4. The tablature staff below has four measures: the first measure has fret numbers 5, 5, 5; the second measure has 7, 5, 7, 4; the third measure has 7, 7, 7, 7, 5, 7, 5; and the fourth measure has 7, 5, 0, 5, 5, 5, 5.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Paul Wolfe has been playing since he was 15...which is wayyyyy too long.

He is based in London in the UK where he runs one of the most sought after cover bands for weddings, corporate parties, charity balls and events.

Paul also runs a how to play bass website focusing on beginners. Paul's teaching philosophy is song based rather than scale based - as most private teachers seem to be. Paul is the author of Bass Hannon Volume 1 and Deliberate Practice: How To Make Constant And Consistent Progress In Your Bass Playing.