

# Introducing

These incoming bass players answer the burning questions of the month. Do you agree with their views?

## TOP BASS TIP

**Neil** As Miles Davis said, music is 80 percent attitude.

**Mike** Jacksons are great for their slim, tapered necks.

**Alexandre** Basses must have character!



Phil Crossman

## NEIL BATEY, THE JONESES

### WHAT WAS YOUR WAY INTO BASS?

**A**s a music-mad teenager, a friend had an electric guitar and he let me have a go. It was such a crushing disappointment—it sounded so feeble, shrill, and totally lacking cojones. Dejected, I picked up a bass which was collecting dust in the corner. I hit an open E string, and there it was—love at first pluck—and I learned to play the riff from Fleetwood Mac's 'The Chain'.

My first bass was a cheap and poor-quality short-scale Les Paul copy, bought second-hand for \$60. The action was as high as the Golden Gate Bridge and only

one pickup worked. More importantly though, it looked badass! Now, in retrospect, being physically challenged to learn on a piece-of-crap bass helped me get my technique and discipline down, because once I upgraded to a proper instrument, everything seemed so easy.

My first legit instrument was an 1990s active Charvel Fusion IV in red. It was as light as a feather and played like a dream. I now gig with The Joneses, a tribute band to The Smiths, so to imitate the propulsive, percussive tones of Andy Rourke, I play a Yamaha BB734A.

[www.thejonesesband.co.uk](http://www.thejonesesband.co.uk)



John Oliver

## MIKE JEFFRIES, VENOM PRISON

### GIVE US SOME BASS ADVICE?

**T**he best advice I've been given with playing bass, and probably any instrument for that matter, is to learn parts slowly and to a metronome. I'm a firm believer that if you can play something fast but not slowed down then you can't play it properly, and it can often lead to poor technique. Slowing it down and recording yourself playing goes a long way to eliminating sloppy habits such as poor muting between notes. The speed will come naturally and not at the expense of bad habits. [www.facebook.com/venomprison](http://www.facebook.com/venomprison)



## ALEXANDRE LAPOINTE

### WHAT'S THE SECRET OF GOOD BASS PLAYING?

**T**eamwork is everything. For example, if I make bass tracks for an artist in the studio, and then do a live show for the same artist, the bass-lines might be different. The environment and the vibe are not the same. Respect for the artist and the song is crucial. It's important to make it your own to really tailor the song.

[www.alexandrelapointe.com](http://www.alexandrelapointe.com)