Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to buy!

by **Laurie** » 12 Aug 2014, 03:40

I've sold off all my basses. My cheapo 4 string and my 2 expensive 5 stringers. I decided I want a single, good quality, 4 string bass - with jazz bass string spacing.

Anyone have any recommendations? Obviously, an American standard/deluxe jazz bass is on the list. I've also toyed with a Warwick Corvette.

Laurie

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **natthu** » 12 Aug 2014, 08:27

I use a Fender American Standard Fretless Jazz Bass (I have also previously owned a fretted version of the same model).
It's a great instrument to play, and I think I pretty good combination of affordable and good quality.

I have previously owned an American Deluxe P Bass, and quite frankly the tiny increment in features isn't worth the extra cash IMHO.
I don't think there's really a notable increase in quality from the Am Standard to the Am Deluxe ranges.... the Deluxe range just has more 'features' (slightly better tuners, active pups, higher fret access etc...)

I've also had experience with a slew of MIJ Fender J basses, and while they are excellent VFM, I think you'd probably be more happy with the quality of an American Standard (or better).

natthu

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **BearBoy** » 12 Aug 2014, 10:42

Fender make an American Standard Jaguar bass now (with PJ pickup combination). My bass has this pick up combination and it gives a good variety of tones.

BearBoy

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **Laurie** » 12 Aug 2014, 11:49

Thanks! I'm also thinking of this one with the "SLO Special" neck.

http://www.music-man.com/instruments/ba ... ngray.html

Laurie

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **natthu** » 12 Aug 2014, 12:29

Those Am Std Jaguars look interesting. I would like to try one to see if they have the same neck dive problem that the MIJ Jag basses have.

natthu

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **Dirk** » 12 Aug 2014, 19:40

I've been using an AM. std Precision bass since 2003, I've had no problems with it whatsoever, besides normal fretwear.
I upgraded to a higher grade fretwire in 2006, and can hardly see wear.
And I use that bass a lot, mind you.

My 2nd bass is a Mex. Duff McKagan sig. which I've had since 2009, used a lot, and it's also excellent.

One thing I do like to mention, is that I did change [besides pickups and the addition of Hipshot extenders] the bridge saddles to Graphtech graphite saddles.
I've had some issues in the past with string breakage due to sharp edges on metal saddles, but maybe this has been in combination with the quality decline
of Rotosound strings in the first half of the '00's, up until 2006. I've changed saddles, Rotosounds QC is better than ever, and I haven't broken a string since.....

Dirk

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **DarrinPA** » 15 Aug 2014, 19:51

I've always felt that the Sterling (the model, not the cheap brand) felt closer to a Jazz bass than a Stingray. - Edit - I see that the SLO version is the smaller size {(38.1mm) at nut (63.5mm) at last fret} just as the Sterling neck.

Natthu - Did you have the American deluxe with the double jazz (humbucker) in the bridge? I always wanted that version, the more recent version with the single jazz pickup seems inferior to the older models. Also, I think the older models were 18 volt active electronics, not sure about the newer ones.

DarrinPA

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **Guga Ramone** » 16 Aug 2014, 00:23

Although I also play bass, I think I can't contribute much, as I always had cheap instruments. The most expensive bass that I had was a Squier Jazz Bass 60's Classic Vibe, which I bought for a low price and sold soon after for some profit. Didn't perceived much difference from my Squier J-Bass California Series, besides de finish.

I like cheap instruments. I play regularly on some bars and clubs where there's some drunk people and the risk of getting something robbed is a little higher than your "regular professional gig", so I prefer to not have something expensive. In case something gets stolen, it's cheaper and easier to replace.

Guga Ramone

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **natthu** » 16 Aug 2014, 02:43

> *DarrinPA wrote:*
> *Natthu - Did you have the American deluxe with the double jazz (humbucker) in the bridge? ...*

Yep... This was it. Great instrument to play, but I'm just not a P Bass sorta guy:

natthu

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **DarrinPA** » 19 Aug 2014, 01:29

Beautiful bass! If you're not a P-bass guy, it's understandable that you wouldn't care for that bass.

As for bass ideas for Laurie; G&L are good, Lakland sound great, Modulus makes J-bass guitars that really growl... but after a quick seach their site appears to be down and a wikipedia entry states "As of December 20th 2013 Modulus Guitars LLC was placed into voluntary Chapter 7 arrangements".

EDIT- And that's the end of Modulus. tells about the court ordered liquidation of personal property sold at auction. They were $500,000 in debt.

DarrinPA

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **Laurie** » 19 Aug 2014, 01:51

I'm going to get a Stingray 4 with a "SLO" neck (J-bass).

I almost landed on an Aerodyne J bass...

Laurie

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **natthu** » 19 Aug 2014, 14:41

I think you've made the right choice between those two.
Nothing wrong with an Aerodyne J, but you can't go wrong with a Stingray.

natthu

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **fenderjapan** » 19 Aug 2014, 20:41

I have a 5 String Warwick Corvette that I like a lot.

fenderjapan

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **Laurie** » 19 Aug 2014, 20:47

There is a neck thru corvette 4 at a local store but it is HEAVY the neck is too thick for me. Beautiful piece of gear though!

