

SETUP

- **Strings**

- **Moderate Strings For Everything**
 - **Broken-In Spiros (yay)**
 - **Evah Pirazzi**
 - **Helicore Hybrid**
- **“Modern” Strings**
 - **LaBella 7710N (black tapes)**
 - **Fresh Spiros**
 - **Helicore Pizzicato**
- **Old Skool Strings (add moderate e&a for versatility)**
 - **Plaintop Guts**
 - **SBW Deluxe is fine for budget**
 - **Eurosonic White Tapes**
 - **Innovations (any of em ya like)**
- **Avoid**
 - **Secondhand strings with separated windings**
 - **Nasty Strings (clean them fuckers)**
 - **Roundwound Strings (Supernils)**

- **Action**

- **Old Skool likes higher action**
 - **Higher action = louder, stiffer, less growl**
- **Modern likes lower action**
 - **Lower action = quieter, gentler, growly**

- Moderate likes your mom
- Bridge Adjusters are your BFF
- **Fingerboard**
 - Ebony is best, then Hard Maple
 - Soft Fingerboard = Soft PP
 - Trust your Luthier (save up money for reshapes)
 - Romberg Bevels are mid (i got one, dont @ me)
- **Pickup**
 - **KNA DB-1**
 - Cheap
 - easily installed, easily damaged, easily replaced
 - Sorta low output but it's fineeeeeee
 - My personal choice
 - **Realist Copperhead**
 - Less Cheap
 - Sounds fckn great
 - I want one (jazz sugar momma wya)
 - **THE BAND2**
 - Most Expensive Pickup I've Ever Played
 - Looks Weird
 - Sounds super organic and clean
 - **SM-57**
 - Wrap it in a thick towel and jam it behind the tailpiece (use protections kids)

- Sounds just bad
 - Feedback!!
 - Emergency choice, please just don't do this
- Amp
 - Literally Any Amp Works
 - Don't be Ungrateful
 - Even if it's a Rumble-40
 - Gain between 3 & 5
 - EQ flat
 - Listen to the room and the individual amp
 - Find your feedback and cut it down
 - Please don't boost the mids like crazy
 - Volume will lose you the gig
 - Your volume is the bandleader's decisions, followed by the soundman, followed by you
 - When in doubt, turn down until you're told to turn up
 - Get a tiltback, or use a chair
 - YOU RAISE ME UPPPPP
 - Fr tho, it removes excess boomy low end that can cause feedback and also make your tone pretty rough

Playing Tips

- Time

- **Metronomes are the best tool that I hate using**
 - **Start with click on all 4 beats and emphasis on 1, then play any AABA standard**
 - **Two-Feel on the A, Walk on the B, Walk a few choruses, Blow a chorus**
 - **Record yourself and listen back, when your time is solid in the playback move on**
 - **Switch the click to only 2 & 4, no emphasis**
 - **Repeat the routine, including recording and playback**
 - **Switch the click to only 4**
 - **Rinse & Repeat**
- **Tone**
 - **Practice Acoustically**
 - **An amp can make you louder, but you need to be acoustically solid before you even reach the amp**
 - **You need to be able to play well at every dynamic**
 - **If you can't play a smooth pianissimo ballad**
 - **Practice with your friends in the same room, if they can't hear each other talking or hear the TV you're too loud**
 - **If you can't play an aggressive fortissimo swing**
 - **Practice with a youtube drum loop and a good speaker. Turn the loop up until you**

can't hear yourself well, then practice with the speaker until you can hear yourself over the track without sacrificing technique.

- If you're giving it all you got and the bass is seizing up and not responding
 - Turn the bass over on its side so it won't choke on its own spit
 - Check with your luthier about changing strings or moving your soundpost, some basses just respond differently
- Use your fingertips on your left hand
 - You'll develop callouses faster and with less pain
 - Protect against arthritis
 - More sustain, less choppy walking and good for ballads
- DON'T use your fingertips on your right hand
 - You'll develop callouses in the wrong places and also it will cause pain when playing at high volumes for long periods of time
 - Can cause damage
 - Not a good sound, can make an otherwise beautiful tone become nasal and pinched
 - Use the side of your plucking finger

- It doesn't really matter which finger combo you use, I use both index & middle together personally. Try a few techniques!

Musical Decisions

- Less

- Is More

- Your two-feel should be smooth, connected, and tasteful
- Make your note choices matter, not your accents
- Use accents (fills) very sparingly
 - Only during breaks in the melody
 - The best accent is the one you can play perfectly in time
 - Open strings are the best tool for accents
 - In an AABA tune, accents work best during the A section. During the B section, that's the drummer's job, let 'em cook.

- Is Groovier

- It's your job to make the time *feel* good, not just sounds good

- Lock in to the cymbals. Listen for the left foot & right hand
- This is all easier when you are playing solid, simple basslines

■ Is Hipper

- RePeTiTiOn LeGiTiMiZeS
- Don't be afraid to sit on a phrase or a motif for a long time, spend a whole damn section or chorus just fleshing it out (especially when soloing)
- You can always pedal on a V or vii during a ii-V-I. Look for tension and release during these phrases. Build tension by pedaling.
- Double up your quarter notes when walking, but always do it in a single direction and never in an interval larger than a major 3rd. Only exception is full octave jumps

○ Be Smooth

- 8/10 times, you should be playing long, legato notes. The bass should flow
 - The other 1/10 is when soloing, as a change of color

- The *other* other 1/10 is when playing old time swing (gypsy, western, NOLA, jump blues). In these styles the bass should bounce, not flow
- Be Chill
 - Don't always play chill, but always BE chill
 - It's just wiggly air, if you calm down you will absolutely play better and feel better

Recommended Listening

- [Ray Brown - G Blues](#)
- [Ray Brown - OLIGHTS](#)
- [Phillip Norris - Autumn Leaves](#)
- [Phillip Norris - September in the Rain](#)
- [Paul Chambers - Oleo](#)
- [Oscar Pettiford - It Dont Mean A Thing](#)
- [John Clayton - The Walking Bass](#)
- [Jimmy Garrison - My One & Only Love](#)

Random Stuff

- When buying a suit jacket, make sure you can play with proper technique while wearing it
- Learn to bow for good intonation, learn to slap to be a badass
- Learn to play sitting or standing

- Your instrument and your appearance are your first impression, treat the bass well and keep yourself looking sharp
- Have a firm handshake and always be calm and courteous during a first meeting, it will get you gigs
- Gigs can come anytime, from anywhere. Be ready.
- Professionalism is the only thing that makes you a professional.
- Get a teacher who knows the instrument well, tell them your goals, listen to them and trust their expertise.
- Sometimes the work dries up. Don't give up, make your own opportunity.
- The culture is established, you are not. Don't fight the tide by being an angry kid, fight the tide by refusing to acclimate.
- Be aware, refusing to acclimate can cost you severely.
- Please take a deep breath, drink some coffee, have a snack, call your folks, take a nap, and don't forget to practice.

Hope this dumb thing helps. Love y'all <3