

What to Learn on Bass (in Order)

Strap in - here's 55 steps that'll take you from bass-less bummeR to badass bassist. I've included the best free resources I can find for every step, so you only have to buy my course as a last resort. 😊

LEVEL 0 – DUH

Step 1 - Buy a bass

- ☐ [Which Bass to Buy?](#)
- ☐ [Precision vs. Jazz \(If I Could Only Have One...\)](#)
- ☐ [Ibanez SR300E vs. Yamaha TRBX304](#)
- ☐ [7 Basses You Should NEVER Buy](#)

Step 2 - Learn how to tune

- ☐ [How To Tune Your Bass \(Beginner Bass Basics\)](#)

Step 3 - Plug into your amp and put on a strap

- ☐ [Beginner Bass Lessons #1 \(Your Very First Lesson\)](#)

LEVEL 1 – SUPER NOOB

Step 4 - Play simple music

- ☐ Focus on short, simple riffs. Song suggestions below.

Step 5 - Learn the names of your open strings

- ☐ E A D G (lowest sounding to highest sounding). You did it!

Step 6 - Learn to pluck

- ☐ [Bass Plucking Technique playlist](#)

Step 7 - Learn to fret

- ☐ [Bass Fretting Technique playlist](#)

Step 8 - Learn basics rhythms including whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes

- ☐ [Musictheory.net - Note Duration](#)
- ☐ [Rhythm Basics 1 - Whole, Half and Quarter Notes](#)

Step 9 - Learn to read tab

- ☐ [StudyBass - How to Read Bass Tab](#)

PRACTICE SONGS

- Psycho Killer - Talking Heads
- Walk on the Wild Side - Lou Reed
- Runnin' With The Devil - Van Halen
- [3 Beginner Bass Riffs \(You Can't F*** Up\)](#)
- [Spotify - 20 Easy Bass Songs](#)

LEVEL 2 – BEDROOM PLUNKER

Step 10 - Learn bass muting technique

- ❑ [Your Bass Muting Technique Sounds Like S**t \(How to Fix It\)](#)

Step 11 - Practice string crossing

- ❑ [Basic String Crossing Exercises for Bass](#)

Step 12 - Learn the finger roll technique

- ❑ [The Finger Roll - Bass](#)
- ❑ [Bass Player 'Finger Roll' Technique | Beginner/Intermediate](#)
- ❑ (There aren't very many resources on this outside of my course)

Step 13 - Learn about the drum kit

- ❑ [How to Play Bass with a Drummer \(Foolproof Beginner Blueprint\)](#)

Step 14 - Listen to the drums more

- ❑ (See above)

Step 15 - Practice basic rhythms a s***load

- ❑ Just put on some drums and do it.

Step 16 - Learn the 'chugging' rhythm

- ❑ 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and, or as Jack Black put it, rimbimbimbim bimbimbimbim
- ❑ [School of Rock - Ultimate Chugging tutorial](#)

Step 17 - Learn the 12 note system and how it applies to bass

- ❑ [Learn Your Bass Fretboard Notes \(Easy Starter Method\)](#)

Step 18 - Understand musical intervals

- ❑ [MusicTheory.net - Generic Intervals](#)
- ❑ [MusicTheory.net - Specific Intervals](#)

Step 19 - Learn what time signatures are

- ❑ [MusicTheory.net - Simple and Compound meter](#)

Step 20 - Learn to read sheet music

- ❑ [Talking Bass - Reading Music playlist](#)

Step 21 - Notice your progress

- ❑ There are no bass lessons anywhere telling you to do this, but it's super important. Record yourself or keep a practice journal so you can look back and see how awesome you've become.

PRACTICE SONGS

- 21 Guns - Green Day
- Child in Time - Deep Purple
- With or Without You - U2
- [Spotify - 50+ Songs with Recognizable Bass Lines](#)

LEVEL 3 – BASSIST IN TRAINING

Step 22 - Memorize more note names on the neck

- ☐ Start by memorizing the notes on the dots.

Step 23 - Learn the major scale

- ☐ [How to Learn Bass Scales \(Become a Better Bassist, Not a Robot\)](#)
- ☐ [Bass Scales for Beginners \(5 Stupidly Simple Steps\)](#)

Step 24 - Learn the minor scale

- ☐ [Minor Scales For Bass + "Roxanne" and "Crazy Train"](#)

Step 25 - Actually make music using those scales

- ☐ See step 23 resources.

Step 26 - Learn the theory of 'key' and 'key signature'

- ☐ [MusicTheory.net - Key Signatures](#)

Step 27 - Learn what chords and arpeggios are

- ☐ [MusicTheory.net - Intro to Chords](#)

Step 28 - Learn to play triads on bass

- ☐ [5 Easy "Shapes" for Kickass Bass Lines \(Bassist Shortcuts\)](#)
- ☐ [Major Triad Arpeggios For Bass \(Theory + Playalong Exercise\)](#)
- ☐ [Minor Triad Arpeggios For Bass \(w/ rock playalong\)](#)
- ☐ [Reggae Groove with Major + Minor Triads for Bass](#)

Step 29 - Learn about diatonic chord progressions and Nashville numbers

- ☐ [MusicTheory.net - Diatonic Triads](#)
- ☐ [Sweetwater - Nashville Numbers Demystified](#)

Step 30 - Listen to me plug the B2B course

- ☐ Sorry this one was fake. Plug incoming at the end of the PDF.

