

The MBS, or MicroBass Strings, are the dedicated replacement strings for the GT-Series Microbass models by Gold Tone. They are a rubber polymer made by the Aquila string company in Italy and specifically formulated and gauged for the 23" scale length.

The string gauges are based more on a tension than a specific gauge number as the strings will thin slightly when stretched and tuned to pitch. However, they are designed to apply maximum tension on the bass to allow for low string action and a dynamic response to cater to a variety of playing techniques while maintaining a structural integrity that will last.

The recommended tuning using the MBS strings on a MicroBass model is standard EADG from low to high.

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Owner Manual

Micro Bass

Thank you for your recent purchase of the Gold Tone MicroBass. The MicroBass is a short scale bass guitar that uses rubber strings and an active piezo pickup to produce the low rumbling tone of a full size bass when plugged into a bass amp. Designed to be tuned to standard EADG tuning, the M-Bass offers bass players a unique voicing with ultimate tone flexibility in the lower register to cater to infinite genres of music and bass styles.

Strings

MicroBass strings are made of a rubber polymer and are available direct from Gold Tone or through an authorized Gold Tone dealer. Use ONLY MicroBass branded strings as they are designed specifically for this 23" scale length model. Similar off-brand rubber strings will not work and may cause damage to the instrument. Using non-MicroBass branded strings will void the 5-year warranty.

- String Installation Instructions -



Insert one end of the string through the top of the bridge and pull through the soundhole. Tie a loop knot at the end of the string and cinch tight. Pull the string from the top of the bridge so that the knot secures up against the inside of the bridge.



Pull the leading end of the string tightly towards the headstock and straight through the appropriate slotted tuner. Using a pen or marker, mark the string where it exits the back of the tuner, closest to the top of the headstock. Carefully cut the string at mark. The string should have as few wraps around the tuner as possible so it will fit inside the tuner hole but no longer.



Insert the string end inside the center hole of the tuner. Because the string is made of rubber, expect the string to stretch quite a bit before it reaches the desired pitch. When tuning up to pitch, constantly pull the string up above the bone nut to evenly tension the string. Failing to do this may cause an unwanted amount of stress on the string and may damage it. Using a string winder will help get the string to pitch faster. Once the string reaches the correct pitch, tug on the string slightly to stretch it. It will continue to stretch for several hours before finally reaching its stability point.



NOTE:

If a string stretches and overlaps the existing string wrap, as seen on 3rd string in photo, loosen string and shorten it's length by repeating the previous instructions.

Tuning & String Installation

The MicroBass is designed to be tuned to EADG (low to high).

A short string installation and tuning video is available on the MicroBass page on the www.goldtone.com website.

Slicking up the strings

Some players will find that their fretting or picking fingers slightly stick to the rubber strings in that there may be audible unwanted sounds during slides. Applying a small amount of baby powder or silicon to the strings and/or fingers will eliminate these sounds and provide effortless playability up and down the fretboard.

Setup

The ideal setup on the MircoBass is so that the strings are low enough to the fretboard so that the instrument is easily fretted with accurate intonation and high enough that the strings will not rattle or buzz on any fret. Easy adjustments to the action can be accomplished by a minor tweak of the two-way adjustable truss rod accessible inside the soundhole. To raise the action, simply use the included allen wrench to loosen the truss rod by turning it clockwise in increments of 1/8 of a full rotation. To lower the action, tighten the truss rod by turning it counterclockwise in increments of 1/8 of a full rotation.

The Pickup

The MicroBass features a built-in transducer pickup with a master volume control as well as independent bass and treble tone controls. In the acoustic models, there is also a built-in electronic tuner with mute function that will aid in quick and accurate pitch adjustments. When the tuner is engaged, the instrument output is muted. When a 1/4" instrument cable is inserted into the output jack, the tuner is automatically engaged and the instrument is muted. By pressing the tuner button, the tuner is disengaged and the bass output will be audible. The solid body model features the same pickup only with single volume and tone controls.

Battery

Both acoustic and solid body MicroBass models feature an active pickup which means that a battery is required for the pickup to function. The acoustic MicroBass uses a CR2032 battery and can be accessed in the built-in preamp on the upper bout of the instrument. The solid body MicroBass uses a 9v batter which can be accessed under the plastic cover on the backside of the instrument opposite the volume and tone controls. A battery is included with all new MicroBasses.

Warranty

The MicroBass includes a 5-year warranty to the original owner covering manufacturing defects. Register the warranty at www.goldtone.com.