



THE AMPEG COMPANY, INC.
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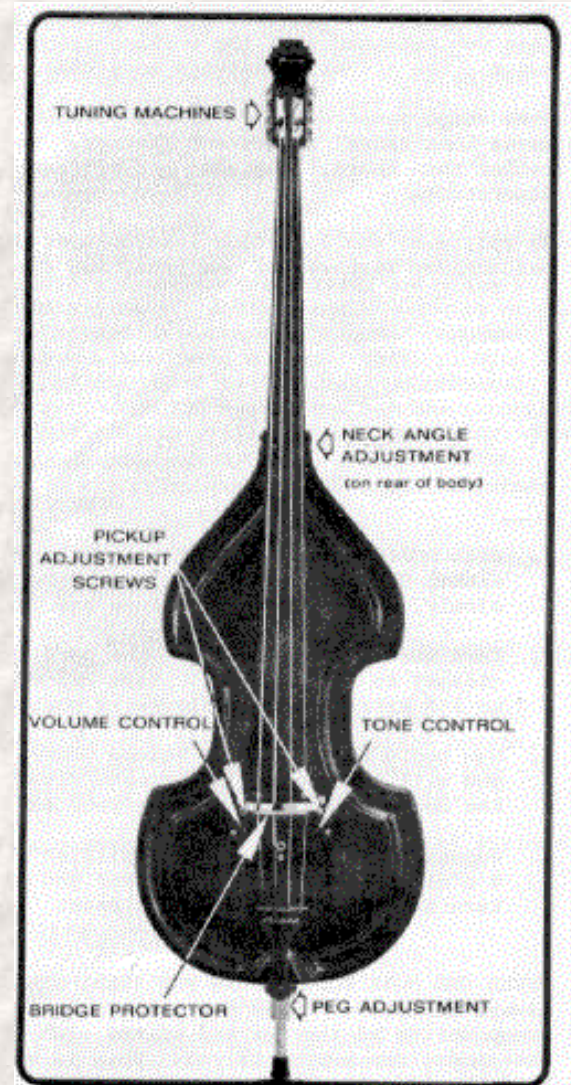
LET'S GET ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR AMPEG BASS

MODEL BB-4, 4 STRING,
AND BB-5, 5 STRING BASS

Your new AMPEG BASS is the successful culmination of years of patient research and experimentation.

The following instructions have been prepared to help you obtain the ultimate in sound from this fine bass instrument. We suggest that you read them most thoughtfully with this goal in mind.

1. **WATCH YOUR ATTACK.** The picking touch used is much lighter than that of the conventional bass. You merely have to stroke the strings. Best of all, the tonal response is EVEN, and all notes are the same volume.
2. **DO NOT TAMPER WITH THE BRIDGE,** except to straighten it if necessary. The bridge should be absolutely perpendicular to the body, and should sit squarely over the steel diaphragms of our special AMPEG pickup (Patent pending). These flexible diaphragms correspond to the top of a wood bass; they convey the slightest vibration of the strings via the bridge to the coils. This is why we use an aluminum bridge, which makes the pickup extremely sensitive to the slightest vibration.
3. **RESPECT THE SENSITIVITY OF THE BASS.** When playing on the D and G strings, it will soon become second nature to gently damp the E and A strings with or near the crotch of the right hand to prevent the idle strings from picking up sympathetic vibrations. This happens to a degree with conventional basses, but can be more noticeable here because of the sensitivity of the Ampeg Bass.
4. **THE SOUND PRODUCED BY BOWING** is unmatched for depth, clarity and ease of tone production. Use resin as with any bass bow.



If you bow a lot, you might be interested in an optional anti-swivel endpin accessory. A double rubber tip controls any twisting motion of the bass.



5. **FINGERBOARD ADJUSTMENT.** The angle at which the neck is attached to the body of the Ampeg Bass is adjustable. This feature enables you to adjust the height of the strings from the fingerboard to suit your touch. A key, (1/8" Allen wrench) is provided to quickly raise or lower the action. Simply remove the chrome button on the back of the bass, near the point where the neck is attached. Insert the Allen wrench; turn clockwise to lower, counterclockwise to raise the action.



