

Wind Tasting

By [Jonathan Herrera](#) | December 2004

A Sampling Guide To Bass Strings

Are you itching for a tone revolution? Tired of your bass's one-dimensional feel? Before you max out your credit card on a new boutique bass, super-powerful amp, or whiz-bang effects box, think of your poor neglected strings. Yeah, strings are just boring metal cables, without the fawn-factor of eye-popping wood or polished steel, but they're your most valuable tone ally. A new set of strings can offer anything from a quick sonic refresher to an extreme musical makeover. And with hundreds of options from dozens of string makers, your tone search could end in a golden (or nickel-plated) moment of synergistic nirvana, where your bass-and-string combo achieves oneness with your musical vision. All for well under 100 bucks!

But, there's a rub. How can you, the intrepid string explorer, sift through the industry's marketing to know which set deserves your dough? Strings aren't exactly returnable; once you've bought a set, they're yours, and there's nothing worse than stringing up a \$30 set only to discover that they don't offer the groundbreaking sound the package boasts, or worse, are dead and lifeless.

To aid you in your quest, we invited over two dozen string companies to participate in a massive string roundup. Our evaluation was designed with one goal in mind: making you a more informed bass string consumer. To that end, we devised a testing methodology designed to reveal the fundamental qualities of each string. We didn't test every string from every manufacturer; rather, we focused on the sets most bassists use 99 percent of the time: metal-wrapped roundwounds, flatwounds, and groundwounds. Consider this evaluation a snapshot of the current state of string affairs and a guide for wise credit-card use. (A notable omission: GHS, one of the largest string manufacturers, sent only three sets for evaluation.)

The Nitty Gritty

To test the strings, we used three reference basses. All but the flatwounds were strung on both an F Bass BN5 5-string and a Lakland Darryl Jones Skyline 4-string. We used a '79 Fender Precision Bass for the flats. Each instrument was set for the most transparent tone possible. We selected these basses because they provide a reasonable cross-section of the main bass types: The F Bass is a 34w"-scale active instrument, offering a compromise between the two popular scale lengths (34" and 35") and humbucker-plus-preamp tone; the Lakland is a passive J-style bass with high-quality pickups; and the P-Bass offers the passive vintage tone players often mate with flatwounds. We used a Korg MT1200 Mastertune tuner to bring each bass to standard pitch.

In order to get to the essence of each string's tone, we recorded each string set with high-fidelity digital equipment. Our recording rig consisted of a ten-foot-long Evidence Audio Lyric HG instrument cable, a Millennia Media TD-1 preamp in F.E.T. mode, a MOTU 896 audio interface, and an Apple Powerbook G4 running MOTU Digital Performer 4. Using consistent slap, fingerstyle, and pickstyle reference licks, we recorded each string set at a 48kHz sampling rate and a bit depth of 24 bits. Then we critically listened to each recording on Sennheiser HD-600 and Ultrasone HI-550 headphones.

Winding It Up

The chart that begins at right lists the strings each company submitted for our evaluation. They are categorized by wrap type. In addition to manufacturer, set name, price, and specs, there is a comments column and a graph with bars for bass, midrange, and treble response based on our subjective evaluation of each set's tone. We also considered how each string felt from coarse to smooth.

For practical purposes we focused on gauges close to .045-.105 (or .130 for 5-strings), but most of the strings tested are available in a variety of gauges. Remember, your personal bass, amp, and equipment settings can substantially affect your impression of each string. We didn't observe an appreciable sonic difference between taper-wound and exposed-core strings and their conventional counterparts, but when applicable, we listed these qualities. The winding length (the length of the string's outermost winding) of every set was sufficient for stringing on each test bass.

The chart reveals what we discovered about the strings, but I know it won't reveal the other things I discovered-like my fingers' resistance to long-term metal exposure, and my tolerance for 14-hour enduro tests with coworkers in a small, poorly ventilated office.

Find a comfy chair and dig in . . .

