

How to Measure a Student for an Upright Bass

It is important to properly fit students for the right size instrument. Bases 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.