

Part F4: Bass levels

1

A level one player should be able to:

- know all the notes on neck up to 5th position.
- play basic grooves (1, 2&) (1, 2&, 3) (1&2&3&4&)
- get a basic tone
- tune the instrument well.
- read a basic chord chart.

2

A level two player should be able to:

- know all the notes on neck.
- play major and minor arpeggios.
- play Major pentatonic simple fills.
- play with consistent note length, consistent tone.
- navigate more advanced chord charts (sign, coda, repeats, 1st & 2nd time bars).
- play more syncopated rhythms (16th note off beats).
- read hymns and Left hand of Piano parts.
- hear a drummers part and play a relevant and consistent groove to it.
- keep their head up, listening in band playing.

3

A level three player should be able to:

- use a wider range on the bass (higher parts/more melodic parts).
- connect the different sections of songs / probe into new chords.
- read really well.
- use other techniques (muting/effects) appropriately.
- play with a very strong time feel.
- be highly aware of other instruments parts and able to choose relevant styles and voice bass parts.

4

A level four player should be able to:

- lead the band with your part, decisive strong playing.
- solo over any material required.
- play with a strong time feel that can hold up without any other instruments playing
- control tone and volume with sensitivity.
- make note choices with tasteful substitutions and re-harmonisation.
- memorise material quickly and easily.
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