	MANUFACTURER	MODEL	LIST PRICE	STREET PRICE	GAUGES	CORE COMPOSITION AND TYPE	WINDING LENGTH	COMMENTS	TONE/FEEL
NICKEL PLATED STEEL									
	Black Diamond	Nickel Round	\$36.00	N/A	45 65 85 105	high carbon hex core	37.25"	Forward upper-mids and ringy top.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Carvin	Nickel Round	\$19.99	N/A	45 65 85 105	steel hex core	36.5"	Deep with powerful low-mids.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Carvin	Nickel Round 5-string	\$23.95	\$12.99	45 65 85 105 128	steel hex core	36.5"		TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Curt Mangan	Nickel Wound	\$19.99	\$15.99	45 65 85 105	high carbon tin-plated steel hex core	36.5"	Open mids with moderate top-end extension.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Curt Mangan	Nickel Wound 5-string	\$24.99	\$19.99	45 65 85 105 130	high carbon tin-plated steel hex core	36.5"		TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	D'Addario	XL Nickel	\$32.99	N/A	45 65 85 105	high carbon steel hex core	36"	Balanced. Punchy and warm mids and crisp treble.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-SMOOTH
	D'Addario	XL Nickel 5-string	\$42.99	N/A	45 65 85 105 125	high carbon steel hex core	36"		TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-SMOOTH
	Dean Markley	Nickel Steel	\$36.00	\$17.99	45 65 85 105	high carbon steel hex core	37.5"	Sweet top, focused mids, and good growl.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Dean Markley	Nickel Steel 5-string	\$48.00	\$25.20	45 65 85 105 128	high carbon steel hex core	37.5"		TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Dean Markley	NPS Roundcore Bass Rocco Prestia	\$38.50	\$24.99	45 65 85 105	steel round core	37.5"	Forward mids, muted treble, and almost flatwound-like thud.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-SMOOTH
	Dean Markley	NPS Roundcore Bass Rocco Prestia 5-string	\$45.00	\$29.99	46 65 85 105 125	steel round core	37.5"		TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-SMOOTH
	DR	Sun Beams	\$44.95	\$27.95	45 65 85 105	high carbon steel round core	37.75"	Rich and colorful mids with sweet treble.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	DR	Sun Beams 5-string	\$65.95	\$39.50	45 65 85 105 125	high carbon steel round core	37.75"		TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	DR	Nickel Lo-Riders	\$44.95	\$27.95	45 65 85 105	high carbon steel hex core	37.75"	Warm lows and snappy top.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	DR	Nickel Lo-Riders 5-string	\$65.95	\$39.50	45 65 85 105 125	high carbon steel hex core	37.75"		TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Ehrick	NI4M	\$45.00	N/A	45 65 85 105	high carbon steel hex core	long scale	Assertive mids, good pickstyle grind, and round lows.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-COARSE
	Ehrick	NI5M 5-string	\$53.00	N/A	45 65 85 105 130	high carbon steel hex core	long scale		TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-COARSE
	Ernie Ball	Slinky	\$35.00	\$16.99	45 65 85 105	tempered tin-plated high carbon steel	36"	Zingy, slightly raw treble with punch.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-COARSE
	Ernie Ball	Slinky 5-string	\$44.00	\$19.99	45 65 85 105 130	tempered tin-plated high carbon steel	36"		TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-COARSE

Special thanks to Terry Buddingh for his kind assistance.

