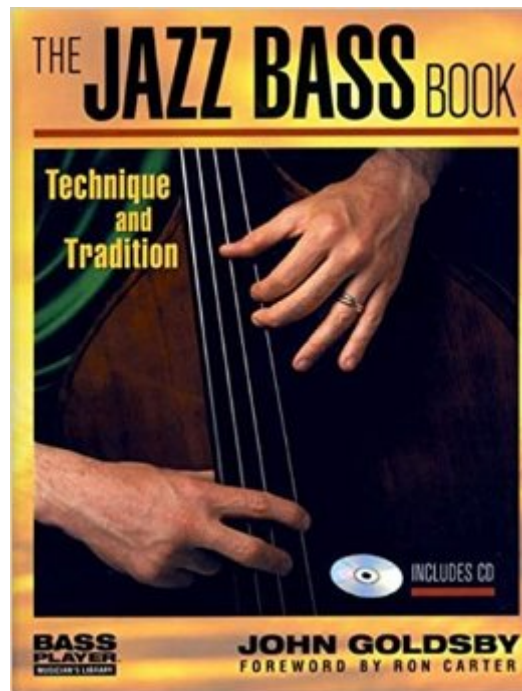


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# The Jazz Bass Book - Technique And Tradition Book/CD (Softcover) (Bass Player Musician's Library)



## Synopsis

More than a player's manual, this book portrays jazz bass as a vital element of 20th century American music. Citing examples from key recordings in the jazz canon, the book defines the essence of the musical contributions made by more than 70 important jazz bassists, including Ray Brown, Eddie Gomez, Charles Mingus, Milt Hinton and many others. Bassists get expert guidance on mastering proper technique, practice methods and improvisation, plus new insight into the theoretical and conceptual aspects of jazz. The companion CD featuring bass plus rhythm section allows readers to hear technical examples from the book, presented in slow and fast versions. It also offers play-along tracks of typical chord progressions and song forms.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (21 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This book is essentially an annotated and expanded collection of columns originally published in Bass Player magazine. As such, it's more of a disconnected set of essays than a narrative; the discussion of significant bass players is somewhat spotty, and doesn't go into great detail on their music and style in the way that (for example) Todd Coolman's "The Bass Tradition" does. But it's still both entertaining and educational. The chapters, being mostly self-contained, can be read at random as the reader's interest dictates. The first section of the book is primarily short snapshots of significant bassists, each being composed of a short biography accompanied by brief musical examples. The latter section- almost an appendix- consists of longer examples of styles and

techniques. It's not really a method book, but it does offer some insight into styles and harmonic and rhythmic concepts for the beginning or intermediate jazz bassists. The accompanying CD helps illustrate the musical examples for those whose reading and playing technique are at a more basic stage. All in all, a very entertaining and useful book for jazz bassists of all abilities, and an excellent choice for bedside reading.

I'll chime in with the previous review. A loose collection of essays with helpful information for aspiring jazz bassists. The biographical information is almost incidental and a little dated. And there are some rather unnecessary editorial essays at the end telling us what it means to be a good bass player. But those are just quibbles. The musical examples and appended information are what make the book worthwhile. I wouldn't want this to be my primary source for learning jazz bass, but it's fun to browse, a useful reference and a good book to learn some new lines and pick up some basic tips. It's a book to mine for ideas. And don't walk away from this one because you play electric. In fact, the information presented and the perspective this book takes makes it valuable for the electric bass player. Oh and by the way, no tab on the printed music. A good thing IMHO. Read the music, stay off the crutch.

The format of self-contained essays makes the book great for browsing. Someone just getting to know the jazz bass will be hearing a lot of names listed as important bass players (and seeing their names on liner notes), and you can find a nice summary of the context and contribution of each of these guys in this book. The parts in the book about actually playing make it a good companion to a more methodical bass method book, with transcriptions of great players' solos as well as more exercise-oriented pieces developed by Goldsby to help your technique.

OK, if you're like me (HighSierraBassPlayer), you're desperately seeking books, DVD's and CD's with tons of blues and jazz progressions. The material out there is really pretty thin (or maybe I'm just never satisfied like my chronic case of G.A.S. (gear acquisition syndrome)). John Goldby's Jazz Bass Handbook is the best source for jazz theory and an excellent resource for the history of jazz as well. After all, most of the songs we practice and perform on today have their beginnings in jazz and blues from the founding fathers. I have gained so much respect and awe for these pioneers of jazz and the blues, and this book is by far the best jazz compendium on the musical market today. I hope someone produces a blues compendium as concise and full of examples as this book does. The CD is also excellent, although I wish it carried all the examples in the book. But that makes me

work even harder to, as one of the forefathers of jazz offers in the book, "to imitate, assimilate, and innovate." That pretty much describes how bass players like me strive to be better, and this text works perfect. A highest must have from HighSierraBassPlayer!

This is a great book- I am a middle school band director who plays some bass, but starts many bass players and I know they will benefit from reading about the famous players covered in this well-written book!

I'll make this short and sweet... if you want a well-lead, chronological walk through the history of jazz bassists, complete with tons of musical examples, phenomenal sound clips, and enough recording references to keep you busy listening and copying grooves until rapture, this is the book for you. Buy it!

This is one of the best jazz books on the market for bass. It covers a large historical period and has a lot of historical information, but there are plenty of great examples to use as playing studies as well.

If you are starting out playing jazz on the double bass and a need broad perspective, history and instruction, this is a book you must have.

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