



Practicing

No matter how accomplished you become as a player, you will always need to practice. A consistent practice schedule is very important, especially if you don't work much with your band. Think of your musical ability as a muscle; it can't be maintained, much less developed, without playing and exercise.

The late Jaco Pastorius practiced scales and used them as the basis for his approach. Considering that all music is based on scales, knowledge of them is important to any serious bassist. Memorize the following major scale exercises, so that you can play them in any key or position. For instance, for the first exercise, start

on the low E note, and play the exercise in the key of E major. Then play the exercise in F major. Continue to play the exercise, moving up a half step at a time on the low E string, until you reach the twelfth fret. Use this scale exercise for your daily warm-up. Play the second exercise in all twelve major keys as well. Through repetition, you will develop a better ear and the ability to locate notes on the fingerboard when playing unfamiliar phrases. You will also become comfortable playing in all positions on the neck. Always practice with a metronome!

3 E Major Scale

0 2 4 0 | 2 4 1 2 | 4 1 2 4 | 6 8 9

9 8 6 4 | 2 1 4 2 | 1 4 2 0 | 4 2 0

G Major Scale in Thirds

3 2 5 3 | 2 5 3 2 | 5 4 2 5 | 4 2 5

5 2 4 5 | 2 3 5 2 | 3 5 2 3 | 5 2 3