Step 31 - Understand common song forms like the 12 bar blues

- ☐ [Beginner Blues Bass "Survival Shapes" \(Simple Method for 12 Bar Blues\)](#)

Step 32 - Practice syncopation

- ☐ [Rhythm Basics 2 - Eighth Notes and Syncopation](#)

Step 33 - Learn to fret more efficiently

- ☐ [5 Levels of Bass Finger Exercise \(Beginner to Advanced\)](#)

Step 34 - Learn to pluck faster

- ☐ [7 Reasons Steve Harris is a Metal. Bass. Legend. \(+Lesson Tips\)](#)
- ☐ (muah hah hah)

PRACTICE SONGS

- Dreams - Fleetwood Mac
- Feel Good Inc. - Gorillaz
- Don't Stop Believin' - Journey
- [5 Popular Beginner Bass Lines \(Are You Playing Them Wrong?\)](#)

LEVEL 4 – BADASS

Step 35 - Learn common non-4/4 time signatures like 3/4, 6/8, and 12/8

- ❑ [MusicTheory.net - Simple and Compound meter](#)

Step 36 - Learn to play and count triplets

- ❑ [StudyBass - The Eighth Note Triplet](#)

Step 37 - Learn to play a shuffle using swing 8th notes

- ❑ [SWING vs STRAIGHT | BASS LESSON ON FEEL](#)
- ❑ [How To Play A Blues Shuffle On Bass: The Duck Dunn Blues Groove](#)

Step 38 - Practice the Ultimate Groove Workout

- ❑ [Victor Wooten: Bass Workshop/ Disk 1 of 5](#)
- ❑ [Victor Wooten - Groove Workshop](#)

Step 39 - Learn to use roots fifths and octaves for bass lines

- ❑ [5 Easy "Shapes" for Kickass Bass Lines \(Bassist Shortcuts\)](#)
- ❑ [Bass Lines *Any Style* with Just 2 Notes \(for Beginners\)](#)

Step 40 - Spice up your bass lines with walkups and walkdowns

- ❑ [Boring Bass Lines Fixed \(With 1 Simple Walkup Trick\)](#)

Step 41 - Learn utility scales like major pentatonic, minor pentatonic, and the blues scales

- ❑ [Major Pentatonic Scale For Bass + "My Girl" and "Sir Duke"](#)
- ❑ [Minor Pentatonic Scale For Bass + "Money" and "Freddie's Dead"](#)
- ❑ [The Blues Scale For Bass + "Sunshine Of Your Love"](#)

PRACTICE SONGS

- I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry - Hank Williams (3/4 time)
- House of the Rising Sun - The Animals (6/8 time)
- I Put A Spell On You - Creedence Clearwater Revival (12/8 time)
- La Grange - ZZ Top (shuffle)
- Some Kind of Wonderful - Grand Funk Railroad (shuffle)
- Smoke On The Water - Deep Purple (walkups)
- Dazed and Confused - Led Zeppelin (walkdowns)
- My Girl - The Temptations (major pentatonic)
- Sir Duke - Stevie Wonder (major pentatonic)
- Money - Pink Floyd (minor pentatonic)
- Freddie's Dead - Curtis Mayfield (minor pentatonic)
- Sunshine of Your Love - Cream (blues scale)

LEVEL 5 – BEYOND BADASS

Step 42 - Memorize EVERY note name on your bass. Seriously.

- ❑ [Learn All The Notes On Your Bass Neck - For SUPER Beginners!](#)

Step 43 - Learn basic 16th notes

- ❑ [Rhythm Basics 3 - Sixteenth Notes](#)

Step 44 - Practice syncopated 16th notes

- ❑ [Rhythm Basics 4 - Sixteenth Note Syncopation](#)

Step 45 - Nail advanced muting and note length

- ❑ [Why Beginner / Intermediate Bassists Sound "Karaoke-y"](#)

Step 46 - Understand the theory of seventh chords

- ❑ [MusicTheory.net - Seventh Chords](#)

Step 47 - Learn the modes

- ❑ [Bass Scales playlist](#)

Step 48 - Learn to read common charts

- ❑ Another thing nobody online bothers to teach, so I couldn't find you a good resource. See the micro-lesson in the video where you found this PDF.

Step 49 - Start learning to use a pick

- ❑ [How to Play Bass With a Pick \(from an ex-Pick Hater\)](#)

Step 50 - Learn slap, if you feel like it

- ❑ [Idiot-Proof Beginner Slap Bass \(Every F**king Detail You Need to Get Started\)](#)
- ❑ [Slap & Pop Bass - Bad vs Good Technique \(Beginner/Intermediate\)](#)
- ❑ [Slap... Practice THIS Daily \(10 Mins\)](#)

Step 51 - Learn to play ghost notes

- ❑ [Slap... Practice THIS Daily \(10 Mins\)](#)
- ❑ [TalkingBass - Mastering Ghost Notes For A More Funky Bass Groove!!](#)

Step 52 - Learn to play hammerons and pulloffs

- ❑ [TalkingBass - How To Play Hammer Ons On Bass Guitar](#)

Step 53 - Learn all three shapes for a one octave scale

- ❑ [TalkingBass - 3 Scale Patterns To Transform Your Bass Playing](#)

Step 54 - Learn to play scales on one string

- ❑ [How To Get Unstuck on the Fingerboard \(One String Scales\)](#)

Step 55 - Learn scales in multiple octaves

- ❑ [Bass Scales - Two Octave C Major Scale](#)
- ❑ [Play Scales More Melodically with this Jaco Lick](#)

This is a lot of stuff to learn. You might be able to do it on your own...
but it'll be way easier and more fun if you have the right support.

My **Beginner to Badass** course will take you all the way through Level 4, and you won't have to figure out what to practice or how much to practice - just keep showing up for your lessons until you become a bass badass.

[Click here to check it out.](#)