	MANUFACTURER	MODEL	LIST PRICE	STREET PRICE	GAUGES	CORE COMPOSITION AND TYPE	WINDING LENGTH	COMMENTS	TONE/FEEL
NICKEL PLATED STEEL continued									
	Everly	Superbass	\$14.99	N/A	45 65 85 105	steel hex core	38"	Strong lows, thick mids, and dry top.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Fender	Super Bass	\$37.99	N/A	45 65 85 105	high carbon steel hex core	38.5"	Mellow top, deep bottom, strong mids, and a vintage vibe.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-SMOOTH
	Fender	Super Bass 5-string	\$45.99	N/A	45 65 85 105 125	high carbon steel hex core	38.5"		
	Fender	Super Bass Roundcore/Taperwound	\$37.99	N/A	45 65 85 110	high carbon steel round core	37.25"	Full-bodied lows and mids with ringing top.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-SMOOTH
	Fender	Super Bass Roundcore/Taperwound 5-string	\$49.99	N/A	45 65 85 110 130	high carbon steel round core	37.25"		
	Fodera	Diamond Series Nickel	\$45.50	\$23.99	45 65 85 105	steel hex core	37"	Sweet top with clear mids and bass.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Fodera	Diamond Series Nickel 5-string	\$58.50	\$31.99	45 65 85 105 130	steel hex core	37"		
	Fodera	Diamond Series Victor Wooten	\$45.50	\$23.99	40 55 75 95	steel hex core	37"	Extended highs, lean mids and lows; slappers' heaven.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-SMOOTH
	Fodera	Diamond Series Victor Wooten 5-string	\$58.50	\$31.99	40 55 75 95 120	steel hex core	37"		
	GHS	Boomer Medium	\$35.50	\$17.75	45 65 85 105	steel hex core	38"	Big bottom, forceful mids, and soft treble.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Hartke	HSB445 light	\$19.95	\$9.95	45 65 85 105	steel hex core	38"	Open mids, crisp top, and quick attack. Bouncy feel.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-SMOOTH
	Hartke	HSB445 light 5-string	\$25.99	\$12.95	45 65 85 105 130	steel hex core	38"		
	Ken Smith	Burners	\$36.00	\$21.00	45 65 85 105	steel hex core	38"	Open mids, crisp top, and quick attack.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Ken Smith	Burners 5-string	\$50.00	\$30.00	46 65 85 105 125	steel hex core	38"		
	Kerly Kues	Bass 4-string	\$49.95	\$24.95	45 65 80 105	steel hex core	37"	Full lows with prominent low mids and snappy top.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Knucklehead	Doublewide Deluxe	\$34.95	\$23.99	45 65 80 100 125	steel hex core	37"	Deep lows and growly, grinding mids.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-COARSE
	La Bella	Slappers	\$40.00	\$18.00	45 65 85 105	carbon steel hex core	all scales available	Crisp and extended top; detailed mids and bottom.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	La Bella	Slappers 5-string	\$55.00	\$26.00	45 65 85 105 128	carbon steel hex core	all scales available		
	Lakland	Custom Wound Nickel	\$36.75	\$17.50	45 65 85 105	carbon steel hex core	37"	Full-bodied with assertive mids and moderate treble snap.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Lakland	Custom Wound Nickel 5-string	\$44.25	\$22.00	45 65 85 105 128	carbon steel hex core	37"		
	Mike Lull	Nickel Plated S.S.	\$44.00	\$22.00	45 65 85 105	carbon steel hex core	37.5"	Deep and growly bottom, moderate top-end extension; supportive.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Mike Lull	Nickel Plated S.S. 5-string	\$60.00	\$30.00	45 65 85 105 128	carbon steel hex core	37.5"		

