

BASS GUITAR CHEAT SHEET



RECORDING BASS

- Record direct in a home studio
 - Miking a bass amp at home is a bad idea
 - Low frequencies are the most problematic in a home studio
 - Control tone in mix with an amp simulator
- Use a proper DI box
 - Also use pedals if you have them - I like to record bass with a compression pedal and virtual tube amp pedal
- Set conservative recording levels using gain on your audio interface
 - Peaking no higher than -10dBFS
- Adjust tone controls (if the bass is active) to suit song in context of mix
 - What would work best?
 - Dull and powerful?
 - Or bright and snappy?

AMP SIMULATION TIPS

- Use a proper DI when recording
- Use your usual pedals (as they go before amp)

- Make sure gain staging is good
 - Will have effect on tone of amp
 - Can use gain control or a trim plugin
- Get a good tone with amp controls, don't rely on EQ
 - Like a real amp
- Be more subtle with EQ settings, rather than some extreme templates that appear on loading
- Don't adjust tone in solo
- Use a low-pass filter to remove top end sizzle, most amp sims do this anyway, but can do yourself too
- Dark/tape saturation good for removing harshness and making sound warmer, can put on group buss
- Can try moving mic back (in software) for a more realistic room sound
 - Although a closer mic position works better in general

MIXING BASS GUITAR

- Get the tone you want before you start mixing
 - Adjust tones on amp simulation
- Get the balance right before anything else
- Pocket EQ Technique
 - Identify pocket
 - High-pass filter
 - Enhance the bass in that pocket (boost or cut around the pocket)
 - Remove unnecessary frequencies
 - Create more space for the bass pocket
- Avoid mixing in solo