

EQ For Bass Players: Everything You Need To Know

Some of these tips below come from Bobby Owsinski's excellent *The Mixing Engineer's Handbook*. It's well worth a read if you're into recording your own music.

- Fundamental frequency range = about 40Hz to 400Hz
- Harmonics/overtones (a lot of interesting stuff goes on here!) = up to 4kHz
- Low bass = 80 to 120Hz
- Mid bass = 120 to 200Hz
- For clarity/definition: boost 800Hz
- To remove muddiness, find the sweet spot between 60Hz and 1.2kHz (where the upper-order harmonics sing) and boost
- Remember there are other instruments competing within the same frequency range. Select EQ that works with the other instruments (ESPECIALLY the kick drum)
- Don't just boost EQ. Cutting can help you sit in the mix better as well as to fine tune your tone for the room you're playing in.

Specific Bass EQ Tweaks

Marcus Miller: boost the bass and treble frequencies, leave the mids.

Reggae: boost the bass (palm muting also sounds good)

Rock: use fresh stainless steel strings. Some overdrive, and boost the treble and bass to taste.

Jaco: Play near the bridge and boost mids.

Remember that these principles apply whether you are using the onboard EQ, amp EQ, or outboard gear like a pedal.