

QUICKSTART BASS: WEEK ONE

VISUALIZE

- Memorize the names of the open strings: E A D G (**E**at **A**t **D**on's **G**rill).
- Count Strings 1-4 (thin strings to thick strings)
- Count Frets—memorize which dots on your fingerboard = what fret numbers.
- Learn “The Bass”: headstock, neck, & body (page 4)

APPLIED

MUSIC

THEORY

Basic Definitions:

1. **Open Strings**—unfretted notes, there are four of them: E A D G. We count these open from high (thin/1) to low (thick/4).
2. **Chords**—chords are guitar players *strum* (at what we'll learn to play low register melodies to), 3 or more notes played simultaneously.
3. **Melody**—a melody (or anything melodic) any part of a song *that can be sung* (which includes most bass lines). Every song has a main melody, which is what the singer sings lyrics to. Bass parts often contain melodic “stuff” as well, in the form of “riffs” and “licks.”
4. **Chord Progression**—two or more chords grouped together (chord changes).
5. **Riffs/Licks**—melodies within the bass and guitar parts; “Dazed & Confused” for example.

TABLATURE

- Reading Tablature (page 10)
- In the style of: “Good” (see back of this sheet)

NOTE READING

Reading Basic Rhythms (page 9): Whole, Half, & Quarter Note Rhythms.

TECHNIQUE

- “Guitar Fingering” & “Upright Fingering” warmup exercises (see attached sheet).
- Pick-style Technique—pages 11 & 12
- Read pages 7 & 8.

Left Hand

1. Guitar Fingerings vs. Upright Bass Fingerings
2. Thumb Position

Right Hand

1. Three methods of striking a string
2. Pick Style Technique

WEB:

<http://www.rodgoelz.com/quickstartbass.htm>

GOOD

As recorded by Better Than Ezra

I A B

G D E^{mi} C

Intro/1st Verse/Chorus/2nd Verse

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is a bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It contains four measures of music with notes: G2, A2, B2, C3; D3, E3, F#3, G3; A3, B3, C4, D4; E4, F#4, G4, A4. The bottom staff is a guitar staff with fret numbers: 3 3 3 3 | 5 5 5 5 | 0 0 0 0 | 3 3 3 2.

S A E F#^{mi} D A E F#^{mi} D

The second system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is a bass clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). It contains four measures of music with notes: A2, B2, C3, D3; E3, F#3, G3, A3; B3, C4, D4, E4; F#4, G4, A4, B4. The bottom staff is a guitar staff with fret numbers: 5 5 5 5 0 0 0 0 | 2 2 2 2 5 5 5 5 | 5 5 5 5 0 0 0 0 | 2 2 2 2 5 5 5 5.

A E F#^{mi} D A E F#^{mi} D

The third system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is a bass clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). It contains four measures of music with notes: A2, B2, C3, D3; E3, F#3, G3, A3; B3, C4, D4, E4; F#4, G4, A4, B4. The bottom staff is a guitar staff with fret numbers: 5 5 5 5 0 0 0 0 | 2 2 2 2 5 5 5 5 | 5 5 5 5 0 0 0 0 | 2 2 2 2 5 5 5 5.

