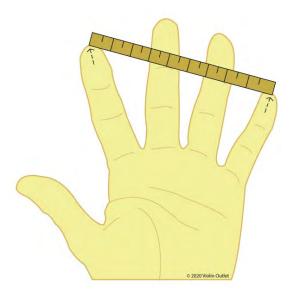


How to Measure a Student for an Upright Bass

It is important to properly fit students for the right size instrument. Basses come in several different common sizes: 3/4, 1/2, 1/4, and 1/8. 3/4 is the largest readily available standard student size and 1/8 is the smallest.

To get a general idea of what size bass a student needs we can use the student's age. Of course, some students need larger or smaller instruments based on their individual size. We will get a more accurate determination of the student's size in the steps below.

| Student's Age | Approximate Bass Size |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 7 to 9 years old | 1/8 |
| 9 to 12 years old | 1/4 |
| 11 to 14 years old and small adult | 1/2 |
| 13 to 16+ and average adult | 3/4 |



1. Measure the student's finger span:

- Have the student spread the fingers of the left hand as far apart as possible.
- Measure the distance in inches from the tip of the pointer finger to the tip of the pinky finger (see picture).

inches

2. Measure the student's height:

- Have the student stand with good posture (as straight as possible).
- Measure the student's height in feet and inches from the floor to the top of their head.

_____ ft. ____ in.

3. Compare the two measurements you took above against the recommended bass size in the table below.

| Finger Span | Height | Bass Size |
|------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Less than 3 3/4" | 4′ 5″ to 4′ 8″ | 1/8 |
| 4" to 4 3/4" | 4' 8" to 5' | 1/4 |
| 5" to 5 3/4" | 5' to 5' 4" | 1/2 |
| 6"+ | 5′ 5″+ | 3/4 |

- If both measurements point to the same size, then you have a pretty accurate bass size.
- If the student is between two sizes, we recommend going with the smaller size bass.