
Mr. Moon (1994)



Transcription Notes: A slap bassist's dream track! A bass line featuring some of Stuart's great slap ability and technique. Upon first listen, this track may not sound as difficult as it actually is. It features very intricate rhythms, syncopations, and grooves. Although based upon just two sections, the track never tires and is full of energy throughout. This slapped line is the essence of groove. This track was recorded using the Warwick Streamer Stage I 4 string.

The first riff you are going to play is the one used for the Verse, Solo and Outro sections. It's just 'plain damn funky' and has an unlimited amount of variations in rhythm and note choice, so watch out for those. Learn to 'feel the groove' and use dead notes and syncopations to your advantage. You are now playing both a bass line and a drum rhythm tied in to one.

The hardest part of the riff you have to play here is the section under the Fm6 chord. Although it doesn't appear to be anything special, you will have to work hard to get it sounding tight and precise. This part can be played in one of two ways: if you want to play it like Stu, then you have to get your popping fingers under that D string fast to get that snapping action. Personally I find it easier to slap the whole riff, using my thumb on the D String (another popular Zender-style technique).

Next up you have the Chorus riff. It starts with a simple chromatic line, and then during bar 2 you will face a sixteenth note figure which includes playing three D's. To get this sounding right, pay attention of the arrangement in that TAB - if you don't have the TAB then; note that the first D is hammered on to from the C, the second is slapped, and the third is played as an open D string. At first this is difficult, but with some practice you'll get it. You will need to slap the rhythm and dead notes on the D and G strings fast and precisely.

Sound wise you are after the dirty Funk slap sound. I advise favouring the front pick-up with lots treble and a little bass boost. Don't take too much middle out as this adds to the dirtiness, but remove enough to avoid the slap sounding too 'thumpy'.

Track Info: This track was never released as a single, but was a favourite among Jamiroquai fans, especially during the TROTSC tour. If you can, check out any live version of this track (either video or sound). Most live cuts featured slap breakdowns and some awesome technique from Stu. You will also be able to see how he goes about playing it.