What kind of Strings Do You Like For Your Bass

by **visserman** » 17 May 2012, 12:11

I still like Roto Sound.

When I was introduced to the stainless steel wrap version of the Fenders I was impressed, but you forget and there is the instrument as well.
Seems that my Jazz bass sounds very good with Rotos, whereas the Precision sounds great with the Stainless steel wrap ones.

The Rotos do have more bit and sound more "traditional". Feel is also great.
But then it is all about your instrument as well. Noticed that the body of the Jazz is made out of THREE pieces. My gosh that can not be good, why could those great chaps of Fender not just get it out of one piece? Probably, because those pieces came out of wood which did not match the quality control, but the bits they did use, they felt were Okay.

I need to check on bodies of other Fender basses, you can comment on this as well if you like.

visserman

Re: What kind of Strings Do You Like For Your Bass

by **Pepe** » 17 May 2012, 12:31

I love it bright and shiny. D'Addario ProSteel strings are strung both on my bass and on my electric guitar. Before I used several bass string brands. I haven't had a broken D'Addario ProSteel string and I love to play it funky. I had lots of broken G- and D-strings with Rotosound, Dean Markley and normal D'Addario strings, but the ProSteels never let me down.

Pepe

Re: What kind of Strings Do You Like For Your Bass

by **nathanscribe** » 17 May 2012, 12:58

Had my bass 9 months and no idea what strings are on there! They're just what was on it in the shop. Rounds of some breed. I've had Thomastik jazz flatwounds recommended, so I'll give those a try some time.

nathanscribe

Re: What kind of Strings Do You Like For Your Bass

by **natthu** » 17 May 2012, 13:22

I like flats, but then again my main bass is fretless.

natthu

Re: What kind of Strings Do You Like For Your Bass

by **DarrinPA** » 18 May 2012, 01:42

Ernie Ball bass strings on my P-bass and J-bass. The pink package because they are a bit thicker than the usual size. I Like the metallic sound. But as for my Ibanez bass, not sure. They are the old strings that came on it and I hope to NEVER change them. The dark sound of old strings is perfect for the reggae sound.

DarrinPA

Re: What kind of Strings Do You Like For Your Bass

by **Pepe** » 18 May 2012, 07:42

> *DarrinPA wrote:*
> *They are the old strings that came on it and I hope to NEVER change them.*

Eek! That must stink in the meantime?!

Pepe

Re: What kind of Strings Do You Like For Your Bass

by **visserman** » 18 May 2012, 12:35

> *DarrinPA wrote:*
> *Ernie Ball bass strings on my P-bass and J-bass. The pink package because they are a bit thicker than the usual size. I Like the metallic sound. But as for my Ibanez bass, not sure. They are the old strings that came on it and I*

hope to NEVER change them. The dark sound of old strings is perfect for the reggae sound.

That is what I used to think as well, but no more. It really is surprising to hear a bass with new strings. There is always the tonecontrol to back down on brightness.
Me too am in the camp of a dark basssound, but when they get too old they do loose something, but then you will not notice until you change them. I also think that your habits (and taste, technique and musicallity) changes over time.

You can always try, and if not satisfied put the old ones back on.....

visserman

Re: What kind of Strings Do You Like For Your Bass

by **Dirk** » 18 May 2012, 16:37

I've been using Roto's for years, mainly stainless steel swing bass sets, in 45-105, the Billy Sheehan set 43-110, and more recently the heavier gauge 50-110.
On my Duff Mckagan sig I have Rotosound Nexus strings which are essentially a regular 45-105 set with black coating, and they sound and look equally great.
I tried other sets: d'Addario nickels, Fender nickels; but to my ears nickels always sound dead and dull right out of the box.
One time I tried Warwick red label stainless steel, which are probably great for slappers, cause it's all lows and highs and very scooped mids.
Needless to say, I didn't like 'em. I love my midrange.

By far the best ones I once had were Galli strings, similar to Roto's but a little smoother feeling and sounding, but I can't get 'em anywhere anymore or
really expensive...

Dirk

Re: What kind of Strings Do You Like For Your Bass

by **Pieces Of The Night** » 18 May 2012, 18:00

I use Dean Markley Blue Steel on my bass. I'm not a bass player so I'm not really particular. I just have one floating around for working on demos and jamming with. I change the strings like once a year. They're pretty bright out of the package and stay that way for a long time.

