

# FOUR, FIVE, OR SIX?



1993 KEN SMITH BT CUSTOM V

■ Modulus Graphite was set up originally to develop the new idea of carbon graphite necks, which the company produced for Alembic, Music Man, and Zon. The bass shown here (bottom) has a long 35-inch scale to help the fidelity of the low B-string, and features a tighter string-spacing than most modern sixes. Note how

the strings mount directly into the body, underlining the strength of graphite. Overwater's C Bass (centre) by British maker Chris May had an extra-long 36-inch scale and was designed to be tuned two tones below regular tuning. Ken Smith (five-string above) was an ex-professional bassist turned bass maker and was among the

pioneers of the new multi-string basses offering wide string-spacing and low-B tuning. A trio of influential bassists from the 70s are pictured here: Chris Squire (opposite, left) added classy bass to Yes; Bootsy Collins (opposite, right) was a brilliant funk showman; and metal guru Roger Glover (below) gave Deep Purple their foundation.

