

j p b

music

The Coach House  
66a Clifton Road  
Weston-Super-Mare  
N. Somerset

website: [www.jpbbmusic.com](http://www.jpbbmusic.com)

BS23 1BW

Fax: 01934 613939

**Tel: 01934 628600**

email: [paul@jpbbmusic.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:paul@jpbbmusic.wanadoo.co.uk)

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.