Stand By Me
Ben E. King – Baritone Lesson
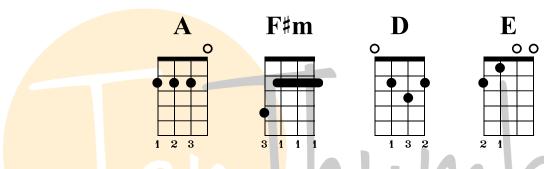
TenThumbs

Key: A
Harmony: A, F#m, D, E
BPM: 119 BPM
Video Tutorial: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NvpTUvqF1A
Chord Shapes:

Chord Progression

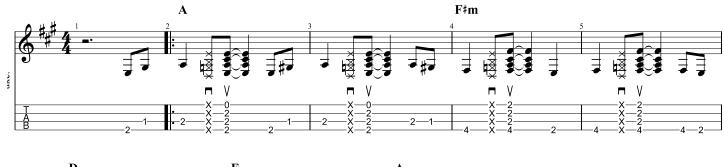|A //// |A //// |F#m //// |F#m ////
|D //// |E //// |A   //// |A   ////

Suggested Strum Pattern – If playing without bass line

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1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |    D - Down
                |    U - Up
D   X U   U X U |    X – Mute
```

Tips for bass groove

- The bass grove is straight forward, they are all 8th notes on the 4th beat apart from the first F#m measure where you play a ¼ note.
- Note how all the notes end a note in the chord, these are called "chord tones" and as you continue to learn more about bass you will see that bass lines revolve around chord tones and arpeggios.
- The bass functions as a bridge between the drums and the harmony, meaning guitar, piano, ukulele, etc.
- That is why some people joke about not noticing the bass, but that is okay because the purpose of the bass isn't the flash, ornamentation, or accent, it is there to bring things together.
- If you understand intervals try and transpose this bass line, exercises like that will open the entire fretboard to you.

Lyrics and chords

[Intro – Either strum or play the bass groove]
A A F♯m F♯m D E A A

[Verse 1]
A   A   F♯m   F♯m
When the night has come   and the land is dark
        D   E   A
And the moon is the only light we'll see
        A   A   F♯m   F♯m
No, I won't be a-fraid, no, I won't be a-fraid
        D   E   A   A
Just as long as you stand, stand by me so darling, darling

[Chorus]
A   A   F♯m   F♯m
stand by me ohhh, stand by me
     D   E   A   A
Oh, stand,   stand by me,   Stand by me.

[Verse 2]
        A   A   F♯m   F♯m
If the sky that we look u-pon should tumble and fall
        D   E   A   A
Or the mountain should crumble to the sea,
        A   A   F♯m   F♯m
I won't cry, I won't cry, no, I won't shed a tear

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     D              E                    A
Just as long as you stand, stand by me.  So darling, darling
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[Chorus]
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A         A          F#m        F#m
stand by me ohhh, stand by me
    D       E              A                A
Oh, stand,    stand by me,    Stand by me.
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[Instrumental – You can improvise with the A major and A major pentatonic]
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A A F#m F#m D E A A
A A F#m F#m D E A A
```

[Chorus]
```
A         A          F#m        F#m
stand by me ohhh, stand by me
    D       E              A                A
Oh, stand,    stand by me,    Stand by me.
```

[Coda]
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                                    A         A         F#m        F#m
Whenever you're in trouble won't you stand by me, oh, stand by me
     D              E              A  A
Oh, stand now, oh, stand, stand by me
A(Let it ring, recording fades out)
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