COMMENTS

Few people have taken the time to delve into the subtleties of the bass, or explore its dynamic principles. This may be because our hearing declines sharply below 100 cycles. When you consider that the working frequency range of the bass is between 40 and 200 c.p.s., the situation becomes more understandable.

Deep sound penetration is always present, because bass notes are composed of big sound waves that travel longer and farther. This is why the bass is often said to be "felt" rather than heard. The seasoned professional knows this, and plays with sensitivity and discretion.

By following the operating instructions below, you will be able to obtain the full performance features of the bass, and avoid unnecessary distractions.

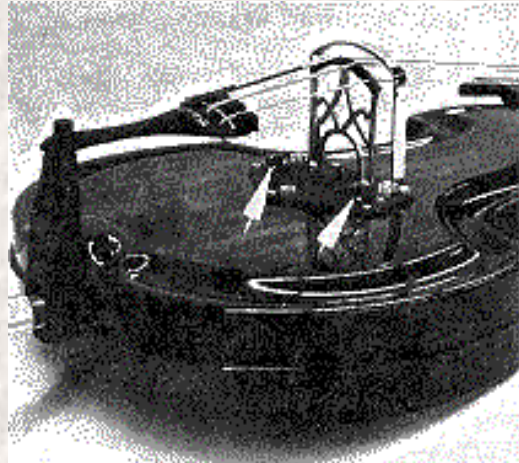
OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

1. With AMPEG Portaflex model amplifiers, plug the cable into the appropriate jack of either Channel 1 or Channel 2. Make all electronic control adjustments carefully and slowly. Start with the volume and tone controls OF THE AMPLIFIER on zero.
2. Turn the volume control of the bass full on (clockwise). This is the control knob closest to the E string. Turn the tone control (the knob closest to the G string) to its extreme counterclockwise position.
3. Now begin adjusting the Volume Control OF THE AMPLIFIER to the maximum volume you think you will ever need. Experiment slowly with the tone controls at the same time to find the combination that pleases your ear.
4. Suggested settings on the amplifier's tone controls are 9 o'clock on Treble and 3 o'clock on Bass. If you feel you need a little more treble or a snappier sound, turn the Tone Control of the Bass.

NEVER USE MORE VOLUME THAN YOU NEED! The carrying power of our PORTAFLEX BASSAMPS is always deceptive. What may seem just right to you on the bandstand may prove to be overpowering at the far end of the club or hall. Too much volume tends to make the

TECHNICAL POINTERS

Although your AMPEG BASS has been carefully adjusted and tested by Ampeg bass-playing technicians, the position of the pickup coils may be changed by turning the two adjustment screws located near the feet of the bridge. There will be no need to change their settings normally; however, if the response should alter for any reason, use a penny or a dime in the slot and turn each screw 1/4 to 1/2 turn counterclockwise. This will open the gap between the armature (diaphragms) and the pickup coils sufficiently to allow for the proper excursion of the vibrating armature.



THE FOLLOWING GAUGE STRINGS ARE RECOMMENDED:

G-39, D-45, A-47, E-56 (C-33, for BB-5)

Use of different gauge strings will affect the pressure on the armature (silicone steel discs), thereby changing the gap. Heavier gauge strings will apply more pressure. Turn the armature adjustment screws counterclockwise to compensate for this, vice-versa for lighter gauge strings. The adjusting screws need be turned a slight amount only.

PICKUP COIL ADJUSTMENT INFORMATION

IMPORTANT! Do not attempt to adjust the pickup coils unless you understand the principle involved. No harm will result from making this adjustment, except that in the extreme position (fully tightened) the magnets will be flush against the diaphragms and there will be no sound. To regain the sound, simply turn the adjustment screws in the opposite direction until you have corrected the gap between the magnets and the diaphragms. (Approximately 1/32") This adjustment is accomplished in the following manner: While picking the G string, turn the adjustment screw (on that side of the bass) to the right (clockwise) until the magnet touches the diaphragm. You can tell when the magnet touches the diaphragm, because the sound seems to diminish or stop entirely. While still picking the string, give the adjustment screw 1/4" turn to the left (counterclockwise) until the sound returns. Repeat the same process on the E string side, and you will obtain optimum efficiency from the pickup adjustment.

