

# Walkin' Jazz-Blues

Here's a jazzed-up blues progression with a nifty walking bass line. Notice it's 12 bar length. There are many variations/substitutions for this basic theme but this will give you a good start. Practice the bass line (stems down) alone. Pay close attention to the left hand fingerings. After working out the chord voicings, put the two parts together as written. You may want to practice the chords alone by playing the progression with a steady quarter note rhythm. This is commonly referred to as the Freddie Green-style "4 to the bar" rhythm named after the late guitarist for the Count Basie Big Band. Notice how the bass line approaches the following chord using: a) chromatic notes (bars 1, 2 & 3); b) half steps from above or below (bars 4 & 12); and c) root-fifth sequences (bar 7). Experiment with these bass approaches to develop your own lines. Try substituting other chords from the same chord family to vary the harmony.

♩ = ♩♩ (swing feel)

Chord diagrams and musical notation for the 12-bar progression:

**Bar 1:** G13 (1 234), C9 (21333), G13 (1 234), D7#9 (2134), G+7 (1 234)

**Bar 5:** C9 (21333), C#dim7 (2314), G13 (131241), Am7 (131111), Bm7 (131111), E7#9 (2134)

**Bar 9:** Am7 (2 333), D7#9 (2134), G13 (1 234), E7#9 (2134), Am7 (2 333), D7#5#9 (21344)

The musical notation shows the treble clef staff with chords and the bass clef staff with a walking bass line. The bass line consists of quarter notes with stems pointing down. The progression is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#).