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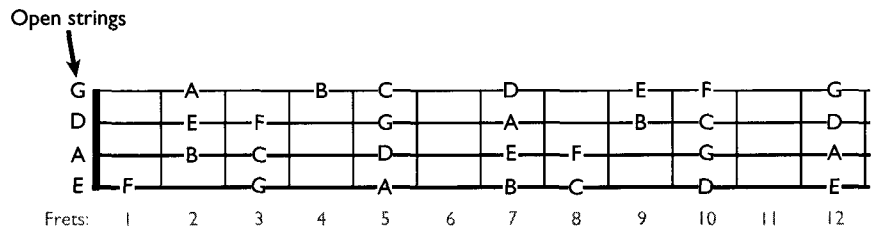
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PART I: The Basics

Chapter 1: Getting Started

Strings on the Bass

Below is a diagram showing the four strings on the bass. The letter names of the strings are the same for both electric and double bass.



Tuning

There are different methods you can use to tune your bass. The easiest and most practical method for beginning players is to use an *electronic tuner*. Since it takes time to develop a musical ear and identify the exactness of pitch, using the tuner is the easiest way to tune your instrument. It tells you whether or not your instrument is in tune. If your string is *flat* (too low), tighten the tuning peg to raise the pitch. If the string is *sharp* (too high), loosen the tuning peg to lower the pitch.

There are two main types of electronic tuners. The first type automatically senses which pitch you are playing. The second type requires you to set a dial or knob to your target pitch. Whichever type of tuner you use, you will need to make sure you are actually tuning to the correct pitch. For example, your 1st string may be so flat that the tuner senses it as an F^\sharp instead of a G. In this case, turn the tuning peg to tighten the string. At first, it will show up as a sharp F^\sharp , but then as you tighten the string, the tuner will register it as a flat G, and then an in-tune G. Make sure that you don't miss your target note and tune the string all the way up to A^b .

Relative Tuning

You can also tune your bass by ear. If you can hear the difference in pitches well, you can try to tune this way. Beginning players might need to develop their ears a little more before they can use this method.

Below is an easy method for getting in tune without the help of an electronic tuner. (Also, see illustration at the bottom of page.)

Step 1) Tune your open 4th string (E) to a piano, keyboard, pitch pipe or other instrument of constant pitch. On a keyboard, use the E that is 19 white keys below middle C.

Step 2) To tune your 3rd string, place a finger on the 5th fret of the 4th string to produce the note A. The open 3rd string should match this note. If not, use the tuning peg for the 3rd string to adjust it up (if the string is flat) or down (if the string is sharp).

Step 3) To tune your 2nd string, place a finger on the 5th fret of the 3rd string to produce the note D. The open 2nd string should match this note. If not, use the tuning peg for the 2nd string to adjust it up (if the string is flat) or down (if the string is sharp).

Step 4) To tune your 1st string, place a finger on the 5th fret of the 2nd string to produce the note G. The open 1st string should match this note. If not, use the tuning peg for the 1st string to adjust it up (if the string is flat) or down (if the string is sharp).

