

Care and Feeding of Your Bass Section

Bob Phillips-Alfred Publishing

- I. Recruiting bass players
 - A. Size-(size/gender)
 - B. Instrument appearance
 - C. Cost-(buying/renting)
 - D. Balance of orchestra (10-15%)
 - E. The bass personality or “What are they doing back there?”
 - F. Recruiting process (Now or later) and controlling the process
 - G. Making it attractive- using college and professional resources
- II. Starting in a Heterogeneous Setting
 - A. Size
 - B. Playing set-up
 - C. Stools, bow, and rosin
 - D. Method books (No folds)
 - E. Unison playing/Class pace/Intervals- (What’s the hardest instrument?)
- III. Retaining bass players
 - A. Lack of good instruments
 - B. Lack of practice instruments-(transportation, new rental programs)
 - C. Lack of private teachers
 - D. Lowered expectations of string teachers
 - E. Featuring the bass –alt. styles, chamber music, solos, Georgia syndrome
- IV. Technical Considerations
 - A. Positioning the Bass
 - 1. Instrument Height
 - 2. Securing the bass
 - 3. Stance/sitting
 - B. Bow Hold
 - 1. French bow
 - 2. German bow
 - C. Producing a tone (weight vs. length)
 - 1. String contact
 - 2. Arm stroke
 - D. Left hand Position
 - 1. Placement (1,2,4)
 - 2. Positions-(electric bass)
 - 3. Shifting
 - E. Tuning
 - 1. Open strings
 - 2. 3rd position harmonics
 - F. Listening problems
 - 1. Tuning
 - 2. Playing in tune
 - 3. Who leads? Cellos (Baroque, Classical) or Bases (Romantic and beyond)
 - 4. Attack and anticipating
- V. Suggested Equipment
 - A. Rosin-Pops, Carlsson Swedish, Nymen Swedish, Kolstein Ultra Formulation Supreme
 - B. Strings-Pirastro Flexocor-medium, Thomastik Spirocore-orchestra, Thomastik Rope core-regular, Thomastik Dominant, Savarez Correlli-medium tension
 - C. Resources-Lemur Music Inc. PO Box 1137, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693,1-800-246-bass. Shar Products
 - D. Organizations- International Society of Bassists, MENC, ASTA

www.phillipsfiddlers.com

Double Bass Facts

Lawrence P. Hurst, Professor of Double Bass, Indiana University

Ratio of String Length to Bow Length

Instrument	String Length to Bridge	Bow Length	Ratio of String Length to Bow Length
Violin	12 7/8"	25 3/4"	2 to 1
Viola	14 1/2"	25 3/4"	1.8 to 1
Cello	27 1/2"	24"	.87 to 1
Bass	42"	22 1/2"	.53 to 1

String Length as a Ratio of Bow Weight

Instrument	String Length	Bow Weight	Grams per Inch
Violin	12 7/8"	58-63 grams	4.5 to 4.89
Viola	14 1/2"	74-74 grams	4.4 to 5.1
Cello	27 1/2"	74-95 grams	2.6 to 3.4
Bass	42"	110-165 grams	2.6 to 3.9

Width of Hair as a Proportion of String Length

Instrument	String Length	Width of Hair	Ratio of Hair Width to Hair Length
Violin	343mm	10mm	1/32.2
Viola	386mm	11mm	1/35.1
Cello	732mm	12mm	1/61
Bass	1117mm	16mm	1/70

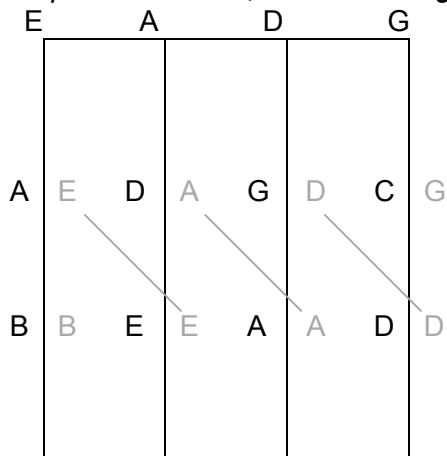
Distance from the Nut on the D string to the First Semitone D#

Instrument	Distance from the Nut on the D string to the First Semitone D#
Violin	9/16"
Viola	3/4"
Cello	1 3/8"
Bass	2 1/2"

Double Bass Harmonic Tuning

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Double Bass Third Position.
Stopped pitches in black, harmonics in grey.



G string D string A string E string