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Subject: OT - question for the bass players  
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2007 19:55:42 GMT  
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I'm a guitar player. I want to play more bass, but i really only play with a pick. Do you know of a bass, string and pick combination that sounds closest to playing with fingers?

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Subject: Re: OT - question for the bass players  
Posted by [steve the artguy](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2007 21:31:45 GMT  
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Bill L <[bill@billlorentzen.com](mailto:bill@billlorentzen.com)> wrote:  
>I'm a guitar player. I want to play more bass, but i really only play  
>with a pick. Do you know of a bass, string and pick combination that  
>sounds closest to playing with fingers?

Bill-

I'd say bite the bullet and learn to play with your fingers.

In my mind, fingers means an acoustic bass sound. I play with my fingers. My bass is a hollow body, and the strings haven't been changed since about 1985. I'm told almost every gig that it sounds amazingly like someone playing an upright.

The strings that were on it before this were nylon wound, and they sounded even more like an upright.

But then, maybe that isn't the sound you're going for...

-steve

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Subject: Re: OT - question for the bass players  
Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2007 22:00:09 GMT  
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learn with your fingers and learn to NOT hit the strings hard to get your sound. get a controlled motion so you are only moving the strings in the plane of the front of the guitar. then you can use more force for expression. even the hardest rock bass players do it this way.

John

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Subject: Re: OT - question for the bass players  
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2007 23:20:59 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Ditto this on both parts. The closest I ever got to 'finger' sound was in the late 80's with felt picks, but they're still not the same animal. I can run circles around myself using 3 fingers to pluck with as opposed to picking.

AA

"Carl Amburn" <carlamburn@hotNOSPAMmail.com> wrote in message news:472903e4@linux...  
> You could try a felt pick. I haven't seen one since the '80s - not to say  
> they aren't around, but I wouldn't know where to look.  
>  
> I do agree with everyone else to suck it up and learn with your fingers  
> too.  
> :)  
>  
> -Carl  
>  
> "Bill L" <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote in message news:4728df18@linux...  
>> I'm a guitar player. I want to play more bass, but i really only play  
>> with a pick. Do you know of a bass, string and pick combination that  
>> sounds closest to playing with fingers?  
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>

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Subject: Re: OT - question for the bass players  
Posted by [dc\[3\]](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2007 23:30:35 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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I'm in the same boat. Use the pick, it takes years to play well with fingers. Besides I love the sound of a pick on bass.

Just remember to wait for the pocket! We guitar guys are always rushing...

DC

Bill L <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote:  
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Subject: Re: OT - question for the bass players  
Posted by [Carl Amburn](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2007 23:33:29 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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You could try a felt pick. I haven't seen one since the '80s - not to say they aren't around, but I wouldn't know where to look.

I do agree with everyone else to suck it up and learn with your fingers too.  
:)

-Carl

"Bill L" <[bill@billlorentzen.com](mailto:bill@billlorentzen.com)> wrote in message <news:4728df18@linux...>  
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Subject: Re: OT - question for the bass players  
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2007 01:26:33 GMT  
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Take Neil's surgically removed finger tip and mount it to a pick.

If Neil didn't keep his extra fingertip, then the second best alternative is to learn to play bass with your fingers. If you can play classical or flamenco guitar, or even finger-picked folk guitar stuff, you can play bass with your fingers.

If you can't play any of that stuff on guitar then you're not really a guitar player then, are you? (ducking ;^)

"They call 'em fingers but I've never sing 'em fing!...

....oh, there it goes." -Otto, on the Simpsons.

Cheers,  
-Jamie  
[www.JamieKruz.com](http://www.JamieKruz.com)

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Subject: Re: OT - question for the bass players  
Posted by [Neil](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2007 01:52:43 GMT  
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Gibson EB-0 short-scale bass, Tapewound strings, felt pick...  
using that combination, there's no distiction between a picked  
& fingered bass lol!

:D

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Subject: Re: OT - question for the bass players  
Posted by [Cujjo](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2007 03:10:55 GMT  
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I second the tape wounds...I pley 80% with a pick...not that I am a killer  
pr anything..  
Rotos are my fave flats and rounds...I like thier tapes too!  
Try muting the strings while picking

"Neil" <OIU@OIU.com> wrote:  
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>:D  
>

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Subject: Re: OT - question for the bass players  
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2007 03:14:14 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Damn, Neil, I thought you were serious. I just bid \$950 for an EB-O on  
ebay. If I win this thing, you're buying it!

Neil wrote:

> Cuj, that was a joke... the combination of an EB-0 bass &  
> tapewounds produces a sound equivalent to: "woom-woom-woom",  
> no matter how you play, what style you play, or what position  
> on the neck you play it in...

>  
> ...which is why it wouldn't matter if you played it with a pick  
> or with your fingers - it would all sound the same.

>  
> Neil

>  
>  
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> "Cujo" <chris@applemanstudio.com> wrote:

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>>>  
>>> :D  
>>>  
>

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Subject: Re: OT - question for the bass players  
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2007 03:19:07 GMT  
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Jamie, first you made me actually LOL, 'cause Neil deserved that for the EB-O thing, but then you made me mad, because I never learned any finger style except the full-fisted pluck (all fingers at once, you filthy bastard). I suppose I can see some value in the finger thing if I could also use it on guitar.

