

Due to the popularity of my recent custom Fender Basses, many eBayers have requested that I list a few on eBay, so this listing is for a custom-made classic Olympic White Jazz Bass with a rosewood - "block and bound neck". The reason that I am listing it as a "66" is because, although it is new and custom built this bass duplicates an original vintage 1966-'67 Jazz Bass exactly . Have you ever dreamed of owning a mid sixties custom colored Jazz bass but you just can't come up with the astronomical dollars that it takes to own one? Well, this is your chance to play and own the next best thing.

It is a mystery to me why Fender has never reissued this model, as it is one of my favorite classic basses of all time. They reissued the '75-"boat anchor" ash bodied (12-13LBS!!) Jazz bass with a bullet truss rod (it basically has all of the features that everyone hates!), but I never liked ANY of the real '75 Jazz basses, let alone a reissue. I like to build vintage basses that are not offered anywhere else, and this is probably one of the most desirable clones that I have built to date. It is an absolute dream to play, with super low action, true vintage tone, and is pro-built with no shortcuts taken in the process. It is lightweight for a Jazz Bass (all of the great ones are), and weighs in at under 9 1/2 lbs. It is the same weight as my original vintage '72 Jazz Bass. This bass was built from a new, genuine Fender solid alder body, an Allparts Fender licensed maple Jazz bass neck with pearl block inlay and a bound rosewood fingerboard, and genuine USA Fender American Vintage reissue parts. Every component was chosen to capture the look, feel and sound an original late 1966 Jazz Bass exactly. There are no substitution parts or cheap imported parts used on this bass and every component is "top of the line". The neck and body's resonance produces that historic classic Fender Jazz Bass tone that have we all know and love. This is truly a professional's bass at a very reasonable price.

The Process:

In order to build a bass that Fender hasn't ever reissued, a few things had to be done to give it the 1966 "look", and feel. Let's face it, probably the single most important factor on whether you love your guitar or bass is that it has to have a very comfortable and straight neck. And this is where I spend 90% of my time to get it just right. The Allparts necks are of very high quality, however they are a little too bulky as compared to my original '66 J bass, so the profile of a '66 was duplicated.

First, the pre-finished (poly) neck was stripped of it's finish to prepare it for modification, re-shaping, and prep it for a nitrocellulose lacquer finish. The custom-made, oval "lollipop" tuning heads and nut were installed and the neck was mounted to the body during its final sanding/shaping stages to ensure its actual feel. I also put a fair amount of "rollover" to the edges of the fingerboard so that the transition from the back of the neck to the fingerboard is a VERY smooth one (not hard edged like so many necks these days). It makes it feel a little more broken in and much more comfortable to play. Once satisfied that it captured the hand-shaped feel of a vintage Fender, as opposed to the CNC'd feel of a modern "cookie cutter" neck, the neck was removed and dried for three days in a room set at 92 degrees to remove any residual moisture.

The Allparts necks have 2mm black side dots that are smaller than the original Fender 3/32" side markers, so I drilled them out and replaced them with 3/32" dots. Also, for some reason, their neck does not have a position marker side dot at the first fret, whereas all of my original vintage block/bound Jazz basses do, so I installed one at the first fret as well. After the neck was dried, while still warm, a coat of nitro sealer was applied, followed by 4 thin coats of nitrocellulose lacquer with a small amount of amber tint to match my original '66's color (not overdone to orange or yellow like so many that I have seen).

The headstock received coat of Olympic White nitrocellulose lacquer to match the body and then given another 3 coats of clear nitro. A 1965-67 Fender Jazz Bass decal was applied on top of the finish, just as the originals were. A third strap button was also installed on the back of the headstock as found on the '66 Fender basses.

This is NOT just an after-market neck that someone lacquered and installed, but rather, was finely hand shaped and finished and took many hours to get it just right. I put so much work (and hours) into my bass necks that many pro players have told me that my necks are worth \$500-\$700 alone, and if you purchase one of my basses, you'll see just what they mean. The neck's fit to the body is very tight with NO slop, which gives the bass better tone transfer and more sustain.