AMPEG BASS TAILPIECE ADJUSTMENT INFORMATION

Before making any adjustment, you must know what you are trying to achieve. The AMPEG Bass has been carefully tested and adjusted at the factory for proper tailpiece height. A higher setting of the tailpiece reduces pressure on the bridge, and tension on the strings; therefore, the entire instrument is affected by any adjustment you make.

If you prefer heavier gauge gut strings than we recommend, or decide to use steel strings, you may choose to alter the tailpiece height setting. If so, PROCEED WITH CAUTION!

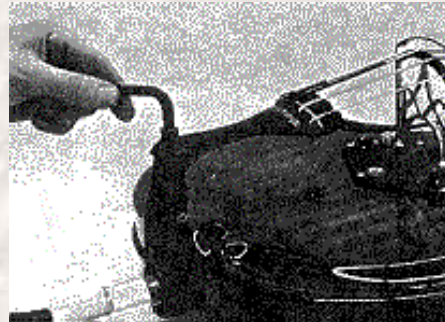
TAILPIECE ADJUSTMENT INSTRUCTIONS VERY IMPORTANT!

Please read the following instructions completely before attempting to make any change! After you have thoroughly absorbed the following information, proceed carefully and observe the results you obtain. For your ultra fine personal adjustment, you must be very deliberate and exacting.

- (A) Do not make a tailpiece adjustment if you received the instrument with gut strings as standard equipment, and you plan to continue using comparable gauge gut strings (G-39, D-45, A-47, E-56, (C-33, for model BB-5). The tailpiece adjustment for "gut strings" has been made at the factory.
- (B) Do not make a tailpiece adjustment if you received the instrument with steel strings as standard equipment and you plan to continue using comparable steel strings. The tailpiece adjustment for "steel strings" has been made at the factory.
- (C) If the above conditions do not apply and you wish to make a tailpiece adjustment, please read the following information with great attention to detail.

FOLLOW THIS STEP BY STEP PROCEDURE:

A WORD OF CAUTION! While making this adjustment, be sure that the bridge is kept perpendicular with both feet planted firmly and accurately level on the diaphragms of the pickup, or a loss of sound and efficiency will result.



B: FOR THE BB-4, 4 STRING BASS

1. Insert the short end of the 5/16" Allen wrench into the tailpiece retainer bolt and turn clockwise until the bolt is firmly tightened into the tailpost retainer socket. Now you can start making the tailpiece adjustment by turning the tailpiece retainer bolt counterclockwise. The tailpiece retainer bolt is a 3/8" x 16 screw and every full turn is 1/16", four turns is 1/4" and so on.
2. For gut strings, we suggest about two (2) complete turns, or a 1/8" extension of the bolt. (This is our factory setting for gut strings). You may complete a total of eight (8) turns or a 1/2" extension of the bolt, but we suggest no more than that or you will lose the efficiency of this adjustment.
 - (a) For steel strings, we suggest about eight (8) complete turns, or a 1/2" extension of the bolt. (This is our factory setting for steel strings). You may complete a total of twelve (12) turns or a 3/4" extension of the bolt, but we suggest no more than that or you will lose the efficiency of this adjustment.
 - (b) Somewhere between two (or 1/8") and twelve (or 3/4") turns of the tailpiece adjustment bolt should enable you to find the setting of your choice whether you use either type of string. Please test this setting at a number of different levels until you find the proper sound and "feel."

