

j p b

music

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Suppliers of your Requirements for Violins, Violas, Cellos and Double Bases

BASS STRING GUIDE

JPB Music aims to stock most string's listed other than those specifically stated as to Order.

We are committed to providing the widest selection and **very competitive prices**. Choose among gauges: **long fourth strings (C-E extension), solo tuning sets, fifth string B (sometimes known as 'H') or C, and high C** for solo work. Many string makers now make their most popular sets in Fractional Sizes. In addition, our turnover assures **fresh stock**, especially important for gut strings.

Remember, sadly, strings are not returnable once installed. Customers who wish to experiment with new sets should **try brands one at a time**. Strings purchased as individuals may be returned within a reasonable period if not installed, in showroom condition in Manufacturers packaging (if returning strings, they need to be correctly packaged for safe posting). Some sets (**e.g. Velvet**) are only packaged as sets.

Orchestra tuning strings are meant to be tuned G-D-A-E. They come in the greatest **variety of gauges, extensions, 5ths, etc.** Heavier-gauge strings have more tension when tuned, and are likely to produce more volume, especially in fundamental frequencies.

Solo tuning strings are meant to be tuned A-E-B-F#, a full step higher. They are the thinnest-gauge strings. Most solo tuning sets can be tuned down to **G-D-A-E** for a low-tension feel. But, please do **keep in mind that less mass on the thinner strings translates to lower overall volume.**

Different Strings for Different Things

All instrument strings have some type of core to hold the tension. Often, additional layers are added to build up size and mass, as well as to control tonal and playing characteristics.

Strings for Arco have **more damping in the formula to darken the tone and reduce the scratchy** sound that can occur as a note begins. Almost all modern strings are wound with a smooth outer wrap.

Strings for Jazz Pizzicato have **less damping** in the formula to give **longer sustain, brighter tone, and a clear pitch centre** on the low notes.

Strings for Slap-Style Play need **lower tension for higher action.** This allows the fingertips of the plucking hand to easily get under the string and pull it upwards.

Strings tend to be specialized. A good jazz string is not likely to make a good arco sound on the same bass. So it is important to select a string that is appropriate for the type of use, as well as the instrument, in the order to get the best performance.