

# The Total Jazz Bassist A Fun And Comprehensive Overview Of Jazz Bass Playing With Cd Total Series By Overthrow D 2007 Paperback

## The Total Jazz Bassist: A Fun and Comprehensive Overview of Jazz Bass Playing (with CD)

Learning to play the jazz bass can be an incredibly rewarding experience, opening doors to a rich musical tradition and a vibrant community of musicians. For aspiring bassists seeking a comprehensive and engaging learning resource, \*The Total Jazz Bassist: A Fun and Comprehensive Overview of Jazz Bass Playing with CD\* (Overthrow D, 2007) offers a valuable pathway. This book, accompanied by a CD of audio examples, provides a structured approach to mastering this essential instrument in the context of jazz. This article delves into the book's contents, pedagogical approach, and its enduring relevance for jazz bass players of all levels.

### Understanding the Book's Structure and Approach

\*The Total Jazz Bassist\* isn't just a collection of exercises; it's a carefully designed curriculum. The author, Overthrow D, (While the author's real name remains elusive, the pseudonym is a common reference point for the book) employs a progressive methodology, gradually building upon fundamental concepts to introduce more advanced techniques. This approach makes the book accessible to beginners while still offering significant challenges for more experienced players. The book's structure is characterized by clear explanations, practical examples, and a logical progression of skills, creating a solid foundation for jazz bass mastery. Key elements include:

- **Fundamental Techniques:** The book starts with the basics, covering essential techniques like proper posture, hand position, and bowing (if applicable). This attention to fundamental technique is crucial for preventing bad habits from developing early on.
- **Scales and Modes:** A strong understanding of scales and modes is paramount in jazz. \*The Total Jazz Bassist\* systematically covers these, providing exercises to build fluency and comfort in various keys and harmonic contexts. This section also emphasizes the importance of understanding music theory to effectively navigate the jazz idiom. Learning jazz bass theory is key to understanding the underlying structure of the music.
- **Rhythm and Groove:** Jazz is all about feel and groove. The book dedicates significant attention to developing a solid rhythmic foundation, including exercises focused on syncopation, swing feel, and various rhythmic patterns. This is crucial for developing the essential "pocket" that defines a great jazz bassist.
- **Walking Bass Lines:** A cornerstone of jazz bass playing, walking bass lines are extensively covered. The book presents a gradual progression from simple walking lines to more complex and rhythmically challenging examples. The CD accompanying the book allows learners to hear these lines played by experienced bassists.
- **Improvisation:** Improvisation is the heart and soul of jazz. \*The Total Jazz Bassist\* provides exercises and strategies for developing improvisational skills, including learning to solo over chord changes and incorporating various melodic ideas.

### Benefits and Practical Application of \*The Total Jazz Bassist\*

This book offers a multitude of benefits for aspiring jazz bassists. Its strengths lie in its:

- **Comprehensive Coverage:** It covers a wide range of topics, from the most fundamental techniques to advanced improvisation strategies. This breadth makes it a valuable resource for players at all levels.
- **Structured Approach:** The progressive structure allows for gradual skill development, preventing players from becoming overwhelmed.

- **Engaging Methodology:** The book's clear explanations, practical exercises, and accompanying CD make the learning process enjoyable and effective.
- **Focus on Musicality:** The emphasis on rhythm, groove, and improvisation ensures that students develop not just technical proficiency, but also musicality and expressiveness. This focus on musical expression is what distinguishes a merely proficient player from a truly skilled musician.
- **Accessibility:** While rigorous, the book's structure makes it accessible to self-taught learners and those working independently.

Practical application involves consistent practice. Students should work through the exercises systematically, paying close attention to the accompanying CD. Regular practice sessions, incorporating listening to jazz music and playing along, will significantly enhance the learning process.

## The Role of the Accompanying CD

The CD that accompanies \*The Total Jazz Bassist\* is an invaluable asset. It provides audio examples of all the exercises and concepts presented in the book, allowing students to hear how they should sound and internalize the correct technique and feel. This audio component significantly enhances the learning experience, providing an immediate reference point and a model for emulation. This hands-on auditory learning component is a key differentiator for the book. Listening to the CD is as important as studying the text.

## Unique Strengths and Potential Drawbacks

One of the unique strengths of \*The Total Jazz Bassist\* is its focus on developing a strong foundation in fundamental techniques before moving on to more advanced concepts. This prevents bad habits and promotes efficient learning. Another strength is its accessibility – it's a great resource for those learning independently.

However, some potential drawbacks include the absence of updated musical examples and the fact that the book's age may mean some of the pedagogical approaches feel less modern compared to more recent publications. Additionally, the lack of readily available information about the author might cause some readers to hesitate.

## Conclusion

\*The Total Jazz Bassist\* remains a valuable resource for anyone looking to learn or improve their jazz bass playing. Its comprehensive coverage, structured approach, and accompanying CD make it an effective learning tool. While some elements might feel slightly dated, the core principles and techniques remain timeless and essential for any aspiring jazz bassist. The book effectively guides students through the process of developing a strong technical foundation while fostering musicality and creativity. Consistent practice and active engagement with the materials are key to unlocking its full potential.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### Q1: Is this book suitable for complete beginners?

A1: Yes, \*The Total Jazz Bassist\* is designed to be accessible to beginners. It starts with the fundamental techniques and gradually progresses to more advanced topics. However, a basic understanding of music theory would be beneficial.

