



FENDER

Modern Player Jazz Bass & Telecaster Bass

Sourced, just like the hugely popular Squier Classic Vibes, from China, the new Fender Modern Players aim to take traditional designs and shake things up a bit. Review by **Gareth Morgan**

Recent times have brought us some genuinely forward-looking Fenders, and bass players have benefitted just as much as guitar players. A favourite of *Guitar & Bass* was the Classic Series '70s Precision, a fine instrument which we selected as a Bass Of The Year in 2011. For this issue we have an interesting pair from the Modern Player Series, the re-introduced Telecaster Bass and, first up, a comfortingly familiar Jazz Bass.

Modern Player Jazz Bass

Familiar, yes... but these are Modern Player Humbucking Jazz Bass pickups, and though all Fender bass fans know that the original Jazz's pickups were connected in humbucking mode, sceptics are bound to be nervous at how a pair of chunky dual-coils will affect the much-loved Jazz Bass sound.

Otherwise, the MPJ follows standard Jazz lines with a trans black finish over an alder body, a three-ply scratchplate, a bolt-on neck and a rosewood fingerboard with 20 frets. Hardware comprises standard open-gear tuners and a Vintage bridge with brass saddles. The electronics are passive, with the usual two pickup volumes and one master tone on a chrome plate.



Big headstock, open tuners, narrow nut width: the MPJ's neck is all Jazz



The body is alder and the all-up weight on our review sample is a hefty 9.9lbs

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Sounds

If you compare the MPJ to a standard Jazz Bass (we used an early '80s JV series Squier), you might feel a little let down. Sure, there's more output level, but where the JV Jazz is has a full-range sound with biting lows, clean midrange and well-realised highs, what you get here is closer to a Precision than a Jazz. The bottom end is earthy, and the ➔

FACTFILE

Modern Player Jazz Bass

DESCRIPTION Solidbody bass. Made in China
PRICE £526.80

BUILD Alder body, bolt-on maple neck with 20 jumbo nickel frets on a rosewood fingerboard. Vintage 4-saddle bridge with brass saddles and standard open-gear tuners. Chrome hardware

ELECTRICS Passive with two Modern Player Humbucking Jazz Bass Pickups, two volumes and one master tone control

LEFT-HANDER No
FINISHES Three-colour sunburst, olympic white, black transparent
RANGE OPTIONS Modern Player Jaguar Bass, £442.80

SCALE LENGTH 864mm/34"
WIDTH OF NECK
Nut 38mm
12th fret 56mm
DEPTH OF NECK
First fret 20mm
12th fret 23mm
STRING SPACING
Nut 10mm
Bridge 20.5mm
ACTION AS SUPPLIED
12th fret treble 2mm
12th fret bass 3mm
WEIGHT 4.4kg/9.7lbs

CONTACT Fender GB&I
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FINAL SCORE

MODERN PLAYER JAZZ BASS	
Build Quality	18/20
Playability	16/20
Sound	15/20
Value for money	15/20
Vibe	15/20
TOTAL	79%