Body:

The body is a brand new genuine Fender, solid Alder body, factory finished in Sonic Blue. I go to great lengths to obtain the lightest ones possible and this one's bare body weighed in at 5 lbs oz when it arrived. I was a field consultant to Leo Fender in the late seventies/early eighties, and adhere to his policy of NEVER building a guitar (or bass) with a body that weighs over 5 lbs. unfinished, or 5 lbs 6 oz. finished . The neck and the pocket were carefully made to fit perfectly, while being perfectly aligned with the bridge. The pickup and control cavities were shielded with brass plates (like the originals) and grounded to a single point to minimize hum and noise.

The Pickups:

Seymour Duncan vintage Jazz Bass pickups (SJ1-b and SJ1-n) were used in this bass and they sound exactly like the originals. The new pickups have high gloss pickup covers, so I dulled them and repolished them to yield a satin finish to replicate the 60's originals. The same process was done to the thumbrest, as the new reissue is too shiny and crisp. The pickups were wired to 3 genuine Fender Reissue CTS solid shaft 250K pots and a Switchcraft jack using vintage cloth covered wire (see pic below). I even used an NOS Cornell-Dubilier .047 capacitor for the tone control that I purchased years ago from Fender's surplus stock when they moved from Fullerton, CA. (people sell these on eBay for \$12-\$30 alone!)

The Pickguard:

While I am very pleased that Fender has reissued the '62 white pickguards, a brand new one looks too stark white so I used a special dye to give it a more amber tint to match an original 60-70's' pickguard. The tint actually etches into the guard and will not fade or come off. I then rebuffed the guard on a buffing wheel to bring back its shine.

The rest of the hardware includes:

- Fender USA Vintage Reissue Jazz Bass "bakelite" knobs
- Fender USA Vintage Reissue "F" neck plate and screws
- Fender USA Vintage Reissue nickel pickguard screws
- Fender USA Vintage Reissue Nickel strap buttons (x3)
- Fender USA Vintage Reissue Chrome Pickup and Bridge covers
- Fender USA Vintage Reissue thumbrest (slightly aged)
- Fender USA Vintage Reissue string retainer

- Fender USA Vintage Reissue Jazz Bass control plate
- Fender USA Vintage Reissue bone nut
- Fender USA Vintage Reissue '70 Bass bridge with ribbed saddles and slot head screws for action adjustment
- Custom-made Gotoh nickel plated OVAL "lollipop" tuning heads
- Brand new D'Addario nickel plated steel roundwound strings .045-.105

This bass comes complete with a brand new Fender Bass gig bag . It comes completely set up with low action (pro fret dress/polish and action setup) and it's intonation was calibrated perfectly on a Peterson strobe tuner. It has the look, feel and sound of a 1966 vintage Jazz Bass but you can get it for a fraction of the price of an original one and use it daily, instead of putting in a collection closet. With original '66 custom color J Basses fetching prices in the \$8000-\$12,000 range, I feel that this makes this one an absolute bargain at my introductory price of \$1599.00. IMO, it is nicer than all of the current vintage reissues and relics (and 99% of the originals!), and if you buy it, I know that you will agree. (My buy it now prices are going to rise a bit soon, as these basses take quite a bit of time for me to build, and the "top of the line" USA parts are expensive and sometimes very hard for me to obtain). I can barely keep up with the demand of my direct orders so it is getting rare that I am ever able to list one on eBay.

I may not be offering the matching headstock on any future Jazz Basses as it is VERY time consuming, to match the color and the additional paint steps involved in finishing it. The natural headstock basses are far more easier to produce and I try to keep my prices as reasonable as possible.

Super-Short History:

I have been playing bass since 1967, have been building and restoring vintage guitars since 1973, have a modest collection of 25 basses (12 of them, Fenders), and everyone that has purchased one of my basses (custom or vintage) on eBay has commented that they look, play and sound far better than they ever expected. I also designed the BC Rich Mockingbird for Bernardo Rico in December of 1975. Being a professional bass player myself, in my opinion, this bass plays and sounds as good or better than 99% of all Jazz basses (vintage or otherwise), both in action/feel and tone.

All of my custom basses listed on eBay sell very quickly, so don't wait too long or you will miss out on this beauty! (I received a ton of email right after the last one sold asking if I had another one). I can only build 1-2 basses per week maximum (and 90% of them are pre-sold) so please be patient and check my listings often (they don't last very long as the last one lasted 15 minutes!) It is getting extremely difficult for me to offer them on eBay anymore.

Feel free to ask me any questions that you might have regarding this bass. I will try to answer them in a timely manner.