	MANUFACTURER	MODEL	LIST PRICE	STREET PRICE	GAUGES	CORE COMPOSITION AND TYPE	WINDING LENGTH	COMMENTS	TONE/FEEL
	Peavey	Cirrus XL	\$32.49	N/A	45 65 85 105	hard carbon steel core	37"	Lean with somewhat raw mids and moderately crisp top.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL: MEDIUM
	Peavey	Cirrus XL 5-string	\$29.99	N/A	45 65 85 105 125	hard carbon steel core	37"		
	Peavey	Elements Nickel	\$25.99	N/A	40 55 75 95	high carbon steel core	37"	Light bottom and ringy top.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL: MEDIUM-SMOOTH
	Rotosound	Roto Bass	\$29.95	\$16.95	45 65 85 105	piano wire hex core	37"	Warm lows with balanced, strong mids and cutting treble.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL: MEDIUM-COARSE
	Rotosound	RS 66 swing bass nickel	\$39.95	\$20.00	45 65 80 105	piano wire hex core	37"	Edgy highs with powerful mids.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL: MEDIUM-COARSE
	Sadowsky	SBN45	\$45.00	\$22.50	45 65 85 105	high carbon steel hex core	37"	Snappy top, open mids, and supportive lows.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL: MEDIUM
	Sadowsky	SBN45B	\$55.00	\$30.50	45 65 85 105 130	high carbon steel hex core	37"		
	S.I.T.	Power Wound Nickel	\$35.49	\$25.00	45 65 85 105	hard-tempered steel hex core	36.5"–38"	Plump mids, moderate top and bottom.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL: MEDIUM
	S.I.T.	Power Wound Nickel 5-string	\$46.99	\$28.00	45 65 85 105 125	hard-tempered steel hex core	36.5"–38"		
	Spector	Nickel	\$29.99	\$19.99	45 65 85 105	steel hex core with nickel wrap	38"	Rich and expressive mids with deep lows and snappy treble.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL: MEDIUM
	Spector	Nickel 5-string	\$41.99	\$29.99	45 65 85 105 130	steel hex core with nickel wrap	38"		
	Thomastik-Infeld	Powerbass	\$68.10	\$36.99	47 68 80 107	steel hex core with "magnecore" wrap	34"	Forward upper-mid emphasis and soft attack.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL: MEDIUM
	Thomastik-Infeld	Powerbass 5-string	\$93.10	\$49.99	47 68 80 107 119	steel hex core with "magnecore" wrap	34"		
	Thomastik-Infeld	Infeld Superalloy	\$57.95	\$29.39	45 65 80 105	steel hex core with nickel-iron "superalloy" wrap	34" and 36"	Open mids with crisp and airy top. Moderate growl and grind.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL: MEDIUM
	Thomastik-Infeld	Infeld Superalloy 5-string	\$81.50	\$39.99	45 65 80 105 120	steel hex core with nickel-iron "superalloy" wrap	34" and 36"		
	Warwick	Yellow Label	\$37.97	\$20.87	45 65 85 105	high-tensile strength steel hex core	38"	Full low mids with good growl.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL: MEDIUM-COARSE
	Warwick	Yellow Label 5-string	\$51.95	\$20.87	45 65 85 105 130	high-tensile strength steel hex	38"		
	Zon	Ultrasonic	\$39.95	\$27.95	46 63 80 102	steel hex core	38"	Deep lows with harmonic richness and sweet treble	TREBLE  MID  BASS FEEL: MEDIUM
	Zon	Ultrasonic 5-string	\$51.95	\$36.35	46 63 80 102 128	steel hex core	38"		
PURE NICKEL									
	Fender	7150M	\$37.99	N/A	45 65 85 105	high carbon steel core	38.5"	Growly bottom, buttery mids, and muted top.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL: MEDIUM
	Rotosound	Pure Nickel	\$57.95	\$22.68	45 65 85 105	steel hex core	37"	Full bottom, rich mids, and twangy top.	TREBLE  MID  BASS FEEL: MEDIUM

	MANUFACTURER	MODEL	LIST PRICE	STREET PRICE	GAUGES	CORE COMPOSITION AND TYPE	WINDING LENGTH	COMMENTS	TONE/FEEL
STAINLESS STEEL									
	Black Diamond	Stainless Steel Wound	\$36.00	N/A	45 65 85 105	high carbon hex core	37.25"	Full and forceful mids; strong growl with a pick.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-COARSE
	Black Diamond	Stainless Steel Wound 5-string	\$43.95	N/A	45 65 85 105 125	high carbon hex core	37.25"		
	D'Addario	Pro Steels - EPS 165	\$32.99	N/A	45 65 85 105	high carbon steel hex core	taper at 36.25"	Balanced top to bottom; colorful mids and bright top.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	D'Addario	Pro Steels 5-string - EPS165 (plus single string PSB 130)	\$42.99	N/A	45 65 85 105 130	high carbon steel hex core	taper at 36.25"		
	Dean Markley	Blue Steel	\$45.00	\$22.95	45 65 80 105	cryogenically processed steel hex core	38"	Complex mids; airy and ringy top.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL COARSE
	Dean Markley	Blue Steel 5-string	\$60.00	\$31.50	46 65 80 105 125	cryogenically processed steel hex core	38"		
	Dean Markley	SR2000	\$45.00	\$23.63	46 63 80 102	tin mandolin wire hex core	38"	Extended top, open mids, and lively attack.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Dean Markley	SR2000 5-string	\$60.00	\$31.50	46 63 80 102 125	tin mandolin wire hex core	38"		
	DR	Hi Beam	\$44.95	\$27.95	45 65 85 105	high carbon steel round core	37.75"	Sweet extended top with detailed and open mids; and a growly bottom.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-COARSE
	DR	Hi Beam 5-string	\$65.95	\$39.50	45 65 85 105 125	high carbon steel round core	37.75"		
	DR	Lo-Riders	\$44.95	\$27.95	45 65 85 105	high carbon steel hex core	37.75"	Bouncy attack with punchy and forward mids.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-COARSE
	DR	Lo-Riders 5-string	\$65.95	\$39.50	45 65 85 105 125	high carbon steel hex core	37.75"		
	DR	Fat Beams	\$47.95	\$28.95	45 65 85 105	high carbon steel round core	37.75"	Warm bottom with articulate and crisp midrange attack.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	DR	Fat Beams 5-string	\$68.95	\$40.95	45 65 85 105 125	high carbon steel round core	37.75"		
	DR	Long Necks	\$47.95	\$28.95	45 65 85 105	high carbon steel taper-wound hex core	37.75"	Super bright with ringy top, aggressive midrange, and low-end growl.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Etrick	SS4M	\$45.00	N/A	45 65 85 105	high carbon steel hex core	long scale	Weighty lows with thick and punchy low mids.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Etrick	SS5M	\$53.00	N/A	45 65 85 105 130	high carbon steel hex core	long scale		
	Ernie Ball	Stainless Slinky	\$35.00	\$16.49	45 65 80 105	tempered tin-plated high carbon steel	36"	Strong highs, shy mids, and big bottom.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL COARSE
	Fender	Stainless Bass	\$37.99	N/A	45 65 80 105	high carbon steel hex core	38.5"	Warm bass with balanced mids and treble.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Fodera	Diamond Series Stainless	\$45.50	\$23.99	45 65 80 105	hex core	37"	Solid warm bottom, detailed mids. Crisp and articulate.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Fodera	Diamond Series Stainless 5-string	\$58.50	\$31.99	45 65 85 105 130	hex core	37"		

