

THE BASS GUITAR BASICS YOU MUST KNOW

It's often hard to know where to begin when learning the bass guitar; there are so many things to learn. This list will help you focus on what will give you a fantastic foundation from which you can really accelerate your learning.



SCALES

One octave major, natural minor, major pentatonic and minor pentatonic.

ARPEGGIOS

One octave major, minor, dominant 7th, major 7th, minor 7th, minor 7th flat 5.

TECHNIQUE

Basic fingerstyle technique with the left and right hands comfortably coordinated. See 'Left And Right Hand Checklist'* and 'Easy But Useful Single String Exercise'*.

THEORY

Know what a scale is and how you form a triad, arpeggio and chord from it. Know the definitions of semitones, tones and intervals.

FRETBOARD KNOWLEDGE

Complete understanding of how notes work on the piano and therefore the bass. Know the name of EVERY note on the fretboard comfortably.

READING

Reading music is not essential but it's a brilliant way to learn music quickly as well as being very useful for many gigging situations.

LISTENING

Listening means working on your ear so you can identify the sounds of intervals well and also studying the great bass players in history. If you don't know who Jaco Pastorius, James Jamerson, Flea and Marcus Miller etc. etc. are, find out!! By learning about the history of your instrument you learn so much about how to play well. Listening to the greats will teach you all you need to know.

TUNES

Memorise all kinds of riffs, songs, tunes, etc. Know how to play a 12 Bar Blues*. Make sure you know how to play a handful of things off by heart. Start simple and then build up what you know gradually and continuously. Start with How To Play 9 Famous Riffs On The Bass Guitar*.