

Orange-5 String Bass

With this Bass, I wanted to apply my interpretation to the classic style bass. I did not have the intention of making any specific 'improvements' it was simply my take on it. To some degree I actually consider this topic to be beaten to death-why on earth would I want to do 'another' version of the classics? To that end-it was actually enjoyable.

I began by using the traditional wood combination-with a Brazilian twist. Having some super rare Brazilian Rosewood amongst my wood library, as well as being of the highest quality, this bass was telling me what it wanted. I began with a two piece Alder body, which actually was so flawless, it should have ended up on either a Sunburst or clear finish. But as I had no paint grade Alder available-I used it. Feel free to sand the colour off to check!!?? The colour itself is a three coat metallic colour-Orange.

The neck deserves a special mention, having 'wide' spacing-especially at the nut end, where it is at just on 2 inches-or 50 mm. The idea here was to bring more of a 4 string style feel to the bottom end. This trend is taking hold, especially in Europe. Whilst it feels a little wide at first (I'm not a big guy myself), I quickly became accustomed to it along with others. The surprising end result was that the bigger players actually prefer this wider spacing.

Also of note is the increased thickness of the headstock which I construct at 19 mm. Without going into various theories or debates-this is the way I do it-and I find it 'works' on multiple levels. It does not detract from the balance of the Instrument, but instead is a positive addition tonally, structurally as well as aesthetically.



The stand out feature of this neck is the superb, dark chocolate, Brazilian Rosewood fingerboard. I wish others 'good luck' in finding a fingerboard of this quality. Having had sizeable blocks of this wooden "gold" for almost 30 years, I built up enough courage to finally cut some off. Once these blocks go, no more, done, finished. A completely finite resource.



It is a full 8 mm thick and is mounted slab style. The fingerboard also features blind binding-you will not be afflicted with those annoying fret end protrusions. I decided that an in-lay less board was called for on this build, it was a case of less is more. The board smells and looks good enough to eat-this is not an exaggeration!



For neck adjustment, a two-way wheel truss rod is situated at the neck heel end. The side markers are Orange L.E.D's set into genuine mother of pearl dots. The intensity of the L.E.D's is adjustable to suit the player. Did anyone notice the superb curly maple one piece neck blank?

The neck is bolt on style, and is secured via 8 screws using my *tuning fork* neck pocket style of construction. The neck actually has a larger footprint and extends far further into the body than traditional basses. It is easily removable despite the L.E.D's-there are no power leads etc. to disconnect-nor push in connectors to slide home. An elegant solution is what greets you upon neck removal.

The Orange bass' neck profile is more traditional though somewhat flatter. This is a result of its width, whilst at the same time retaining an overall 'thin' neck.

The hardware is the familiar Hipshot A style bridge with mixed colour saddles. The machine heads are Hipshot Ultralites, also mixed colour for highlights.

The pickups are the single coil Delano JC 5 AL mated with the popular Sadowsky 2 band EQ. No surprises just how sweet it sounds. Smooth and warm.





I also felt it necessary to demonstrate the interior of my electronics bays. This is not a plastic pre manufactured insert. It is the inside of the actual bass finished in shielding paint. The bits you don't see are treated the same as the bits you do see on my instruments.



Due to the wood combination and number of strings, traditional 60's pickup locations were chosen. I also chose to construct this 5 string using the slightly longer scale length of 34.5 inches. This gives just enough extra tension to the B string to ensure it stays tight and defined-a problem a lot of 34 inch scale 5 strings suffer from. The extra 1/2 inch of scale length was never noticed by *anyone* ever! But all noticed the B string definition and clarity. Extensive carving also ensures that this bass stays comfortable in any position. The weight is a comfortable 4.0 kg or 9 Lbs.