
Manifest Destiny (1994)



Transcription Notes: If you have ever tried to play along with this track in standard tuning, you may have realised that the pitch was slightly out. This is because the track is slightly out of concert pitch, rather than tuned strangely. Stu doesn't recall why the track is slightly out of pitch, but personally I believe it may have been recorded in standard tuning and had gone slightly out of pitch on a conversion, or maybe (if recorded on tape) sped up? To play this transcription with the track you will have to tune your bass up half of a semi-tone, not a complete semi-tone, but half way between. So once done your strings will be tuned half way between the following; E-F, A-A#, D-D#, G-G#. Alternatively, and probably a more simple way (if your tuner can accommodate for it), you can set your tuner to 450Hz concert pitch (as opposed to 440Hz) and tune to that. This should result in the same tuning.

'Manifest Destiny' is probably the most melodic Jamiroquai bass line you will ever hear. Part of the main riff was written by Jay, which was hummed to Stu to translate on to bass. The following parts were written by Stu so the riff could loop round. The track was originally recorded using a Warwick fretless bass put through a flanger effect. It was later redone as Jay found it hard to pitch the vocals to it.

The bass eventually used on the track was the Warwick 4 string. To replicate the sound of the track is a tough one. The sound is very warm and smooth, which presents that maybe the pickup section was fully on the front. The tone controls are very rolled off, and as a result, makes the bass very hard to hear during the slapped Chorus areas.

During the main riff there are slight variations. These usually occur towards the end of the riff or leading in to a new section. The main fill you want to be aware of is the muted triplet and slide. I would advise you to listen carefully to the record at first and learn to play it slowly. You will probably find it easier to nail in the long run. As you can see from the transcription, the last Chorus and Outro sections contain a lot of dead notes. In some ways this is similar to the techniques Stu used on 'Virtual Insanity', but because of the tone roll-offs it can be a lot harder to hear. These sections will take a lot of hard work to learn, as there are various rhythm patterns played incorporating these dead notes.

Track Info: Those familiar with the live Jamiroquai bootleg scene may recognise the track name 'Let me Believe'. This was an early version of 'Manifest Destiny' played during live dates which was slightly different to how it actually turned out.