



# Scale Essentials For Bass

**Course Breakdown**



# Scale Essentials For Bass Guitar

## Course Breakdown

### Volume 1: Scale Fundamentals

#### Lesson 1-0 Introduction

In this lesson we look ahead to the Scale Essentials course and the topics we'll be covering in volume 1

#### Lesson 1-1 Scale Basics

What scales are and how we use them in our music. This includes a look at everything from musical keys to melodies, bass lines and chords.

#### Lesson 1-2 The Major Scale

Let's look at the most common scale in general use: The Major Scale. We'll look at its construction and how to play it on the bass.

#### Lesson 1-3 Scale Degrees & Intervals

Intervals are the building blocks of music and the key to understanding everything that follows in this course

#### Lesson 1-4 Abbreviated Scale Notation

Describing scales in terms of complete intervals can be a little long-winded. In this lesson we look at a method for abbreviating the intervals within a scale.

#### Lesson 1-5 Cycle Of Fourths

The cycle of fourths is not only essential to understanding key signatures but is also a great system for practicing scales in every key

#### Lesson 1-6 Technique

Scales are a common resource for working on your bass technique. In this lesson we deep dive into both left and right hand technique

#### Lesson 1-7 Keys & Tonality

Let's look at the theory behind keys, the tonal system and how scales fit into all of this

#### Lesson 1-8 Triads

Chords and chord tones will feature throughout this course so let's take a look at the chord we use as our basic foundation: The Triad

## **Lesson 1-9 Seventh Chords**

After working on triads, we can add another note into the mix and create a set of Seventh Chords

## **Lesson 1-10 Chords Of The Major Key**

Now we understand the basics of chord construction we can generate a set of chords from our Major Scale. This is an essential foundation in understanding how music works.

## **Lesson 1-11 Spelling Drills**

Learning scales by fretboard pattern may be an easy way to get the notes under your fingers as a beginner. But there's no better way than by learning scales by note. In this lesson we'll look at a simple way of practicing this in the form of Spelling Drills

## **Lesson 1-12 Natural Minor Scale**

The Natural Minor Scale is the foundation of the Minor Key. In this lesson we look at its construction and use.

## **Lesson 1-13 Chords Of The Minor Key**

We can generate chords from any scale just as we did the Major Scale. In this lesson we look at chords built from the Natural Minor scale we can use in establishing a Minor Key.

## **Lesson 1-14 Harmonic Minor Scale**

In this lesson we look at the construction of the Harmonic Minor Scale and its impact on the Minor Key

## **Lesson 1-15 Melodic Minor Scale**

The Melodic Minor can be used in both traditional Minor Key applications and Jazz Improvisation. We'll be looking at both sides of this interesting scale.

## **Lesson 1-16 Pentatonic Scales**

Pentatonics are some of the most common scales in musical use. We'll be looking at the Major and Minor Pentatonic Scales. What they are and how they are used

## **Lesson 1-17 Blues Scale**

The Blues Scale is another common scale used in blues, pop and rock music. We look at its construction alongside a demonstration of its use

## **Lesson 1-18 Chromatic Scale**

In this lesson we look at the basic construction of a chromatic scale before delving a little deeper into the Harmonic and Melodic Chromatic forms

## **Lesson 1-19 Module 1 Summary**

In this lesson we take a look back over the topics covered in this volume of Scale Essentials and lay out some tips for future practice

# Volume 2: Modes & Exotic Scales

## Lesson 2-0 Introduction

In this lesson we look ahead to the topics of Scale Essentials Volume 2: Modes & Exotic Scales

## Lesson 2-1 Modes Of The Major Scale

In this lesson we'll be demystifying the topic of Modes and looking at how they are derived from the Major Scale

## Lesson 2-2 Modes In Isolation

As well as practicing the sequence of Modes relative to a parent major/minor scale it's also important to practice them in isolation and see them as scales in their own right

## Lesson 2-3 Chord Scales

In this lesson we'll be looking at Chord Scales. What they are, how they are used and how this relates to the scales we've already covered

## Lesson 2-4 Modes In Progression

Modes are commonly used as Chord Scales when working through a chord progression. In this lesson we'll look at a chord sequence within a major key and how modes can be used as a basis for melodic bass line content

## Lesson 2-5 Modes Of The Natural Minor

Modes can be generated from most scales in common use. In this lesson we'll look at the modes of the Natural Minor Scale and how they relate to the minor key.

