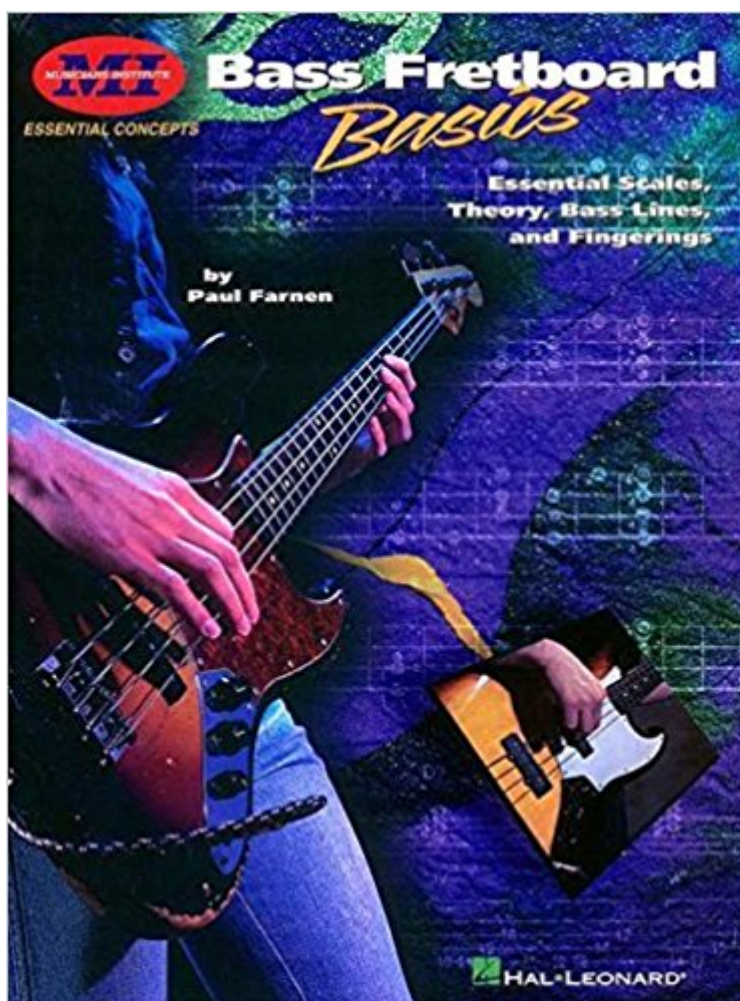


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# Bass Fretboard Basics: Essential Scales, Theory, Bass Lines & Fingerings (Essential Concepts)



## Synopsis

(Musicians Institute Press). All you need to know about the bass fretboard, including: scales, intervals, triads, modal patterns, and fundamentals; keys, fingerings, position playing; arpeggios, turnarounds, walking bass lines; horizontal and vertical playing; and more! For all styles of playing!

## Book Information

Series: Essential Concepts

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## Customer Reviews

I studied with the author, Paul Farnen, at Musician's Institute in 1981-82. This book captures the essence of his approach to teaching bass in a clear and concise manner, starting with the basics (note names & locations), tuning, scale harmonizations, through analyzing key centers and scale/chordal patterns over specific chord progressions that utilize the entire range of the instrument. One particularly helpful point is the fingering options. Some technique books recommend a set fingering pattern; the author shows several fingering variations for the same pattern. That's especially useful since there's often more than one way to play the same thing. The exercises are easily adapted to real-world playing situations. It's also a great reference for teachers who have a depth of knowledge of harmony & theory. The section on developing walking bass lines is relatively basic (no pun intended) but will start the student on the path with excellent pointers. For a more in-depth and specific study of how to develop walking bass lines I would highly recommend Bob Magnusson's "The Art Of Walking Bass", also by Musician's Institute Press. [The Art of Walking Bass: A Method for Acoustic or Electric Bass](#)

This book, for me, is an additional extension to learning fret board technique and music theory as applied to bass music. I really love this one!!!!

This is quite simply one of the easiest books to follow. Paul Farnen gets you on your way with easy to follow diagrams to better understand the theory of the bass guitar. He has made my learning experience more pleasurable and given me the confidence and knowledge to become a better bassist. I have plenty of books pertaining to bass theory but this book by far is the most comprehensive. My advice, buy this book you won't be sorry.

The scale exercises are well-organized and very helpful. The material on harmony, walking lines, and chord substitution was less useful, as they don't explain enough to learn it, but they are too basic for somebody who already understands them. Overall I am finding this book very useful for the first two-thirds, less so after that.

I've been a bassist for 20+ years, and this is by far one of the best self paced/self learning texts I've ever owned. It is clear and highlights principles for a novice user and is a great practice reminder for a veteran player.

The material is presented clearly. The author starts with a brief synopsis of theory and tuning, and proceeds to the exercises quickly, in both tab and staff. For a guitarist switching to bass, this is an invaluable book. A complete beginner might want to read up on basic theory a little first, but if you spend some time understanding the first few pages, the rest will be clear. I have learned a lot from the Musician's Institute books of which this volume is a part.

Some people are gifted with being able to see patterns and read between the lines of instruction without having to 'read between the lines'. I call them 'cliff note pro's'. If you can't, this book is for you! It explains in complete easy to understand detail everything in the proper order that you need to understand Bass guitar music theory and fretboard mechanics. If you need baby steps at every level and turn, again, this is the book for you! Nothing is left out! It starts at the very beginning (just like the song) and if you can and will WORK through every level in the order it is presented, you will likely become a master of the fretboard!

All aspiring musicians who want to learn the bass guitar, this is the best and least expensive option. The best thing about it is the book is the music foundation, it starts at the basics of music theory and progresses at an excellent rate. I highly recommend this book.

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