

MUSIC THEORY YOU ACTUALLY NEED

FOR BASS PLAYERS

Here are 5 levels of that'll take you from no-theory nitwit to the **exact** amount you need to know for your personal musical goal. I've included the best free resources I can find for every step, so you only have to buy my course as a last resort. 🤪

LEVEL 1 - BEDROOM PLAYER

✓ (Mostly) F*** Theory

- Learn your fav songs by feel, have fun, don't let theory overcook you.

✓ Learn to Read Tab

- There's four lines, one for each string (EADG bottom to top), and the numbers tell you what fret to play.
- Yeah, you just learned it. Done.

✓ Basic Rhythm Theory

- It's helpful to understand beats, bars, whole/half/quarter/eighth notes, and how to count them.
- [Note Duration](#)
- [Measures and Time Signature](#)

✓ Basic Technique

- So your fingers do what you tell them to do.
- [Your First Lesson](#)
- [Practice This Daily \(10 Mins\)](#)

LEVEL 2 - CASUAL JAMMER

✓ Note Names on the Neck

- Don't try to learn EVERY note name INSTANTLY - that just explodes most people's brains. Start here.
- [Learn Your Bass Fretboard Notes \(Easy Starter Method\)](#)

✓ Drum Basics

- What all the drums are called, what they sound like, and how they fit in the music.
- [How to Play Bass with a Drummer \(Foolproof Beginner Blueprint\)](#)

✓ Bass Line Shapes

- So you can play cool stuff, without knowing a ton of theory.
- [5 Easy "Shapes" for Kickass Bass Lines \(Bassist Shortcuts\)](#)
- [Boring Bass Lines Fixed \(With 1 Simple Walkup Trick\)](#)

LEVEL 3 - BAR BAND BASSIST

☑ Intervals and Ear Training

- Interval theory is the naming system for the distances between notes.
- Interval ear training is learning to hear notes and magically know what interval you heard.
- [Interval Theory Part 1](#)
- [Interval Theory Part 2](#)
- [Interval Ear Training](#)

☑ Chord Progressions

- This is the part where I tell you you should probably just buy my course so you don't end up in theory hell.

☑ Pentatonic + Blues Scales

- [Killer Bass Lines Made Easy with the Pentatonic Scale](#)

☑ More Rhythm Theory

- I hacked this outta the video cuz it sounded boring, but you should still learn it.
- Specifically, understanding time signatures - how we label how many beats go in a bar.
- You need to learn how to count and feel 4/4, 3/4, 6/8, and 12/8 time signatures.
- [Measures and Time Signature](#)

LEVEL 4 - WORKING PRO

☑ Major and Minor Scales

- [Bass Scales for Beginners \(5 Stupidly Simple Steps\)](#)

☑ Reading Music

- I cover all the basics in my course in depth, wink wink, but you can learn them pretty quickly with a free resource like this -
- [The Basics](#)

☑ Seventh Chords

- They're less common than triad chords in most styles of music, but when they DO come up you need to be prepared so you don't play the wrong notes.
- At Level 4, you need to know how to play over the 3 most common types - Maj7, min7, and bluesiest of blues chords, dom7.
- [Seventh Chords](#)

LEVEL 5 - EXTREME JAZZ-FUSION

NOTE - you should know at least 100+ songs before you spend time on any of the following. And most people don't even need to get to level 5... and that's okay!

☑ The Major Modes

- They're the magical scales that come from starting fresh scales on all 7 notes of the major scale.
- [Old Josh scale videos playlist](#)

☑ Odd Time Signatures

- You need to learn to count and feel music in 5, 7, 9, and beyond, so you can play along with Snarky Puppy and Rush.

☑ Whole Tone Scale

☑ Harmonic Minor Scale + Modes

☑ Melodic Minor Scale + Modes

☑ Upper Chord Extensions

- This means going beyond 1-3-5-7 chords and arpeggios into 9ths 11ths and 13ths, and all their alterations.

☑ Sus/Diminished/Augmented Chords

☑ Common Polyrhythms

- Learn to count and feel 3:2 and 4:3 for starters. It's fun!
- [Tonegym Polyrhythm Basics](#)

☑ Harmonics

- It's super cool to learn the physics of the harmonic series, and how it lays out on the bass, so you can do [this](#).

☑ Common Non-Diatonic Chords

- Prepare to be smashed - this includes tritone substitutions, secondary dominants and borrowed chords, aka MODAL F***ING INTERCHANGE.

This is a lot of stuff to learn, and it still might be hard to figure out exactly what you need to learn on your own.

My **Beginner to Badass** course will get you to around mid Level 4, and you won't have to figure out what to practice or how much to practice - just keep showing up for your lessons until you become a bass badass.

[Click here to check it out.](#)