

Bass Workshop - Good Technique - Right Hand

Where to Rest Your Thumb To Pluck The Strings



Rest your thumb on the top of an instrument or you can just float your thumb above.



Rest your thumb on a pickup or even the pick guard.



Rest your thumb on the fingerboard if you have to, but this will change the sound.

Plucking the strings in different places can change the sound you produce - experiment!

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Rest Your Thumb On Strings



Resting your thumb on the E strings works - just remember you can't play the E string with your thumb on it!



Resting your thumb on a string mutes the string and helps with unwanted noise.



You can even rest your thumb on the A string but this is trickier.

Muting strings helps as bass strings can ring on and the sound gets very muddy!

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Which Fingers To Use

USE 2 FINGERS IF AT ALL POSSIBLE

- Using your index and middle finger if possible
- You can play much faster
- Keep them as even as possible
- It is possible to use 3 fingers
- Some bassists use their thumb



How To Pluck The Strings

- Always pull the strings across the top of the instrument, not away from the body
- This sounds better and you get more volume
- Use the fleshy part of your fingers
- Keep your nails short (very important)

Practice plucking fast & slow but keep your notes as even as possible.

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KEEP YOUR HAND RELAXED

Pluck Lightly - Let the amp do all the work. If the amp is too quiet, you plucking hard won't make any difference, it will just make your fingers sore.

- It's difficult to relax if you are playing too hard!
- Find a comfortable position (you may need to adjust your strap or stand up)



As you are playing make sure you stay as relaxed as possible and pluck lightly!

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Finger Placement On Fretboard

- Fingers should be **close** to the fret
- Parallel with the frets



Thumb Placement

- Relaxed & flexible
- Middle of back of neck



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Stretching & Moving



Traditional bass fingers method



One finger per fret

It is entirely up to you which you choose.

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Moving Around The Fretboard

- Keep a good hand shape moving around the fretboard
- Push up with your index finger, pull back with your pinky finger
- Avoid “flying fingers”



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Muting With Left hand

- Muting open strings is essential
- Use flat fingers



Curved fingers for playing



Flat fingers for muting

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Right & Left Hand

GOOD BASS TECHNIQUES

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