Jamie K wrote:

>  
> Take Neil's surgically removed finger tip and mount it to a pick.  
>  
> If Neil didn't keep his extra fingertip, then the second best  
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> you can play bass with your fingers.  
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> If you can't play any of that stuff on guitar then you're not really a  
> guitar player then, are you? (ducking ;^)  
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> "They call 'em fingers but I've never sing 'em fing!...  
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> ...oh, there it goes." -Otto, on the Simpsons.  
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> Cheers,  
> -Jamie  
> www.JamieKrutz.com  
>  
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Subject: Re: OT - question for the bass players  
Posted by [Neil](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2007 03:24:08 GMT  
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Cuj, that was a joke... the combination of an EB-0 bass & tapewounds produces a sound equivalent to: "woom-woom-woom", no matter how you play, what style you play, or what position on the neck you play it in...

....which is why it wouldn't matter if you played it with a pick or with your fingers - it would all sound the same.

Neil

"Cujo" <chris@applemanstudio.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: OT - question for the bass players  
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2007 03:48:25 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I was laughing maniacally when I wrote that bit about Neil - probably inpired by all the various ghoulish sugar-addict monsters at the door this evening. :^)

Hopefully Neil will forgive me after he spits beer all over his keyboard.

But seriously, you can do the finger thing and you don't need me to tell you how. But I will anyway. Hold your RH so your fingers are perpendicular to the strings. Alternate first and second RH fingers on the E string and try a repeating one note bass line (half notes or quarter notes). When you get that down, add a second note on the E string and alternate between the two notes as you alternate between the two RH fingers.

When you get that down, add a third note, etc. Pretty soon you'll be doing walking bass lines and other cool bass parts. It'll feel natural after a while. Really.

And then you'll be ready for classical guitar runs that are done with the same two-fingered RH technique interspersed between the two-fisted-pluck you already know, and thumb-1-2-3 arpeggio variations.

It would behoove me to practice that stuff, too, except right now I'm

trying to get two Dixie Dregs pieces and a Jeff Beck song down before a rehearsal tomorrow, and it's all w/the pick...

Cheers,  
-Jamie  
www.JamieKrutz.com

Bill L wrote:

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> EB-O thing, but then you made me mad, because I never learned any finger  
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---

Subject: Re: OT - question for the bass players  
Posted by [Neil](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2007 04:47:06 GMT  
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Fuck... another Scientology scam to get more money out of me...  
OK, fine... if you win it, I'll pay - BUT I GOTTA GET THE



BASS, IF THAT'S THE CASE! LOL!

Neil :)

Bill L <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote:

>Damn, Neil, I thought you were serious. I just bid \$950 for an EB-O on  
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>> ...which is why it wouldn't matter if you played it with a pick  
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>> Neil

>>

>>

>>

>>

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>>>>>

>>>>>

>>>>>

Subject: Re: OT - question for the bass players  
Posted by [JNeil](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2007 05:01:44 GMT  
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Goddamit, if anyone gets to use use my removed fingertip in this manner, it's gonna be the winning bidder in my next ebay auction: "Prog Guitarist/Composer's Fingertip - Can be Mounted on a Pick for Dramatic Effect - Bidding starts at \$100k"

lol

Neil

Bill L <[bill@billlorentzen.com](mailto:bill@billlorentzen.com)> wrote:

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Subject: Re: OT - question for the bass players  
Posted by [rick](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2007 10:37:05 GMT  
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i taught myself this year and fingers are the best.

On Wed, 31 Oct 2007 15:55:42 -0400, Bill L <[bill@billlorentzen.com](mailto:bill@billlorentzen.com)>  
wrote:

>I'm a guitar player. I want to play more bass, but i really only play  
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Subject: Re: OT - question for the bass players  
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2007 13:31:58 GMT  
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Great, you got the bass. And, Neil, we only need the cash to feed the  
Eternal Flame that burns hundred dollar bills on Hubbard's tomb.

Neil wrote:

> Fuck... another Scientology scam to get more money out of me...  
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Subject: Re: OT - question for the bass players  
Posted by [Neil](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2007 18:23:23 GMT  
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lol.

:D

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Subject: Re: OT - question for the bass players - video proof  
Posted by [steve the artguy](#) on Fri, 02 Nov 2007 15:27:34 GMT  
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Bill-

thanks to YouTube, there now is video evidence that I do indeed make semi-bass-like sounds with my old bass. There was also some sort of high shrieking audio coming from my mic, but a combination of modesty and/or embarrassment prevents me from revealing any details as to their origin or nature.

"The Speed of the Sound of Loneliness":  
<http://www.youtube.com/v/yLhfiF4TXho>

"Enjoy Yourself"  
<http://www.youtube.com/v/yfCQfT6v7qo>

recorded in amazing lo-fi (both video and audio) by the guitarist's (Gary Grubb) wife. The fellow in the middle is Chris Samson, as nice a guy as you could meet, and a decent singer and songwriter.

This was last Friday, after minutes of intense rehearsal outside the Petaluma Vet's Auditorium. We were opening for David LaFlamme's band. Yes, we heard "White Bird." The guy's still got it.

-steve

>>>>>> Bill L <[bill@billlorentzen.com](mailto:bill@billlorentzen.com)> wrote:  
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