

# How To Buy The Right Bass Guitar

Buying the right bass guitar can sometimes be a really daunting task as there are a lot of choices and options out there. In this video I am going to talk you through what you should be considering when buying a bass so you are better informed. I'll also give you a checklist and some popular decent brands on a PDF which you can download in the video description.

- First of all you need to decide what you can afford to pay for your bass and set a ball-park figure. This will help rule out more expensive instruments and give you a more manageable list of options.
- Then decide on whether you want to buy secondhand or not. You will obviously get more for your money secondhand, but you will have to know a bit more about what you are buying so you can check the bass in in good condition.
- You might already have a specific type of bass in mind, but if not then familiarise yourself with the different types of basses out there. What I'm talking about here is mainly what pickups are on the bass. You have probably all heard of a J bass and a P bass. The J and P stand for Jazz and Precision and they refer to the pickups. There are other features too that are different, like neck size for example but the pickups are the main component that gives the difference in sound.
- This is a J Bass - it has 2 thin pickups spaced apart. A bridge pickup near the bridge and a neck pickup near the end of the neck. You will almost always have the option to control the pickups individually and they each produce a very different tone. **Play both J pickups individually.**

- This is a P Bass and it has 2 fatter shorter pickups next to each other. **This is what a P Bass sounds like.** You can also get basses that have both J and P bass pickups on them.
- This is a Tele bass and these basses were actually the original Precision Basses before Fender changed their name. They have a single pickup and sound similar to a P-Bass.
- Then we have basses with soapbar pickups, which you will find on more modern basses and these basses usually have an active preamp build into the instrument. **This is my overwater bass with soapbar pickups.**
- It's also worth knowing about Musicman basses which have their own particular type of single pickup. These were the first basses to feature on-line active EQ and Humbucking pickups.

Another thing to think about is whether you want a passive or active bass. If the bass is active then it has its own onboard preamp and you can shape the sound without going over to your amp or pedalboard. But on the flip-side, passive basses are known for their great fat and punchy tone. If you want a particular model of bass then you might have to go with what is on that basses already, but jazz basses for example come in passive and active models. Most modern basses will be active.

One thing you can do, if you are unsure about what bass you want is to research bass players whose sound you like and find out what they are playing. This might give you more idea of a bass.

Now that you know more information about different types of basses, then it's time to head over to a music shop to try some basses.

Pick a bass in your price range and have little play to see how it feels. Make sure you also stand up with a strap on the instrument and check that you are ok with the weight of it, because you might have it round your neck for long stretches at rehearsals and gigs. If you don't like the feel of the bass, then put it down and try another one.

Colour, finish and how the bass looks is obviously important, but don't make this the main reason you buy the bass! This might be the deciding factor if you find more than one basses that you like, but how it plays, sounds and feels are more important.

If the bass is secondhand then check it all over for obvious signs of damage. You might not know much about what to look for, but at least check that the tuning pegs work, and check there are no cracks on the neck and headstock. Also make sure there is not serious fret buzz and check to see if there are any dead spots on the bass - this is where the notes don't ring out as much. You could bring someone down with you to help with this if you aren't sure yourself.

There are a few last things you also might want to consider:

If you have particularly small hands or aren't an adult, then you might benefit from a short scale bass. Companies like Fender, Ibanez and Epiphone make them.

You might also be drawn to the sound of a fretless bass. As the name suggests, they don't have any frets, and you can get a different sound by using techniques such as slides, and vibrato. Some fretless basses are lined, which means that they have lines painted where the frets would be, they might not look as good, but they help a lot with playing in tune.

There are so many brands of basses out there, but I have drawn up a list of some of the most popular, and some good suggestions for beginner basses too. If you want this list, along with the buyers guide checklist, then click the link in the description below this video and I will email it to you.

I hope you enjoyed this video, it is the third video in my Greg Talks Series, so you might want to check out videos 1 and 2 by clicking this playlist up here.

Remember to subscribe to Greg's Bass Shed here on YouTube by pressing the subscribe button, and please like the video if you found it useful.

You can also comment below and I'd love to see what you think of the checklist and whether you think I might have missed anything important.

If you are interested in more bass resources then come and have a look at [gregsbassshed.com](http://gregsbassshed.com) and join the free Members Area. I will put all the links in the description below.

This is Greg from Greg's Bass Shed, see you in the next video.

Hi welcome to my third Greg Talks video where I will be helping you with all you need to know when buying a bass.

I will discuss about pickups, electronics, different options you might want to consider, and also give you an idea of what to check when you are trying out secondhand basses.

You can download a free buyers guide checklist, also with some suggestions of popular basses, by clicking the link in the video description on YouTube.

The link to the video is in this post or in my Bio if you are viewing this on Instagram.

I hope this is useful to you, and please like and share this with anyone who might be looking to buy a bass.