
Stillness in Time (1994)



Transcription Notes: If you read through many of the old interviews done with Stuart you will know that he was highly inspired by Latin rhythm and time concepts. Although Jay liked this aspect of his playing, none of it really showed up on the first album. By the time the 'The Return of the Space Cowboy' was released, Stu's Latin vibe was clearly showing through – possibly due to the arrival of new drummer Derrick McKenzie too. 'Stillness in Time' is by far one of the most technical Jamiroquai bass lines in terms of timing.

The bass line is predominately based on a root-fifth movement which sometimes includes the 9th also. He then embellishes on top of this to flesh-out the bass part more - but this basic and common outline is always there.

This is another of those tracks using the Warwick 4 string. The sound is not so defined and since it is an airy Latin/Samba groove, a lot of the notes are tied over to ring. The sound you are aiming to replicate (or get similar to) the record would be to boost the bass a little and add extra middle to your sound. Make sure it is smooth and punchy – muddy isn't a bad sound for this track, particularly almost Dub like.

You will be required to use the full extent of your technique on this track to nail it well. Try to consistently be a bar or two ahead of your playing (sight reading wise) so you are aware of what is approaching. The most difficult areas of play will be in both the Pre-Chorus and Chorus, where your timing and fret speed will be vital.

Track Info: Released as a Summer tune in 1995, the track made number 9 in the UK charts and was performed at many festivals and live performances that year. There is also a 'Vinyl' version of this track out there, and can be found on the Single release. This was the version most commonly performed live, where by Stuart would use some unusual techniques. You can check this out of the Glastonbury 1995 bootlegs.