## Lesson 2-6 Modes Of The Harmonic Minor

In this lesson we'll look at the modes of the Harmonic Minor and how they differentiate from those of the Natural Minor in construction and application

## Lesson 2-7 Modes Of The Melodic Minor

The modes of the Melodic Minor are used in many different applications including jazz improvisation. In this lesson we'll look at their construction and use as chord scales

## Lesson 2-8 The Whole Tone Scale

The Whole Tone Scale can provide a very popular sound for use in composition and improvisation. Let's take a look at this interesting 'symmetrical' scale

## Lesson 2-9 Fully Diminished Scale

There are two forms of Diminished scale. In this lesson we'll look at the 'Fully' Diminished scale and its use over diminished chords

## **Lesson 2-10 Dominant Diminished Scale**

In this lesson we'll look at the Dominant Diminished scale and its application as a chord scale over dominant 7 chords

## **Lesson 2-11 The Augmented Scale**

The Augmented Scale has a very distinctive flavor. We'll be looking at its construction and application with specific focus on the arpeggios that may be generated on each scale degree

## **Lesson 2-12 The Harmonic Major Scale**

In this lesson we'll take a look at the Harmonic Major scale, its construction and application by way of the interesting harmony choices it presents

## **Lesson 2-13 Exotic Scales**

We've already looked at several non-traditional scales in this course. In this lesson we'll move into some more exotic choices including folk scales from a variety of cultures

## **Lesson 2-14 Module 2 Summary**

In this lesson we'll be summarizing the material covered in this volume and looking at how these less conventional scales can be practiced and used in application

# Volume 3: Fretboard Mapping

## Lesson 3-0 Introduction

In this introductory lesson we look ahead to the topics covered in Scale Essentials Volume 3: Fretboard Mapping and how it will benefit your playing and overall musicianship

## Lesson 3-1 Three Basic Patterns

In this lesson we'll look at a fundamental aspect of the fretboard mapping principles outlined in this course: The three fretboard fingerings possible from a single root note fret

## Lesson 3-2 Tonic Positions

In this lesson we take a look at Tonic Positions and how they can be used in segmenting the fretboard. This allows us to divide the neck into a simple set of positions for any single scale.

## Lesson 3-3 Notes Of The Neck 1st Position

Without a knowledge of the notes on the fretboard, navigating our scale positions will be problematic. In this lesson we look at the use of positions in organizing the notes more effectively

## Lesson 3-4 Notes Of The Neck 2nd Position

In the previous lesson we studied the notes in the first position of the fretboard. In this lesson we move up into a second position that effectively divides the fretboard below the 12th fret

## Lesson 3-5 Cycling In Position

In this lesson we combine the scale positions and the note positions covered in previous lesson to create a fantastic method for practicing scales in different areas of the fretboard

## Lesson 3-6 Extended Patterns

Now we have a set of tonic positions and diverse fretboard fingerings for each scale, we can extend the positions to cover every note in any area

## Lesson 3-7 Position Shifts Ascending

Position shifts are key to developing your fluency in moving through different areas of the fretboard. In this lesson we create various drills for ascending to the next adjacent position from any tonic position

## Lesson 3-8 Position Shifts Descending

In the previous lesson we ascended through various tonic positions. In this lesson we move into descent.