Laurie

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **DarrinPA** » 20 Aug 2014, 04:57

Sometimes it's best to go with what you know. I'm not sure if they still offer the piezo bridge pick-up now that they have double humbuckers available, but the piezo really adds to the sound of the bass, may be something worthing considering if it's your only bass. Anyways, I hope we get some pictures once it arrives.

DarrinPA

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **Laurie** » 20 Aug 2014, 13:42

Thanks again to everyone how was kind enough to suggest options.

Haven't heard back yet whether I can get the StingRay I'm thinking about in the exact configuration I want. I'm being a bit picky... Seems like if I am going to be buried with the instrument it needs to be right!
- Stingray 4
- SLO neck (J bass profile... actually, it is a Sterling neck bolted to the Stingray)
- BFR – with baked maple neck, or some other dark wood
- Rosewood fretboard
- Sapphire black with black pearloid (or black cherry burst with black pickguard, if the BFR doesn't come in black)
- HH

I should know this week if such a beast is available.

One of my back-up choices just arrived in the store - a Deluxe J bass. These are on sale for "Fender Month" at the local store:
http://www.fender.com/en-CA/series/amer ... pickguard/

Will check it out this evening

Oh yeah... and unrelated to basses one of these is coming to the local store for me to check out. No obligation, but everyone in the store wanted to try one and so did I. it might be a replacement for my HM strat. The tone search is nearly over... NO REALLY!!
http://www.music-man.com/instruments/gu ... jesty.html

Laurie

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **Dirk** » 20 Aug 2014, 18:20

> *Laurie wrote:*
> *The tone search is nearly over... NO REALLY!!*

Yeah, just keep buying into that and you'll be just fine Mr. Laurie.

Btw, congrats on the Stingray. Those are great basses.

Dirk

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **visserman** » 26 Aug 2014, 15:13

> *natthu wrote:*
> *Yep... This was it. Great instrument to play, but I'm just not a P Bass sorta guy:*
>
>
>

These are great, super Fender bass, apart from that any Jazz or Prec. will do really.

Dirk about breaking strings? Slapping Always gets them, what about you? Probably old strings when it happens, same with guitar anyway.....

visserman

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **Pepe** » 26 Sep 2014, 21:17

Today I found a bass that I really like. I'm dreaming of a good American Fender, but I simply cannot afford it. However the current Vintage Modified series by Squier is great. I have never been a fan of Fender Jazz Basses, but the Vintage Modified 70's Jazz Bass is one of the best bass guitars that I have tried in the last ten years. Today we received such a bass in the shop. But I don't like its colour - "Natural". I like the maple fretboard, but the wood of the body looks too close to that of the neck. There's no black model with white fretboard available, so most likely I'm going to buy a white Jazz Bass next year:

It's about time to ditch that crappy Yamaha bass that I have used in the last 13 years.

Pepe

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **Guga Ramone** » 26 Sep 2014, 22:27

Nice bass, Pepe! Squier has good instruments, but people tend to bash them for no reason. Hope you can get your hands on this monster soon.

Guga Ramone

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **natthu** » 27 Sep 2014, 00:30

Squier have really stepped up recently. They now offer a huge range of great instruments, which are a lot better quality than their offerings 10 years ago.
I think the bashing probably comes from people who remember when Squier weren't that great, and who haven't given the new models a chance.

It's not the same as playing an American made Fender, but Squier instruments are quite good now, and they are very affordable.

natthu

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **charmonder** » 27 Sep 2014, 01:22

yes, I agree the more recent offset guitars are a real treat, decent quality and affordable .

charmonder

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **Pepe** » 27 Sep 2014, 07:46

And that's exactly why I'm heading for a Squier bass now. Five to ten years ago that had been impossible, but today's models aren't only instruments for the pure beginner anymore.

Pepe

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **Laurie** » 27 Sep 2014, 13:25

Still waiting on delivery (the musicman factory is backed up at the moment), but this is the exact one I ordered:

http://www.musiciansfriend.com/bass/mus ... 7000134422

Laurie

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **Dirk** » 27 Sep 2014, 15:03

Nice! Beautiful color also!

Dirk

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **Guga Ramone** » 27 Sep 2014, 18:36

Lovely bass, Laurie! A StingRay is on my wishlist, but unfortunately it's completely out of my price range. One day, maybe ... hehehe

Guga Ramone

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **natthu** » 28 Sep 2014, 01:18

Damn, that's pretty.

natthu

Re: Bass, how low can you go? Need advice - which bass to b

by **Laurie** » 28 Sep 2014, 12:06

Yeah! It was a toss-up between this one and the black until I saw one of these (with the wrong neck) in person. Lovely bass.

Guga - the price is not as bad as where you are, but still steep. I had to sell a bunch of gear to cover it.

I've tried almost every other bass known to man, including Dingwall, but this one has the feel and tone that does it for me.

Laurie