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# Notating harmonics on the bass



This guide is an excerpt from material covered more thoroughly in my book *Bass Riyaz*.  
Refer to [www.jonathandiamond.com/bassriyaz.html](http://www.jonathandiamond.com/bassriyaz.html)

## Method 1

### Natural Harmonics - touch point

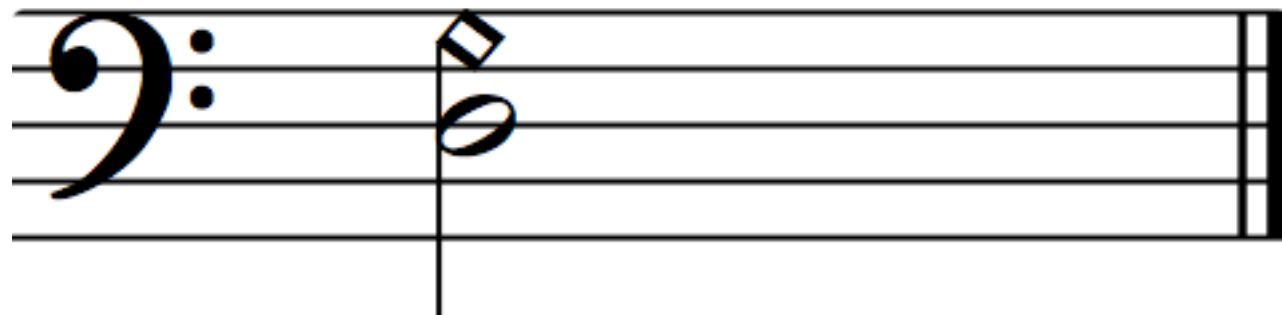
Use a diamond note head to indicate where to touch the string. For double bass, the word *sul* (meaning *string*) may accompany the notation to indicate which string is to be used. Bass guitar tends to adopt the approach used for guitar, where instead of *sul*, the string number is indicated (starting with string 1 as the highest string).



## Method 2

### Natural and Artificial Harmonics - touch point with string

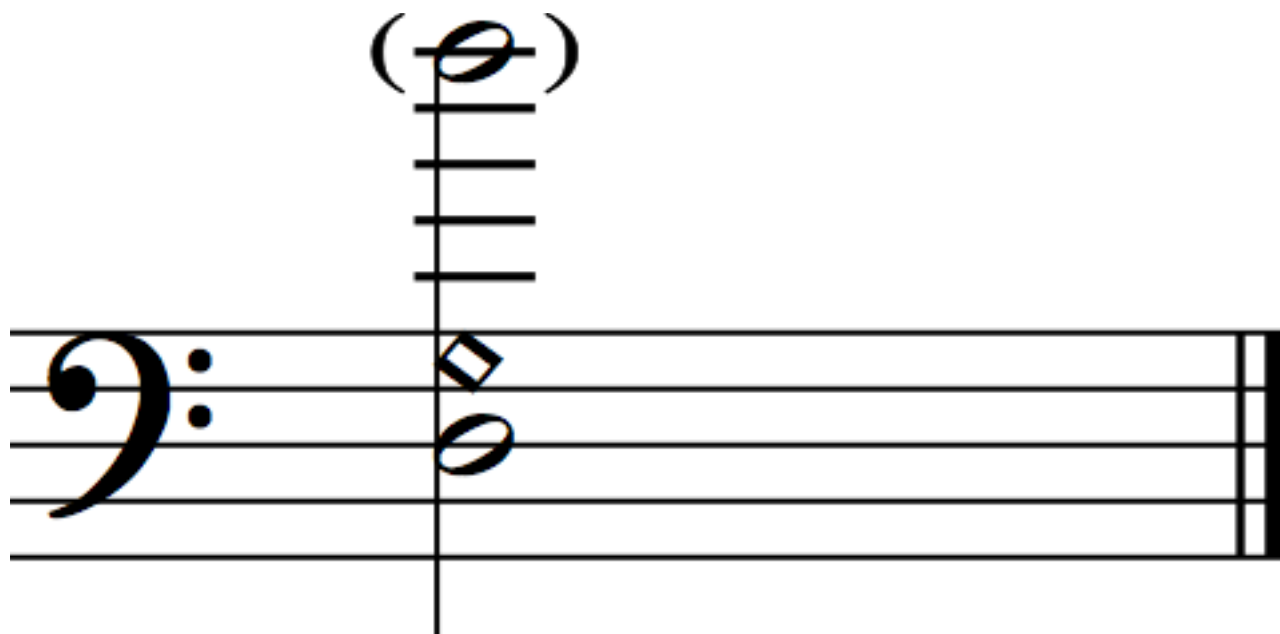
A dyad is notated. On top, a diamond note head is used to indicate where to touch the string. On the bottom appears a regular note head that indicates either the open string to be used (for a natural harmonic) or the note to be fretted (for an artificial harmonic).



## Method 3

### Natural and Artificial Harmonics - touch point with string and resultant pitch

A triad is notated. On top, a bracketed note indicates the resultant pitch. Below that, a diamond note head is used to indicate where to touch the string. On the bottom appears a regular note head that indicates either the open string to be used (for a natural harmonic) or the note to be fretted (for an artificial harmonic).



## Method 4

### Resultant pitch only

A single note head indicates the desired pitch, accompanied by a small degree symbol °. (This symbol is also used to indicate open strings.) This method requires that the composer and performer have a clear idea of how to play the resulting harmonics!

