

What to look for when buying your first Bass Guitar

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There are many different factors to consider when purchasing a bass for the first time, especially if you have never played before.

Firstly, you need to think of your budget; most beginners don't often want to spend too much on their first instrument, however, you need a bass that will last and that you can enjoy playing due to the quality of its feel and sound. Remember that in most cases, the more you spend, the higher the quality.

Despite this, there are many great entry-level basses available at a reasonable price. Examples include the Fender Squier Precision or Jazz Bass guitars, both available for around £200. As you progress in your level of playing, and are sure you would like to continue, you are then free to upgrade to a higher-end bass.

The two main bass guitar styles available on the market are the Fender Precision and Jazz basses, these are the two usually played by both beginners and experienced players. If you are unsure which style to go for here is some information about each:

Precision Basses have a chunkier neck than the Jazz bass, making the latter narrower/thinner and some players may find this makes it easier to play than a Precision or P-bass.

-The tone is another major factor; the P-bass is darker and somewhat heavy whereas the Jazz bass has a cleaner and thinner tone.

-With a P-bass, there is slightly more space between the strings, this can make it easier to play.

- A Jazz bass has extra knobs for each pick up, therefore providing more variety in sound.

The most effective way to determine which style you prefer is to try out as many different basses as possible, the most important thing to look for in a bass is the way it feels, it should be easy and comfortable to play.

A beginner may prefer a lighter bass; therefore consider the weight of each one you try.

Scale: There are a variety of basses available with different scale lengths, if the bass is for a child, or if you have smaller hands, a short-scale bass would be much easier to play, as there is less distance between frets.

The next most important factor to consider is the way the bass sounds, as if it doesn't sound good, you won't enjoy playing it. Even though you want a bass that you like to look at, don't buy it just for this reason, the sound and feel of an instrument should always be more important.

By considering all the above factors, and ensuring that you try out as many different basses as possible before making your decision, you will end up with a quality instrument that will serve you well as you learn and perform.

As always, the knowledgeable staff at your local music store should be happy to help.