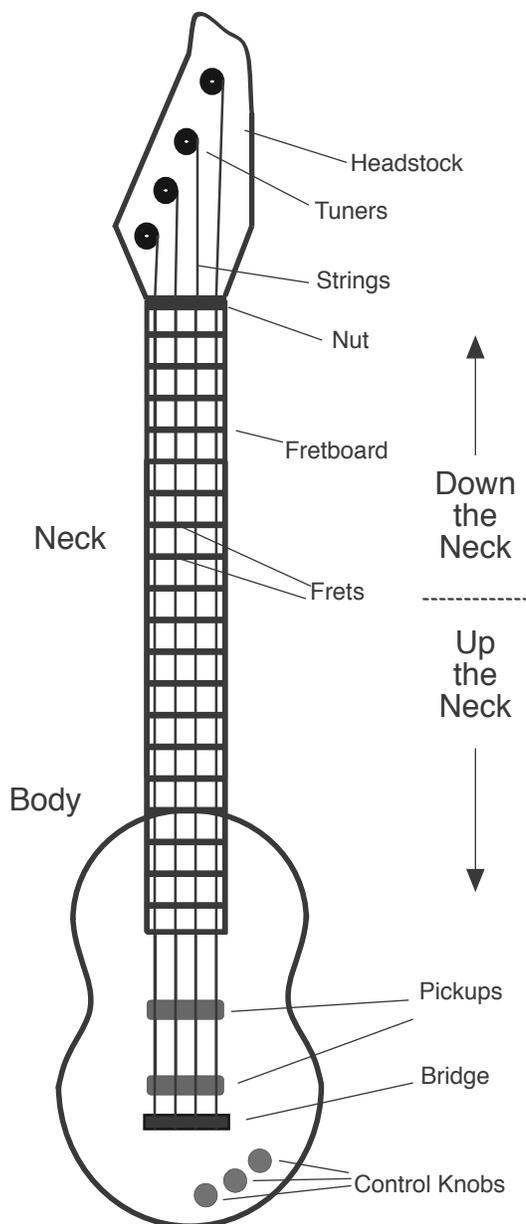


# The Layout of the Bass and How to Tuna

Behold below, a killer diagram of the bass that even looks something like a bass, since all the salient features can almost be discerned. You have the headstock, which houses the 4 tuners where the strings are attached. The strings pass through grooves in the nut, down the fretboard and across the frets. That's the neck. Then the body has the pickups, which capture the sound vibrations; the bridge, where the strings are attached; and the control knobs that work the volume (hi/lo) and tone (bass/treble).

Then there is a strap pin and an end pin for attaching a strap (probably a good idea whether you will be standing or sitting to play) and an input jack where you plug in.



So, pretty much just a big guitar with a couple of strings missing, right? And you just play one note at a time? How hard can it be to play?

Well. While having guitar experience does give a leg up on playing the bass, it does **NOT** prepare you for the extra physical effort needed to do the job.

The bass is heavier, the strings are thicker and the frets are farther apart. Flat-wound strings are easier on your fingertips, but the round-wound strings are cheaper and brighter-sounding (though brightness is often a disadvantage.....)

You will need to develop some extra strength and flexibility to play the bass, **So Don't Rush It!**

It's easy to strain your left arm particularly,  
**So Go Slow!**

The **GOOD** news is that **Tuning the Bass** won't be too problematic, especially if you have the foresight to acquire an **electronic tuner**. (If you're a guitarist, you probably already have one of these gizmos.)

So get the Gang at the Music Store to sell you one and teach you how to use it (it's all visual and easy to handle) and I'll show you the process of **Relative Tuning** later, after you've messed around with your bass a bit.