	MANUFACTURER	MODEL	LIST PRICE	STREET PRICE	GAUGES	CORE COMPOSITION AND TYPE	WINDING LENGTH	COMMENTS	TONE/FEEL
STAINLESS STEEL continued									
	Ken Smith	Rockmasters	\$36.00	\$21.00	45 65 85 105	steel hex core	38"	Bright and complex highs with full-bodied low-end support.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Ken Smith	Rockmasters 5-string	\$50.00	\$30.00	48 65 85 105 125	steel hex core	38"		
	La Bella	760RL	\$40.00	\$20.00	41 58 83 106	high carbon steel hex core	all scales available	Balanced top with medium growl.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	La Bella	760RL-B	\$55.00	\$27.50	41 58 83 106 128	high carbon steel hex core	all scales available		
	La Bella	M45 Hard Rockin' Steel	\$40.00	\$18.28	45 65 85 105	carbon steel hex core	all scales available	Full low mids; strong and supportive.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	La Bella	M45B Hard Rockin' Steel 5-string	\$55.00	\$25.00	45 65 85 105 128	carbon steel hex core	all scales available		
	La Bella	Super Step	\$40.00	\$18.00	45 65 85 105	carbon steel exposed hex core	all scales available	Twangy top with clear and open mids.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-COARSE
	La Bella	Super Step 5-string	\$55.00	\$26.00	45 65 85 105 128	carbon steel exposed hex core	all scales available		
	Lakland	Custom Wound Stainless	\$36.75	\$17.50	45 65 85 105	steel hex core	37"	Balanced with full mids and tasteful top-end zing.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Lakland	Custom Wound Stainless 5-string	\$44.25	\$22.00	45 65 85 105 128	steel hex core	37"		
	Mike Lull	S.S. 4-string	\$40.00	\$20.00	45 65 85 105	steel hex core	37.5"	Sweet and extended top, growly bottom, and detailed mids.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Mike Lull	S.S. 5-string	\$56.00	\$28.00	45 65 85 105 128	steel hex core	37.5"		
	MTD	MTD4M	\$40.00	\$26.95	45 65 85 105	mandolin wire hex core	37.5"	Balanced with moderate zing and clear mids.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	MTD	MTD5MX	\$58.00	\$42.95	45 65 85 105 130	mandolin wire hex core	37.5"		
	Peavey	Elements Stainless Steel	\$25.99	N/A	44 65 80 105	high carbon steel core	37"	Light bottom and ringy top.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-COARSE
	Pedulla	PS4C	\$39.95	\$16.19	45 65 85 105	steel hex core	37.5"	Balanced top to bottom with good treble extension.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Pedulla	PS5C 5-string	\$52.95	\$23.84	45 65 85 105 128	steel hex core	37.5"		
	Rotosound	RS 66 swing bass	\$39.95	\$16.99	45 65 80 105	piano wire hex core	37"	Grindy midrange growl with top-end bite.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-COARSE
	Rotosound	RS 99 piano string design	\$49.95	\$24.74	45 65 85 105	piano wire hex core	37"	Lean bottom, grindy mids, and ringy top.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-COARSE
	Sadowsky	SBS45	\$45.00	\$22.50	45 65 85 105	high carbon steel hex core	37"	Extended treble response; crisp and ringy with good detail.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Sadowsky	SBS45B 5-string	\$55.00	\$30.50	45 65 85 105 130	high carbon steel hex core	37"		
	S.I.T.	Power Steel Stainless	\$35.49	\$25.00	45 65 85 105	hard-tempered steel hex core	36.5"-38"	Strong mids, lively top, growly bottom.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-COARSE
	S.I.T.	Power Steel Stainless 5-string	\$46.99	\$29.00	45 65 85 105 125	hard-tempered steel hex core	36.5"-38"		