### **Lesson 3-9 Complete Shifts**

Let's now expand our position shifts to movement by a complete hand position. This will help with rapid movement between adjacent tonic positions

### **Lesson 3-10 One String Scales**

Playing scales on a single string is an often overlooked method of practice but can be an incredibly useful way of testing our scale knowledge and fluency of position shifting

### **Lesson 3-11 Two String Scales**

In this lesson we move from one string scales to two string scales. This is a fantastic way of fluidly moving up and down the neck in a smooth, progressive manner

### **Lesson 3-12 Multi Octave Scales**

In this lesson we finally move into direct scalar ascent through multiple octaves by way of all the principles covered in the course

### **Lesson 3-13 Practice Tips**

In this final lesson we look back at the principles of mapping covered in this course and how best to approach our long term practice

# Volume 4: Scale Application

## Lesson 4-0 Introduction

In this lesson we look ahead to Scale Essentials Volume 4: Scale Application and the topics covered

## Lesson 4-1 Passing Notes

In this lesson we begin our study of melodic devices and scale application with a look at the Passing Note

## Lesson 4-2 Neighbour Notes

Neighbour Notes are a simple way of applying scales into a bass line while working around our chord tone framework. Let's look a little closer

## Lesson 4-3 Enclosures

Enclosures are a common device used in developing interesting lines around our chord tones. In this lesson we apply them to each chord tone in turn

## Lesson 4-4 Approach Notes

Approach Notes are possibly the most common melodic device in bass line development through chord progressions. In this lesson we take a look at them in application

## Lesson 4-5 Melodic Devices In Application

It's OK to practice melodic devices as simple exercises over a static chord but nothing beats real world riff and bass line application. In this lesson we use sample riffs as a way of demonstrating and analysing melodic device use.

## Lesson 4-6 Chromatic Notes

Chromatic notes serve to embellish our scales and chord tones in order to provide flavour and interest. Let's apply chromatics to all the melodic devices we've covered so far.

## Lesson 4-7 Chord Progressions

We've looked at melodic devices relative to a single chord so now let's move into applying them within a chord sequence

## Lesson 4-8 Functional Analysis

Functional analysis allows us to delve into the use of scales and melodic devices by other musicians. In this lesson we breakdown 5 popular riffs.

## Lesson 4-9 Interval Sequences

Intervallic sequences are a great way of breaking away from the linear scalar lines we've looked at in previous lessons



## **Lesson 4-10 Scalar Sequences**

In this lesson we look to break scales up by way of numbered groupings. This is a great foundation for building and performing scalar runs

## **Lesson 4-11 Arpeggio Sequences**

As with interval sequences, arpeggio sequences serve to help break up a scale into more interesting patterns while providing a more intimate understanding of the overall construction

## **Lesson 4-12 Creating Scalar Lines**

In this lesson we look at multiple ways of creating scalar drills in any scale or position

## **Lesson 4-13 Pentatonic Sequences**

Pentatonic scales must be approached from a slightly different perspective due to the gapped intervallic construction. In this lesson we look at some Bergonzi sequence ideas to aid in generating non-linear scalar sequences

## **Lesson 4-14 The Next Step**

In this final lesson we summarize all the material covered in Scale Essentials and look ahead to future practice

# Scale Essentials For Bass Guitar

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What Is The Scale Essentials For Bass Guitar Course?**

The Scale Essentials course is a four Volume, step-by-step journey through the world of scales. This is all presented through video lessons alongside the written lesson material and .mp3 practice tracks.

### **What Level Of Player Is The Course Aimed At?**

The course is aimed at any player looking to develop a knowledge of scales and a better understanding of the fretboard. As much as Beginner and Intermediate level players can comfortably jump straight into the course, more advanced players will also see huge benefits by working on the course material.

### **What Will I Learn?**

After finishing the course you will have acquired the following skills and knowledge:

- A deep knowledge of scale construction principles
- The ability to see scales over the entire fretboard
- The skills to shift around the neck with freedom and fluidity
- A deeper understanding of music theory and harmony
- The ability to apply scales into your music
- The ability to analyse music and understand bass lines, chords and melodies so as to build an ever expanding musical vocabulary

### **How Long Are The Lessons?**

The lesson lengths vary but the complete course is over 10 hours in length.

### **How Is The Course Presented? Do I Download Anything?**

The course is hosted on the Talkingbass website so there are no video files to download.

There is a Dropbox folder for each module containing a Course Workbook and any relevant practice tracks.

### **Is There A Time Limit On Taking The Course?**

No. You can take as long as want. There are no time limits

### **Do I Have Lifetime Access To The Course?**

If you purchase the course then yes, you have lifetime access to the course and its material. If you are an All Access Pass member, then you obviously only have access for the duration of your subscription.