**Introduction**

Let’s learn how to play the bass guitar! This guide is designed for the absolute beginner with no musical knowledge needed. Feel free to skip ahead as desired.

**Description of the equipment**

1) Terminology/labeled diagram

2) Amp knobs

3) Volume knobs/pickup knobs

**List of materials and equipment needed**

Bass guitar - strung

Strap – doesn’t need to be fancy, canvas is fine

Pick (optional) – generally a thicker one, tortex green is good

Tuner (free apps/websites are convenient)

Amplifier (a combo amplifier generally) – fender combo bass, not too big for personal use

Amp power cable if not included

1/4” Cable, longer the better, don’t cheap out on this

Case (recommended) – soft is fine

Stand (optional)

**Directions**

Setup

1) Putting on strap

2) Setting up amp

3) Plugging in (power off everything first or you get a scary noise)

4) Tuning

Before You Start Playing

1) Learn to read tabs

2) Playing position

3) Finger picking

4) Floating thumb

Let’s Play!

4) Exercise, open strings

video and tab

Adding On

5) Fretting

6) Chromatic scale exercise

video and tab

Where to Go from Here

7) Future steps → speed up with exercises

8) Learn tabs and play along with song, songsterr link

**Troubleshooting**

1) Fret buzz → unless it’s actually an issue…press harder and closer to the fret, directly “above” fret toward stock

2) Sounds bad → play with confidence! Tone will improve as you practice and start gaining more strength in your fingers, but fake it till you make it

3) Fingers hurt/blisters → Definitely take a break. Maybe pop them?? But I am not responsible (legal disclaimer), blisters become calluses so learn to love them

4) No sound? → check your volume knobs, check your amp settings, if it’s just static, unplug everything, replug everything, then power on, last resort take it to the shop, probably just a bad cable

5) Broken strings? → website on how to restring, or just take it to your local shop