B: FOR THE BB-5, 5 STRING BASS

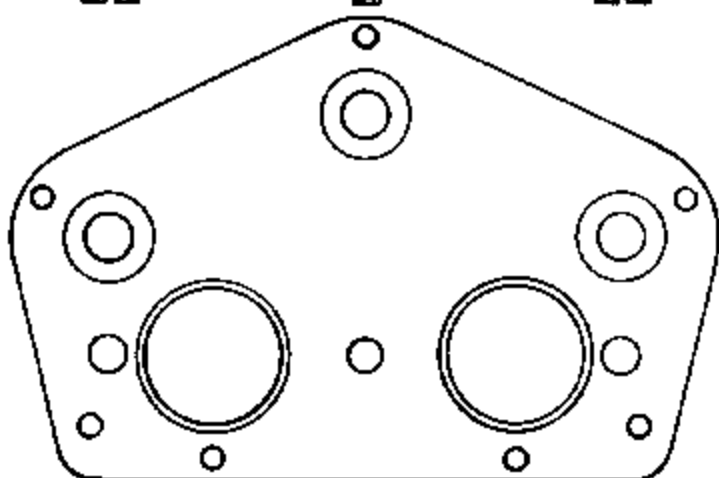
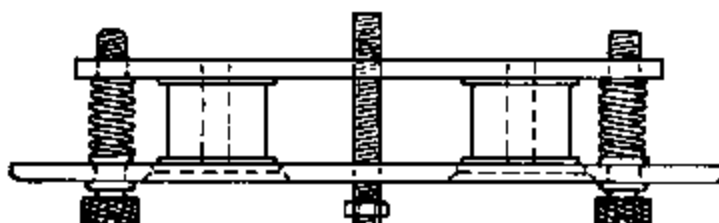
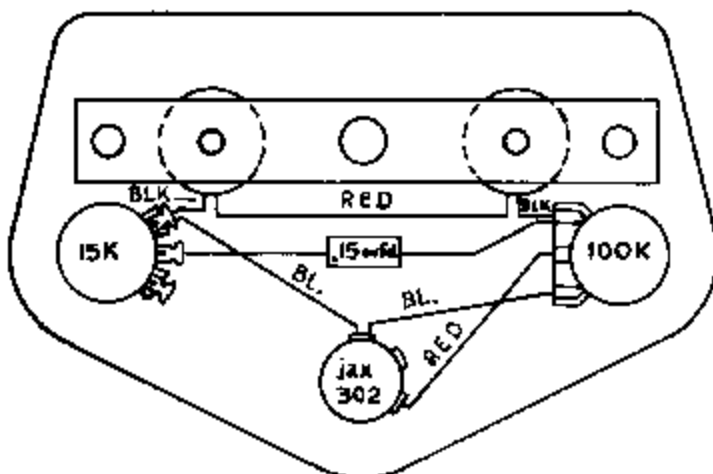
3. The suggested setting for the Ampeg 5-string Bass is 5-1/2 complete turns from "0" or approximately a 3/8" extension of the tailpiece retainer bolt. This applies to gut strings. Steel strings call for a higher setting. Complete 2 to 4 more turns counterclockwise, not more than 12 turns.

This tailpiece adjustment can make the steel strings "feel" more like gut strings, but have the brilliance of steel strings. So be just as fussy about getting this setting right for your individual touch as you are about getting the bass in pitch.

For any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us. Always mention the model and serial number of your equipment in any correspondence you may send.



AMPEG UPRIGHT ELECTRONIC
BASS PICKUP ASSEMBLY
PART NUMBER - 48065300



PARTS LIST

Qty	Description	Ampeg Part No.
1	Volume control 100K	2410105
1	Tone control 15K	2410030
1	Capacitor 0.15 mfd	1270075
1	Little jax (302)	3830006
2	Coils	7315000
1	Pickup bar assembly	48031590
4	Plain diaphragm	48031580
2	Dimpled diaphragm	48031930
2	Knobs	3815000
1	Pickup plate	48031560
2	Pickup adjust- ing springs	7335041
2	Pickup adjust- ing screws	73351010
1	Black oxide socket setscrew	3854165
1	Black oxide hex nut	3830098



EXPLODED VIEW OF
AMPEG UPRIGHT ELECTRONIC BASSES
4 STRING BASS (BB-4)
5 STRING BASS (BB-5)