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STAINLESS STEEL continued									
	S.I.T.	Rock Brights	\$46.99	\$35.00	45 65 80 100	hard-tempered steel hex core with phosphor bronze underwrap	36.5"-38"	Warm lows, detailed mids, and sweet top.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM-COARSE
	S.I.T.	Rock Brights 5-string	\$53.49	\$36.00	45 65 80 100 125	hard-tempered steel hex core with phosphor bronze underwrap	36.5"-38"		
	Spector	Stainless Steel	\$35.99	\$24.99	45 65 85 105	steel hex core	38"	Sparkly highs with focused lows and moderate mids.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Spector	Stainless Steel 5-string	\$47.99	\$32.99	45 65 85 105 130	steel hex core	38"		
	Warwick	Black Label	\$39.95	\$21.97	45 65 85 105	high-tensile strength steel hex core	38"	Bright with moderate mids and crunchy bottom.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Warwick	Black Label 5-string	\$54.95	\$30.22	45 65 85 105 135	high-tensile strength steel hex core	38"		
	Warwick	Red Box	\$29.95	\$16.47	45 65 85 105	high-tensile strength steel hex core	38"	Zingy treble, open mids, and light bottom.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Warwick	Red Box 5-string	\$44.95	\$24.72	45 65 85 105 135	high-tensile strength steel hex core	38"		
	Zon	Ultrasonic	\$39.95	\$27.95	46 63 80 102	steel hex core	38"	Precise bass with muted mids and aggressive treble	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL MEDIUM
	Zon	Ultrasonic 5-string	\$51.95	\$36.35	46 63 80 102 128	steel hex core	38"		

	MANUFACTURER	MODEL	LIST PRICE	STREET PRICE	GAUGES	CORE COMPOSITION AND TYPE	WINDING LENGTH	COMMENTS	TONE/FEEL
FLATWOUND									
	D'Addario	Chromes 4-string	\$58.49	N/A	45 65 80 100	high-carbon steel hex core; polished stainless ribbon wrap	36.25"	Full fundamental with some midrange complexity.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL SMOOTH
	Fender	Stainless Bass Flatwound	\$39.99	N/A	45 60 80 95	high carbon steel hex core	36.5"	Airy and open treble, detailed mids, and full lows.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL SMOOTH
	La Bella	Deep Talkin' Bass	\$65.00	\$35.00	45 65 85 105	carbon steel hex core with stainless steel underlay	all scales available	Strong fundamental with textured mids and classic thud.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL SMOOTH
	Lakland	Joe Osborn Signature	\$55.50	\$27.50	45 65 85 106	steel round core	36.5"	Detailed mids; balanced with good bottom and clean top.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL SMOOTH
	Rotosound	RS 77 Jazz Bass	\$55.00	\$28.00	45 65 85 105	piano wire hex core	37"	Clear top with lots of harmonic emphasis. Slappably crisp.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL SMOOTH
	Sadowsky	Stainless Flatwound	\$70.00	\$42.00	45 65 85 105	high carbon steel hex core	37"	Balanced lows and mids with organic, woody texture.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL SMOOTH
	Thomastik	Jazz Flat	\$80.90	\$39.99	43 56 70 100	high carbon steel round core, silk inlay with pure nickel wrap	32"-36"	Very strong and complex midrange voice; moderate bass.	TREBLE  MID  BASS  FEEL SMOOTH

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