

# ***Bass Transcription - Geddy Lee's Complete Bass Part on Rush's "Jacob's Ladder" by Josh Needleman.***

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*Bass Transcription - Geddy Lee's Complete Bass Part on Jacob's Ladder by Rush by Josh Needleman. This is one of my favorite Rush songs from Permanent Waves (1980). Geddy's growling Rickenbacker 4001 Bass does an amazing job of complimenting the lyrics which are about a rainstorm. Even though the band weaves in and out of a variety of tempos and time signatures, the composition is very direct, cohesive and epic. I recommend that you listen to the song several times before attempting to play it. This will help you to maximize your efforts and make putting it all together a lot easier. Be sure to pay close attention to dynamics, tempo changes, accents, and note length.... Enjoy! Josh Needleman*

# Jacob's Ladder

From the Album *Permanent Waves* (1980) By Rush  
Geddy Lee's Bass Line

Standard tuning

♩ = 114

1

*mf*

T  
A  
B

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

2

T  
A  
B

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4

3

T  
A  
B

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

4

T  
A  
B

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

5

T  
A  
B

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

6

T  
A  
B

3 3 3 3 3 3

7

T  
A  
B

3 3 3 3 3 3

8

T  
A  
B

3 3 3 3 3

9

T  
A  
B

3 3 3 3 3

10 11 12

T  
A  
B 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

13 14 15

T  
A  
B 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

16 17 18

T  
A  
B 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

19 20 21  $J = 124$

T  
A  
B 3 3 3 3 1 3 4 2 2 2 0 2

22 23 24

T  
A  
B 3 3 3 2 3 2 2 2 0 2 3 3 2 3 5 3 5

25 26 27

T  
A  
B 2 2 2 0 2 3 3 3 3 2 3 2 2 2 0 2

28 29 30

3 3 2 3 5 3 5 | 4 4 2 4 4 4 4 | 3 3 3 2 3

This system contains measures 28, 29, and 30. The bass staff shows eighth-note patterns with accents. The guitar staff shows fret numbers: 3 3 2 3 5 3 5 for measure 28; 4 4 2 4 4 4 4 for measure 29; and 3 3 3 2 3 for measure 30.

31 32 33

2 2 2 0 2 | 3 3 2 3 5 3 5 | 3 3 2 3 5 3 5 2

This system contains measures 31, 32, and 33. Measure 32 has a first ending bracket. Measure 33 has a second ending bracket. The bass staff shows eighth-note patterns with accents and a fermata. The guitar staff shows fret numbers: 2 2 2 0 2 for measure 31; 3 3 2 3 5 3 5 for measure 32; and 3 3 2 3 5 3 5 2 for measure 33.

34 35 36

(2) 2 2 0 2 | 3 3 3 2 3 | 2 2 2 2 0 2

This system contains measures 34, 35, and 36. The bass staff shows eighth-note patterns with accents. The guitar staff shows fret numbers: (2) 2 2 0 2 for measure 34; 3 3 3 2 3 for measure 35; and 2 2 2 2 0 2 for measure 36.

37 38 39

3 3 2 3 5 3 5 2 | (2) 2 2 0 2 | 3 3 3 2 3

This system contains measures 37, 38, and 39. The bass staff shows eighth-note patterns with accents and a fermata. The guitar staff shows fret numbers: 3 3 2 3 5 3 5 2 for measure 37; (2) 2 2 0 2 for measure 38; and 3 3 3 2 3 for measure 39.

40 41 42

2 2 2 2 0 2 | 3 3 2 3 5 3 5 | 4 4 2 4 4 4 4

This system contains measures 40, 41, and 42. The bass staff shows eighth-note patterns with accents. The guitar staff shows fret numbers: 2 2 2 2 0 2 for measure 40; 3 3 2 3 5 3 5 for measure 41; and 4 4 2 4 4 4 4 for measure 42.

43 44 45

3 3 3 2 3 | 2 2 2 0 2 | 3 3 2 3 5 3 5

This system contains measures 43, 44, and 45. The bass staff shows eighth-note patterns with accents. The guitar staff shows fret numbers: 3 3 3 2 3 for measure 43; 2 2 2 0 2 for measure 44; and 3 3 2 3 5 3 5 for measure 45.

46 47 48

TAB 2 4 2 4 4 4 4 3 3 3 2 3 2 2 2 0 2

49 50 51

TAB 3 3 2 3 5 3 5 2 2 2 0 2 3 3 3 3 2 3

$\text{♩} = 126$

52 53

TAB 2 2 2 2 2 3 0 2 2 2 2 2 3 0

54 55

TAB 2 2 2 2 3 3 0 0 2 2 2 2 3 3 0 3

56 57

TAB 2 2 2 2 3 3 0 2 2 2 2 3 3 0

58 59

TAB 2 2 2 2 3 3 0 0 2 2 2 2 3 3 0 3

♩ = 124

60 61

TAB: 2 2 2 2 3 3 0 | 2 2 2 2 3 3 0

Detailed description: This system contains measures 60 and 61. The music is in bass clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 5/4 time signature. Measure 60 starts with a repeat sign and contains a sequence of eighth notes: G2 (with accent), A2 (with accent), B2 (with accent), C3 (with accent), D3, E3, F#3, G3. Measure 61 continues with eighth notes: A3 (with accent), B3 (with accent), C4 (with accent), D4 (with accent), E4, F#4, G4. The TAB below shows fret numbers: 2 2 2 2 3 3 0 for measure 60 and 2 2 2 2 3 3 0 for measure 61.

