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The Fender Bass: An Illustrated History



Synopsis

(Book). When Leo Fender added a bass to his growing family of instruments 50 years ago, he created a new world for musicians and revolutionized an industry in the process. Using hundreds of photographs, this exciting release chronicles the evolution of that instrument from 1951 to 2001, providing background, history and highly researched facts vital to understanding everything about this remarkable member of the Fender family. A must for all music fans!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This publication is a quite interesting if incomplete update on the scant literature already available on this revolutionary instrument. It is beautifully produced- contrast it with, say, Blasquiz' work on the same topic. The photography is superb, the text a little thin. A book to browse through, but a detailed history, no. This is a book that on the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the Precision Bass pays homage to the American heritage of Leo Fender's innovations, and to be fair, is welcome. However, large chunks of this essential history are missing; apart from the history of the two giants of Fender's bass line, the Precision and Jazz basses, there is little or no mention of other basses made by the company- the Coronado, Mustang and Bullet models barely rate a mention. Perhaps a more glaring omission is the deliberate absence of reference to Fender's 'offshore' production (Japan, Korea, Mexico and latterly China and Indonesia) under 'Fender' and 'Squier by Fender' badges. The FMI corporation readily admits that for a time preceding the establishment of the Coronado plant, Japanese output kept the company afloat. Europe, too, is a huge market for Squier

instruments- these instruments, of undoubted quality, contribute significantly to the FMIC balance sheet. Example: the book mentions the production of an 'American' '75 reissue Jazz Bass without a mention of the excellent Japanese-made version of the same bass, made under license by Fender Japan that preceded it. Regarding quality, my own early-80s Squier Precision and Jazz basses which bear a Fender logo are better instruments in every way than USA models from the same era -real dogs - that I had owned but got rid of.

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