

Bass Guitar

Music

Tuning, the role, and the two patterns that cover most parts.

Four strings tuned E A D G, an octave below the lowest four of a guitar. The bass connects the harmony to the rhythm — it is the only instrument doing both jobs at once.

STRINGS
4 (or 5)

TUNING
E A D G

FRETS
20–24

- Standard tuning: E A D G, low to high.
- Same note layout as a guitar's lowest four strings, one octave down.
- Root notes on the strong beats is the default part.
- The octave shape: up two strings, across two frets.
- Root–fifth alternation covers country, rock and folk.
- Play with the kick drum, not against it.

LOOK FOR IT

Over a C chord: play C on beat 1, G on beat 3. That is a complete, working bass line.

A five-string bass adds a low B below the E, for the range below standard tuning.