

Bass Guitar Time with Caleb Lesson

1

[00:00:00] Hello everyone! Welcome to Bass Guitar Time with Caleb. I am Caleb and I'll be your teacher as we dive into the amazing possibilities of the bass guitar. I'll show you everything you need to know as a beginner bassist from technique to sight reading and I'll teach you how to not only play the bass guitar, but to have a lot of fun while doing it.

So, without further ado, let's jump right in. So the first thing that you're going to need before you play is obviously a bass guitar. You can find these at any music store or online. But, I would recommend just getting one in person. And you're going to need an amplifier. You're going to need a bass amp.

Other amps can work as well, but going with the bass amp, you're going to get the best sound possible and a quarter inch cable. So it doesn't have to be super long. If you're just practicing at home. And what you're going to do is you're going to take your quarter inch cable, and you're going to [00:01:00] plug it into the input slot of your amp, just like that.

You're going to take the other end, plug it into your bass guitar. So for me, it's about right down here. Plug it in. Something important to note is you should not be plugging in your bass or unplugging it while the amp is on. So once you've plugged everything in, then go ahead, turn your amp on. So once you have everything turned on, You should get some sound just like that.

Does that sound good? All right. So before you play the bass guitar, before you do anything, you have to tune first because these strings won't always be in tune every time you play. In fact, every time I pick up my bass guitar before I play, I always have to tune. So what you need for this is you need a tuner.

You can find these at stores or online, at Amazon or something. You can even get apps for them. The apps aren't quite as good [00:02:00] as the tuners that you buy, but they still work. So I have this tuner here and you put it right on the end of your bass, turn it on and you use it to tune your bass guitar.

So you play your string and you try to get it right in the middle of the, of the little dial there. But before you have to tune, you got to know what the strings are called. So, This first string here is the E string. Alright? This is your lowest

string on the bass guitar, your E string. So, when you're tuning, you want to tune to the E string.

So whether you're using an app or a tuner, When you play the note, it'll show you what note is being heard. Now, if you play it, you gotta use these knobs here at the end. Alright, these are tuning knobs here. And you gotta turn them whichever way [00:03:00] it needs to be. So right now, A is a little sharp, which means it's a little too high pitched. So I'll flatten it just a hair, and there, we're there.

So just go through, use your tuner, and make sure all the strings are nice and tuned, okay? So, Going through all the strings. E, that's our lowest string, is E. The next one, is A. That's our second string right here. This is our A string. Then we have our D string. This is our third string, is our D string. Our last one, is our G string.

Okay? So, really quick recap here. We have E, A, D, and G. Alright? Those are all [00:04:00] your open strings. E, A, D, G. So when you're tuning, tune it to that, alright?

Okay, so, there are some important techniques when playing the bass guitar that you need to be aware of. When you're playing, one of the biggest technique parts is with your right hand.

And if you're left handed, it'll be with your left hand. But it's, it's the hand that is playing the strings. This one right here, okay? So, when you're playing the E string, You all, and this goes for every string, you always want to alternate your pointer finger and your middle finger, okay? So if I'm playing the E string, I'm alternating my fingers just like this, okay?

One after the other. Pointer, middle, pointer, middle, pointer, [00:05:00] middle. Just like that. And while I'm doing this, I'm keeping my thumb right here on the pickup. It's like resting on it, okay? It's resting right on this pickup, just like this. So if I keep my thumb on the pickup, I'm not keeping it sideways like this. And I'm not like doing it like this. I'm keeping it sort of at an angle, just like this.

Okay. And when you play and you're alternating, you want your thumb to be kind of like, using, being used to block your fingers. So my fingers are going to go through the strings, and they're kind of running into my thumb. Because every time I play this note, my fingers run into my thumb. Just like that.

Alright? They're not going out here, and like, going out like this. They're running into my thumb. You're going through the string. Okay? Okay? So. And you're not going up like this, [00:06:00] through the string, okay? Through the string, just like this. Now, going on the A string, same thing, alright? Alternate your fingers, you're going through the strings, and you're keeping your thumb at that exact same place that you always have.

Just like this.

Now, so keeping everything the same, but this time, so if you noticed, you're using your fingers, you're going through the strings, and you're letting them run into the E string this time. So when you're playing on the E string, we let them run into your thumb, but now, they're running into the E string, okay?

Now, moving on. Once we get to the D string, things change a little bit. You want to put your thumb on the E string now, and not on the pickup, on the E string. Okay? So put them on the E string. And now you're going to be playing your D string, just like this. So you're still alternating your fingers. [00:07:00] You're still doing everything the same, except the only thing that's changed is you've moved your thumb from the pickup to the E string.

Now you're using it like this. Okay? Everything's the same. Then, moving on, once you want to play the G string, which is your highest string. You're going to put your thumb on the A string and do the same thing. Your fingers are going through the string and hitting the one behind it. So, if you're playing the G string, you'd be hitting the D string.

Okay? Just like this. Alright? So, really quick recap. E string, you're going right into your thumb, A string, keep everything the same, running into the E string now, D string, you move your thumb up, just like this, yeah? Then, once you go into the G string, you do the same thing again, your thumb [00:08:00] up to this A string, and you're all good to go.

Now, we're gonna do a little exercise, okay? So, this is gonna be the one that I'm gonna want you guys to work on at home, okay? On your own time. You're gonna go through all of the strings on four counts. Okay? So if I'm gonna play this E string, it'll sound like this. 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4, A string, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4, D string, 1, 2, 3, 4, always alternating, 1, 2, 3, 4, move the thumb again, 1, [00:09:00] 2, 3, 4. 1, 2, 3, 4. So yeah, work on that this week, and that'll be your homework, okay?

So, a few things to remember. Whenever you pick up your bass, before you practice, before you play, you do anything, you always want to tune, okay? So grab your tuner, get your app, whatever, put it right on the headstock, if it's an app, then just hold it out in front of your bass or in front of the amp.

And remember, it's your E, A, D, G. That's what you want your strings to be. Okay? And then work on this exercise that I just gave you guys, okay? So work on just playing on these strings and moving, you know? Just like we were doing before. And make sure you're moving your thumb where it needs to move, and that you're alternating your fingers.

Well, that's it for today, guys. I hope you guys have a really good rest of your day, and I'll see y'all later.