



Tips of the Moment

by John Falstrom

- 1) Memorizing all the notes on your Bass Guitar is an eventual must.
- 2) There is no such thing as practicing "too much".
- 3) Learn as many "cover" songs as possible i.e. be a walking jukebox.
- 4) Try to write original songs on your bass guitar.
- 5) Jam with other musicians i.e. get in a band and play gigs.
- 6) Be able to read music on your bass guitar.
- 7) Stay away from tablature. If you already use it, lose it.
- 8) Buy the best bass equipment you can afford---it's well worth it.
- 9) Memorize a Root order for where to play all 30 Major and Minor Scales i.e. "The Circle of Fifths"---This helps big time in memorizing Key Signatures (sharps and flats in each scale). Be able to play these scales for the rest of your bass guitar career.
- 10) Make sure the neck of your bass guitar is about 99% straight---Accept nothing less.
- 11) The ideal length of a pick-up cord for your bass is 18'6" or a 20 footer---Anything else is either too short or too long---Buy the best cord you can afford.
- 12) Tuners and metronomes are a good thing and everyone should own one of each.
- 13) Using effect pedals on your bass guitar is great for coming up with fresh/new ideas.
- 14) Don't cut off the ends of your bass strings to make winding them easier. By cutting your strings, you lose a lot of the life (tone) in them.

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