



# Ear Training For Bass Guitar

**Course Breakdown  
and FAQ**



# Ear Training For Bass Guitar

## Learn Songs By Ear & Improve Your Overall Bass Playing You Taught Your Hands, Now Teach Your Ears

“Ever wondered how some bass players can work out a whole song in one hearing or instantly play what they hear in their head?

It often seems like those skills are a God given talent and well out of reach for mere mortals like you and me. Luckily this is not the case at all. These skills are simply the result of a well developed ear.

With proper ear training you develop the connection between the bass guitar, your fingers and your musical mind. This will allow you to literally talk through your instrument. Whatever you hear in your head or on a recording will easily flow directly through your fingers to the bass!

Ear Training For Bass Guitar will allow you to transcribe bass lines, melodies and chord progressions like a pro and freely play the music you feel inside!”

### **Mark J Smith (Creator of Talkingbass)**

I wanted to be able to play along with songs on the radio without needing to consult chord charts or tabs. The teaching was very straightforward and easy to work through. Mark does an excellent job of breaking things down and making them understandable without talking down to people.

### **Melissa Mann – USA**

I find the Ear Training For Bass to be laid out well and user friendly. Each lesson is focused on one specific aspect and each lesson builds upon what was covered previously. It's a progressive growth of knowledge and technique.

### **Thomas Grogan – USA**

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## Course Breakdown

### **Lesson #1 – Ascending and Descending Pitches**

In this first preparatory lesson let's test your ability to hear pitch movement

### **Lesson #2 – Visualisation**

In this lesson we work on internalizing pitches in our mind by using a set of visualization exercises.

### **Lesson #3 – Singing a Pitch**

Next we can extend our internalization of pitch by singing or humming the notes we play

### **Lesson #4 – Riffs & Bass Lines**

We can develop this vocalization of pitch by humming the riffs and bass lines we play in regular practice.

### **Lesson #5 – The Major Scale**

The Major Scale is our first step in more 'academic' ear training. Over the next 3 lessons we work on the major scale and develop a better sense of the tonal gravity within a key.

### **Lesson #6 – Ascending Major Scale Fragments**

### **Lesson #7 – Returning To The Tonic**

### **Lesson #8 – The Perfect 5<sup>th</sup>**

Over the next few lessons we integrate the most common interval outside of the unison and octave: The Perfect Fifth.

### **Lesson #9 – Root 5th Root**

### **Lesson #10 – 5th Below The Root**

### **Lesson #11 – Scale Fragments and the 5<sup>th</sup>**

### **Lesson #12 – Scale Fragments and the lower 5<sup>th</sup>**

### **Lesson #13 – Descending Scale Fragments**

Up to this point, our scale fragments have all worked in ascent. However, we must spend equal time developing our scale fragments in descent.

### **Lesson #14 – Test #1 Basic Scalar Fragments**

Ear Training For Bass provides several test videos for you to track your current progress. This test works on all areas covered in the course so far.

## **Lesson #15 – Interval Mnemonics**

Intervals are the building blocks of music and the key to developing your ear. In this lesson we'll work on building some simple mnemonic triggers to help with identifying intervals in application.

## **Lesson #16 -Test #2 Intervals**

## **Lesson #17 – Major Arpeggios**

Learning to identify arpeggio movement is another key aspect of ear training. In this lesson we'll cover the most simple arpeggio – the major triad.

## **Lesson #18 – Non Chord Tones**

Non chord tones work around a chord tone framework by way of various melodic devices. In this lesson we'll work on identifying various neighbour note and passing tone functions around our major triad.

## **Lesson #19 – Interval Comparison Exercise**

In this lesson we'll work on comparing each interval in turn.

## **Lesson #20 – Test #3 Basic Leaps**

## **Lesson #21 – Chord Progression Root Movement**

Over the next few lessons we'll introduce chord progressions by isolating the root movement from a variety of common chord sequences.

## **Lesson #22 – II-V-I**

## **Lesson #23 – Chord VI**

## **Lesson #24 – Test #4 Root Movement**

## **Lesson #25 – Chord Recognition**

Now we have an understanding of chords within a key and their root movement, let's work on identifying the basic major and minor chords.

## **Lesson #26 – Test #5 Major and Minor Chords**

## **Lesson #27 – Chord Progression Recognition**

Now we can hear the major and minor chord qualities, we can move on to identifying complete chord progressions.

## **Lesson #28 – Test #6 – Chord Progressions**

## **Lesson #29 – Rhythm Recall #1**

Over the previous lessons we've focused on melody and harmony, but rhythm is equally important in our ear training study. Over the next two lessons, we'll work on developing a strong rhythmic recall.

## **Lesson #30 – Rhythm Recall #2**

## **Lesson #31 – Transcription**

Transcription is the ultimate aim for many bass players working on this course. Let's take a deep dive into every aspect of transcribing and learning a song by ear.

## **Lesson #32 – Practice Routine**

In this final lesson of the course we'll be looking at the best way to incorporate ear training into your daily practice schedule.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the Ear Training For Bass Guitar Course?**

Ear Training For Bass Guitar is a progressive, step-by-step approach to developing aural and transcription skills, specifically tailored to the bass guitarist.

### **Ok. But what is Ear Training and why do I need to learn it?**

Ear Training is the development of our ability to recognise and recreate the music that we hear. This can include melodies, bass lines, chords and rhythms. A musician with a highly developed ear will be able to instantly recognise the notes of a melody line, the notes of a chord or a chord progression and either write them down or copy them on their instrument. This is an essential skill when looking to transcribe music.

However, a well-developed ear is not simply a means to copying the music of others. A good ear will also allow you to talk or sing more freely through your instrument as you develop the ability to play the music you hear in your head. Ear training is essential to your development as a musician, regardless of your style or instrument.

### **What level of player is the course aimed at?**

The course is aimed at any level of bass player with limited experience of ear training.

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

The lesson lengths vary but the Level 1 contains over 4 hours of video and many weeks, months and years of practice material.

### **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.