

# BASS NOTATION LEGEND

Bass music can be notated two different ways: on a *musical staff*, and in *tablature*.

**THE MUSICAL STAFF** shows pitches and rhythms and is divided by bar lines into measures. Pitches are named after the first seven letters of the alphabet.

**TABLATURE** graphically represents the bass fingerboard. Each horizontal line represents a string, and each number represents a fret.

Notes:  
A  
G  
F  
E  
D  
C  
B

Strings:  
high  
G  
D  
A  
E  
low

3rd string, open      2nd string, 2nd fret      1st & 2nd strings open, played together

**HAMMER-ON:** Strike the first (lower) note with one finger, then sound the higher note (on the same string) with another finger by fretting it without picking.

**PULL-OFF:** Place both fingers on the notes to be sounded. Strike the first note and without picking, pull the finger off to sound the second (lower) note.

**LEGATO SLIDE:** Strike the first note and then slide the same fret-hand finger up or down to the second note. The second note is not struck.

**SHIFT SLIDE:** Same as legato slide, except the second note is struck.

**TRILL:** Very rapidly alternate between the notes indicated by continuously hammering on and pulling off.

**TREMOLO PICKING:** The note is picked as rapidly and continuously as possible.

**VIBRATO:** The string is vibrated by rapidly bending and releasing the note with the fretting hand.

**SHAKE:** Using one finger, rapidly alternate between two notes on one string by sliding either a half-step above or below.

**NATURAL HARMONIC:** Strike the note while the fret hand lightly touches the string directly over the fret indicated.

**MUFFLED STRINGS:** A percussive sound is produced by laying the fret hand across the string(s) without depressing them and striking them with the pick hand.

**BEND:** Strike the note and bend up the interval shown.

**BEND AND RELEASE:** Strike the note and bend up as indicated, then release back to the original note. Only the first note is struck.

**RIGHT-HAND TAP:** Hammer ("tap") the fret indicated with the "pick-hand" index or middle finger and pull off to the note fretted by the fret hand.

**LEFT-HAND TAP:** Hammer ("tap") the fret indicated with the "fret-hand" index or middle finger.

**SLAP:** Strike ("slap") string with right-hand thumb.

**POP:** Snap ("pop") string with right-hand index or middle finger.

## Additional Musical Definitions

(*accent*)

- Accentuate note (play it louder).

(*accent*)

- Accentuate note with great intensity.

(*staccato*)

- Play the note short.



- Downstroke



- Upstroke

**D.S. al Coda**

- Go back to the sign (§), then play until the measure marked "To Coda," then skip to the section labelled "Coda."

**D.C. al Fine**

- Go back to the beginning of the song and play until the measure marked "Fine" (end).

**Bass Fig.**

- Label used to recall a recurring pattern.

**Fill**

- Label used to identify a brief melodic figure which is to be inserted into the arrangement.

tacet

- Instrument is silent (drops out).

- Repeat measures between signs.

- When a repeated section has different endings, play the first ending only the first time and the second ending only the second time.

**NOTE:** Tablature numbers in parentheses mean:

1. The note is being sustained over a system (note in standard notation is tied), or
2. The note is sustained, but a new articulation (such as a hammer-on, pull-off, slide or vibrato) begins.

# Aces High

Words and Music by Steve Harris

## Intro

Moderately fast Rock ♩ = 160

F#m D E

\*Strum chords w/ fingernails throughout.

F#m D E

3. D E Am

Faster ♩ = 252

F G

1., 2., 3. 4.

## Verse

E5 F#5 G5 A5 G5 F#5 E5 G5 F#5 D5 F#5 D5

1. There goes — the si - ren — that warns of — the air raid, —  
2. See additional lyrics

# The Number of the Beast

Words and Music by Steve Harris

## Intro

Fast Rock ♩ = 195

D

8va -----

mf

let ring -----

12 12 12 11 12 12 12 | 14 12 12 14 12 12 14 12 12 14 12 12

## Verse

D

1. I left a lone. My mind was

2. See additional lyrics

8va -----

let ring -----

14 12 12 12 11 12 12 12 | 14 12 12 14 12 12 14 12 12 14 12 12 14 12 12 11 12 12

C

blank. I need - ed time to think, to

8va -----

let ring -----

let ring -----

14 12 12 14 12 12 14 12 12 14 12 12 | 14 10 10 10 9 10 10 10 | 12 10 10 12 10 10 12 10 10

D

get the mem - 'ries from my mind. \_ What did I

8va -----

let ring -----

12 10 10 10 9 10 10 10 | 14 12 12 14 12 12 14 12 12 14 12 12 | 14 12 12 12 11 12 12

# Flight of Icarus

Words and Music by Bruce Dickinson and Adrian Smith

**Intro**  
Moderate Rock ♩ = 110

A5 E5 F#5

*Play 3 times*

The intro consists of two systems. The first system shows a bass line starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic, followed by a series of eighth notes. The second system shows a guitar line with a 7th fret barre and a series of eighth notes. The bass line continues with a series of eighth notes.

**Verse**

F#m

The verse begins with a guitar line in F#m, featuring a melodic line with a slur over the first two notes. The bass line consists of eighth notes. The lyrics are: "1. As the sun \_\_\_\_\_ breaks \_\_\_\_\_ a -". Below the lyrics, it says "2. See additional lyrics".

The verse continues with a guitar line and a bass line of eighth notes. The lyrics are: "bove the ground, \_\_\_\_\_ an old man stands on \_\_\_\_\_ the".

The verse concludes with a guitar line and a bass line. The lyrics are: "hill. As the ground \_\_\_\_\_ warms \_\_\_\_\_ to the". The guitar line has a slur over the first two notes. The bass line ends with a series of zeros (0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0).