

The Real Thing Bass Guitar Transcription Book [CV Database]  
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Billy Gould about The Real thing:

From Out Of Nowhere

"This one started off as drum and keyboard parts. It was originally kind of straightforward. I put the bass part in to give it some punch and make it move a little better. I play this one with a pick. When I use a pick, I'm almost always doing downstrokes."

Epic

"Mike Patton came up with the rap idea for this after all of the music was laid out. The rap fills in the holes in the verses and works real well there. For the break section that has the string bends, I kick in my Tube Screamer and DOD Flanger. I wrote the part at the end by overdubbing a bunch of keyboard parts on a 4-track. The fish in the video was brought down by some guy from a fish farm. After we filmed it they threw him back in the bucket and took him away. He lived. We made him famous."

Falling To Piece

"This one's played with fingers rather than a pick. The song was already written, and I added that trilled bass part in the beginning. There's a record out that was produced by Mickey Hart from The Grateful Dead that features Tibetan monks chanting; I was trying to get that kind of effect on my bass."

Surprise! You're Dead!

"Jim wrote this entire song. Everything I play is exactly the same way he plays it. I start off with fingers and switch to a pick for the middle section."

Zombie Eaters

"This song is two separate ideas put together. The whole beginning, including all the guitar parts, was written by Jim. The second half was one of the first things we ever wrote years ago. It started off as a rhythm exercise we used to jam on. There's this really cool counter-rhythm that I do toward the end of it."

The Real Thing

"I use the distortion and flanger for the beginning. In the verses I use muting and accents to get more definition on the pick attacks. For the quieter sections where I play the chords, I put flange on."

Underwater Love

"This one was also created mostly on drums and keyboards. To give it more punch I added the slap line. The part at the end has that warm Fender-type sound."

The Morning After

"This one's pretty straightforward. I use a pick to get a sharper attack, and I put a lot of chords in to help build things up."

Woodpecker From Mars

"I never do this one exactly the same way twice. Again, it has a lot to do with the up/down movement of your body. It's a very natural, fluid thing. It's fun to play, and it's really not that hard once you get the [right hand] motion down. It's based on an African rhythm that's counted in groups of two rather than in fours."

War Pigs

"We do this pretty straight, basically the same as Black Sabbath, except my bass parts are different. Where Geezer Butler used to play around the drums, I try to play more with the drums. I also do the whole song with a pick, which makes the middle part [bridge] different."

Edge Of the World

"This one's real simple! It's all done with fingers. There's no guitar just piano and bass. The verses are minor and it goes to major for the chorus."