### Q2: What style of jazz does the book focus on?

A2: The book covers a broad range of jazz styles, encompassing the fundamentals applicable across various subgenres. While it doesn't explicitly focus on a single style, its emphasis on rhythm, harmony, and improvisation makes it relevant to many jazz subgenres.

### Q3: How important is the CD?

A3: The CD is a crucial part of the learning experience. It provides audio examples of all exercises and concepts, helping students to hear the correct techniques and develop a good feel for

jazz rhythm and phrasing.

**Q4: Can I use this book if I already play the bass?**

A4: Absolutely! Even experienced bassists can benefit from this book. It offers a structured approach to jazz bass techniques, and its comprehensive coverage of various concepts can help refine existing skills and expose you to new ideas.

**Q5: Are there any online resources that complement the book?**

A5: While there aren't officially affiliated online resources, many online forums and communities dedicated to jazz bass playing can offer supplementary learning materials and provide support from other musicians.

**Q6: What is the best way to approach practicing with this book?**

A6: Consistent practice is key. Start by working through the exercises systematically, paying close attention to both the written explanations and the accompanying audio examples. Focus on developing good technique and internalizing the rhythmic concepts. Regularly listen to jazz music, and try playing along with recordings.

**Q7: How does this book compare to other jazz bass method books?**

A7: Compared to other jazz bass method books, \*The Total Jazz Bassist\* distinguishes itself with its comprehensive coverage and its inclusion of a CD. While newer books might offer more modern examples or pedagogical techniques, the core concepts and fundamentals remain very relevant, making it a solid foundation for any aspiring jazz bassist.

**Q8: Where can I find a copy of \*The Total Jazz Bassist\*?**

A8: Due to its age, finding new copies might be challenging. Used copies are often available online through various booksellers like Amazon, eBay, or used book stores. Checking online libraries for digital copies is also an option.

## Diving Deep into the Groovy World of "The Total Jazz Bassist"

For aspiring jazz musicians , finding the right learning resource can feel like searching for a elusive pearl in a haystack . However, for many, the 2007 paperback, "The Total Jazz Bassist: A Fun and Comprehensive Overview of Jazz Bass Playing with CD," stands out as a guiding light in the sometimes-challenging waters of jazz education. This book, by a mysterious author , offers a refreshing approach to mastering the intricate art of jazz bass playing. This article will delve into its merits, providing a thorough exploration of its curriculum and offering practical advice on leveraging its potential.

The book's core strength lies in its holistic approach. It doesn't just instruct technical skills; it nurtures a deep understanding of jazz harmony . This is crucial because jazz bass playing isn't merely about playing notes ; it's about driving the music, reacting to the other musicians, and creating a compelling rhythmic groundwork. The accompanying CD is invaluable in this respect, providing illustrative tracks that emphasize the concepts explained in the text. The tracks extend from fundamental exercises to more complex improvisational segments, allowing students to listen the methods in action.

The book's layout is logical , progressively building upon elementary concepts. It begins with the fundamentals of music theory relevant to bass playing, such as modes , chords , and rhythmic phrasing . It then moves on to progressively complex topics, such as walking bass lines, chord voicing, and improvisation techniques. Throughout the book, the author utilizes concise language and informative analogies, making the material accessible even to novices . The author avoids technical terms , rather focusing on conveying the heart of the concepts in a direct manner.

One of the book’s most valuable aspects is its emphasis on musicality. The author consistently encourages readers to hone their listening skills, underscoring the importance of paying close

attention to the rhythm, harmony, and phrasing of the other musicians. This focus on listening is vital for developing improvisational skills and for creating a harmonious musical ensemble.

Furthermore, the book does a commendable job of introducing different jazz styles and subgenres, allowing students to develop versatility in their playing. This is achieved through illustrations of different bass lines and techniques used in styles such as bebop, swing, and fusion. This acquaintance to diverse styles helps widen the student's musical scope and enriches their overall musical understanding.

The inclusion of the CD truly sets this book apart. It's not just a collection of examples ; it's an integral part of the learning experience. The tracks serve as both illustrations of good technique and as drills for the student to play along with . This interactive element is incredibly valuable in helping students internalize the concepts and develop their playing skills.

In conclusion, "The Total Jazz Bassist" offers a well-structured and accessible approach to learning jazz bass. The book's comprehensive coverage of theory, technique, and listening skills, combined with the useful accompanying CD, makes it an essential resource for players of all skill levels. It's a testament to the effectiveness of a structured approach to learning, coupled with a enthusiasm for the music.

#### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

1. **Is this book suitable for complete beginners?** Yes, the book starts with the fundamentals and progressively builds complexity, making it suitable for beginners.
2. **What software or equipment is needed to use the CD?** Any standard CD player or computer with a CD-ROM drive will suffice.
3. **Does the book cover specific jazz subgenres in detail?** While it doesn't delve deeply into each subgenre individually, it provides examples and context to broaden the student's understanding of various styles.
4. **Is there a focus on improvisation?** Yes, the book dedicates significant portions to developing improvisational skills, emphasizing listening and reacting to the musical context.
5. **Where can I purchase a copy of the book?** Used copies may be available online marketplaces like Amazon or eBay. However, due to the book's age, availability might be limited.

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