62 63

5x

5x

TAB: 2 2 2 2 3 3 0 || 2 2 2 2 3 0 3

Detailed description: This system contains measures 62 and 63. Measure 62 has eighth notes: G2 (with accent), A2 (with accent), B2 (with accent), C3 (with accent), D3, E3, F#3, G3. Measure 63 has eighth notes: A3 (with accent), B3 (with accent), C4 (with accent), D4 (with accent), E4, F#4, G4. The TAB below shows fret numbers: 2 2 2 2 3 3 0 for measure 62 and 2 2 2 2 3 0 3 for measure 63. A double bar line with repeat dots is at the end of measure 63, with '5x' written above and below it.

64 65

TAB: 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 0 | 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 0

Detailed description: This system contains measures 64 and 65. Measure 64 has eighth notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3. Measure 65 has eighth notes: A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4. The TAB below shows fret numbers: 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 0 for measure 64 and 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 0 for measure 65.

66 67 68

*mf* *mp*

TAB: 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 | 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 | 5 5 5 5 5

Detailed description: This system contains measures 66, 67, and 68. Measures 66 and 67 are in 5/4 time and feature dotted quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3. Measure 68 is in 3/4 time and features dotted quarter notes: A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4. Dynamics are *mf* for measures 66-67 and *mp* for measure 68. The TAB below shows fret number 5 for all notes in all measures.

69 70 71

TAB: 5 5 5 5 5 | 5 5 5 5 5 | 5 5 5 5 5

Detailed description: This system contains measures 69, 70, and 71. Measures 69 and 70 are in 5/4 time and feature dotted quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3. Measure 71 is in 3/4 time and features dotted quarter notes: A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4. The TAB below shows fret number 5 for all notes in all measures.

72 73 74

TAB: 5 5 5 5 5 | 5 5 5 5 5 | 5 5 5 5 5

Detailed description: This system contains measures 72, 73, and 74. Measures 72 and 73 are in 5/4 time and feature dotted quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3. Measure 74 is in 3/4 time and features dotted quarter notes: A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4. The TAB below shows fret number 5 for all notes in all measures.

*Tacet*

75 76 78 16

*Moog Synthesizer & Voice Box Space Jam* *Guitar Riffs for 8 measures*  
*Drums enter after 8 measures*

T  
A  
B 5 5 5 5 5

94 95 96

*mf*

*mf*

T  
A  
B 0 0 0 0 0 0 4 4 4 4 4 4

97 98 99

*f*

*f*

T  
A  
B 4 4 4 4 4 4 5 7 4 5 4 7 5 7 4 5 4 7 7

100 101

T  
A  
B 2 4 1 2 1 4 2 4 1 2 1 4 4

102

*mf*

*mf*

T  
A  
B 5 7 4 5 4 7 7 9 6 7 6 9 9

103

T  
A  
B 2 4 1 2 1 4 2 4 1 2 1 4 4

♩ = 122

104 105 106

*fff* Visual Cues from Drummer.....

107 108 109 110 111

112 113 114 115 116

117 118 119 120 121

♩ = 387

♩ = 122

122 123 124 125

*mf* *fff*



♩ = 125

Musical notation for measures 126 and 127. The piece is in 6/8 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 126 starts with a half note G2 (marked *ff*) followed by a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. Measure 127 begins with a half note G2, followed by a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, and a quarter note C3. The final three notes of measure 127 are marked with accents (>). The guitar tablature below shows the fretting for these notes: measure 126 (0, 2, 2, 2) and measure 127 (2, 2, 2, 2, 0, 2).

♩ = 120 *rall.*

Musical notation for measures 128, 129, and 130. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 128 contains a half note G2, a half note A2, and a half note B2. Measure 129 contains a half note G2, a half note A2, and a half note B2. Measure 130 contains a half note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2, with a fermata over the final B2. The guitar tablature below shows the fretting: measure 128 (4, 4, 4, 4, 4), measure 129 (2, 2, 4, 2), and measure 130 (4, 5, 4, 2).

*rall.* ----- ♩ = 75

Musical notation for measures 131 and 132. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 131 contains a half note G2. Measure 132 contains a half note A2. The guitar tablature below shows the fretting: measure 131 (0) and measure 132 ((0)).