Pieces Of The Night

Re: What kind of Strings Do You Like For Your Bass

by **DarrinPA** » 21 May 2012, 00:29

> *DarrinPA wrote:*
> *They are the old strings that came on it and I hope to NEVER change them.*

> *Pepe wrote:*
> *Eek! That must stink in the meantime?!*

My hands don't sweat. Seriously. I'm not sure why.

Visserman

> *That is what I used to think as well, but no more. It really is surprising to hear a bass with new strings. There is always the tonecontrol to back down on brightness.*
> *Me too am in the camp of a dark basssound, but when they get too old they do loose something, but then you will not notice until you change them. I also think that your habits (and taste, technique and musicallity) changes over time.*

I've been playing bass since 98' and I know what you're describing when strings just lose that "it" factor. Hard to say what it is, but it does exist. I do keep all my other basses strung up and sounding new [metallic] but nothing has given me that lo-fi reggae tone that this ibanez with old strings has.

I may give Roto's a try some day. Not sure what bass to try it on though. P-bass, Jazz bass, or a P-J mix [Mark Hoppus Sig].

DarrinPA

Re: What kind of Strings Do You Like For Your Bass

by **visserman** » 24 May 2012, 18:42

Try them first on the Jazz, they can give you that Soul sound, the chess period. If you like reggea and dark sound you will like Rotos on the Jazz, just back off the neck pick-up a bit, or the bridge (depending on taste and song you are playing).
I hardly used the Jazz with both pick-ups open, the Jazz can give so many sounds, but all open it becomes a mere Precision.

visserman

Re: What kind of Strings Do You Like For Your Bass

by **Kulten** » 26 Dec 2016, 12:30

I'm a d'Addario Chromes fan for my 5 strings bass. 45-65-80-100-132. Mine are on my bass since 2009 and still sound good. D'add. Chromes become darker after 3 weeks, and then the sound didn't change.

Kulten

Re: What kind of Strings Do You Like For Your Bass

by **natthu** » 26 Dec 2016, 13:01

> *natthu wrote:*
> *I like flats, but then again my main bass is fretless.*

I have since acquired a Fender Bass VI which I was using with the factory strings (round wounds). I found I didn't like them (I originally thought I didn't like the instrument) and tried some expensive odd gauge flats recommended to me on another forum. I was originally skeptical but they made all the difference. It's a killer bass and sounds fantastic now.

I still also use flats on my 4 string fretless, but I've been detuning my EADG set to BEAD. The strings are floppy, but the fretless fingerboard coupled with flats can cope with that. It gives the bass a very cool, slightly unusual sound (it's different to BEADG on a normally tuned five string). It's a trick I stole off of Kulten back in the Bossarea days I believe. Thanks Kulten!

natthu

Re: What kind of Strings Do You Like For Your Bass

by **Gasgano** » 26 Dec 2016, 21:10

On the Ibanez SR505 I play, I use plain D'Adddario XL Nickel Wounds:

0.45
0.65
0.85
1.05
1.30

It is the stock size, but not the stock brand.

On the Musicman Stingray 5 I had and *spoiler alert* the Musicman Sterling 5 on its way to me, I use Ernie Ball Regular Slinky Bass 5.

0.45
0.65
0.85
1.05
1.30

It is the stock strings.

Gasgano

Re: What kind of Strings Do You Like For Your Bass

by **Boogieman** » 27 Dec 2016, 18:32

I use Thomastik-Inkfeld flatwounds on my Rickenbacker bass.

.043
.056
.070
.105

Been experimenting with different string types on my fretless Jazz. The sting gauges remain in the ".050-.105" ballpark. My next set will be the LaBella Deep Talking Bass black nylon tapewound. I started with roundwounds on that bass and they chewed up the fingerboard real nice over time.

Boogieman

Re: What kind of Strings Do You Like For Your Bass

by **bigtone** » 06 Dec 2017, 19:46

I'm not horribly picky, just general preferences.
For my fives--stainless 45-125 or 130, high beams, Progressives, Rockmasters...
Active basses tend to also get stainless 50-105
Passive basses are a crap shoot, sometimes nickel wound, some get flats. I have a P with 50-105 Chromes and an 80s Peavey Foundation with 45-105 Cobalt Flats.

bigtone