

## Walking bass (jazz)

Gunther Schuller

<https://doi.org/10.1093/gmo/9781561592630.article.J470600>

**Published in print:** 20 January 2002

**Published online:** 2003

(1) In jazz, a line played pizzicato on a double bass in regular crotchets in 4/4 meter, the notes usually moving stepwise or in intervallic patterns not necessarily restricted to the main pitches of the harmony. The style arose as the use of stride piano patterns declined, and its first master was Walter Page in the late 1920s and early 1930s; it has since become *lingua franca* for jazz bass players, allowing them to contribute pulse, harmony, and counter melody simultaneously.

(2) In boogie-woogie piano style, a repeating left-hand pattern of broken octaves. See Boogie-woogie, ex. 2.

### More on this topic

Walking bass\_ <<http://oxfordmusiconline.com/grovemusic/view/10.1093/gmo/9781561592630.001.0001/omo-9781561592630-e-0000029835>> in Oxford Music Online\_ <<http://oxfordmusiconline.com>>