



# Let's Get Funky

By Jason Kokoszka

There is nothing like a funky groove with sixteenth-note strumming and slap bass to get your pulse pounding. In this issue, we'll be looking at an example that should satisfy your funk fascination, which involves practical application of the CAGED system discussed in the current Theory Corner. The Theory Corner includes an excerpt from Raleigh Green's new book, *The Versatile Guitarist*, available through Alfred Publishing.

Try these ideas out with your friends; complementary parts for guitar, bass and drums are included below.

Make it funky, now!

## Guitar

Have you grown tired of using the same chord voicings over and over? If so, this example will show you how the CAGED system can unlock new possibilities. This tune has five basic chords ( $A^b$ ,  $D^b$ ,  $E^b$ ,  $B^b$ min and  $G^b$ ), but changing voicings for some chords makes the piece more interesting. Try inverting chords to add new life to your favorite simple songs!

The image displays seven guitar chord diagrams arranged in two rows. Each diagram shows a fretboard with strings and frets, indicating fingerings and barre positions. The diagrams are as follows:

- Top Row:**
  - $A^b$ : Fret 7, strings 4, 3, 1, 2, x. Fingering: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.
  - $E^b/G$ : Fret 7, strings x, 3, 1, 1, 1, x. Fingering: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.
  - $D^b/F$ : Fret 4, strings x, 3, 1, 1, 1, x. Fingering: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.
  - $A^b(2)$ : Fret 3, strings 1, 3, 4, 2, 1, 1. Fingering: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.
- Bottom Row:**
  - $D^b$ : Fret x, strings 1, 3, 3, 3, x. Fingering: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.
  - $E^b$ : Fret x, strings 1, 3, 3, 3, x. Fingering: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.
  - $B^b$ min: Fret 1, strings 3, 4, 1, 1, 1. Fingering: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.
  - $G^b$ : Fret x, strings 4, 3, 1, 2, x. Fingering: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

### Bass

This bassline is a slap and pop workout you'll love. The chord symbols found in this part reflect the basic overall harmonic structure. Most of the downbeats are played as slaps in this example, except for beats 3 and 4 of measure 5 and beat 1 of measure 9. Practice these tricky measures slowly until you have them down cold. You'll make your friends want to dance with this groove!

3  $A\flat$   $E\flat$   $D\flat$   $A\flat$   $D\flat$   $E\flat$

1 4 1 4 1 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4  
S S P S P S P S S P S S S P S P S S P S

H 8 6 6 8 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 8 SL 8

5  $B\flat$ min  $G\flat$   $D\flat$   $B\flat$ min  $G\flat$   $E\flat$

1 4 4 1 1 4 1 1 4 1 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4  
S P P S P S P S P S P S P S P S P

P 8 8 6 4 4 4 4 8 8 6 4 5

7  $A\flat$   $E\flat$   $D\flat$   $A\flat$   $D\flat$   $E\flat$

1 4 1 4 1 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4  
S S P S P S P S S P S S P S P S P S P S S P S

H 6 6 6 8 6 6 6 6 3 5 6 8 H

9  $A\flat$   $E\flat$   $D\flat$   $A\flat$   $D\flat$   $E\flat$   $A\flat$

1 3 1 1 4 1 1 4 1 4 1 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 1  
P S P S S S P S P S S S P S P S P S S

H 6 6 6 8 6 4 4 4 6 8 6 8 6 8 H P SL

# Drums

You can't have funk without a funky drummer! The main pattern uses the bass drum, the snare and the hi-hat, with a fill at the end. When playing the hi-hat pattern, try accenting the sixteenth notes that fall on each beat. Measures 5 and 6 add the pedaled hi-hat and the ride bell for a different flavor. Enjoy!

The image shows a drum score for a 4/4 funk piece, consisting of five systems of staves. The first system starts with a 4/4 time signature and includes a hi-hat pattern with '+' and 'o' symbols above it, and a 'simile' instruction. The second system is marked with a '3' above the first measure. The third system is marked with a '5' above the first measure. The fourth system is marked with a '7' above the first measure and includes another hi-hat pattern with '+' and 'o' symbols and a 'simile' instruction. The fifth system is marked with a '9' above the first measure and ends with a double bar line and a final hi-hat symbol.

For more information on the CAGED system, be sure to check out the Theory Corner section of this newsletter, or order Raleigh Green's book, *The Versatile Guitarist*, at [www.ordermusictoday.com](http://www.ordermusictoday.com). Visit Raleigh Green at [www.WorkshopLive.com](http://www.WorkshopLive.com) today!

For some more insight on funk, guitarists will want to check out the many lessons on this concept in the rock, blues, and acoustic curriculums, as well as Tobias Hurwitz's advanced rock guitar lesson "Advanced Minor Scales and Modes Lesson 1," in which he demonstrates the CAGED system in relation to scale patterns.

Not a guitarist? Bassists should check out funk lessons in the rock curriculum, taught by Tracy Walton, Sharon Ray, Dave Overthrow, Chris Kuffner and Matt Scharfglass.

Have fun—more in just two short weeks!