



Circle K Strings.com

July 2011

Lower – Better – Circle K Strings

Lower

Circle K Strings are designed specifically to expand and push downward the tuning of electric bass guitars.

These are not guitar strings made bigger – they are bass strings made better. They are made in a greater variety of gauges to provide a solid foundation for greater exploration of the depths of bass tunings.

String sets are available that enable tunings as low as an octave beneath standard E, and an octave below low B.

Better

No other manufacturer makes strings like we do.

We are the only manufacturer that offers a two-wrap E string. In larger diameters, we make three wrap strings up to .182". The fewer wraps of wire a string has the fuller the sound they will produce, and it lets strings of even extraordinary gauge match tonally from one string to the next. As well, fewer layers result in a more flexible string, providing more harmonic content and a more comfortable playing experience.

Our hybrid sets are a unique combination of nickel and steel – not quite as bright as steels and not as ‘scooped’ as nickels. This mix of materials gives our strings a tonality that shifts less over time and lasts longer.

Circle K's are wound straight and packaged straight. The greatest compromise to a string's structural integrity and playable life is coiling and packaging them in the traditional manner. At Circle K, all strings are stored uncoiled from the moment of manufacture. For shipping purposes only the strings are loosely coiled, and we recommend our customers store them uncoiled as well.

Tension between strings within sets was established with the acceptance of round wound strings and not considered since then – until now. Circle K makes Balanced and Traditional Tension sets available, as well as Drop Tuned and – available very soon – 5ths sets. We provide choices that no other manufacturer can or does. In addition to sets that accommodate four string to twelve string players, there are three scale lengths to choose from; Standard (34" to 35"), Medium (36" to 37"), and Long (39" to 40").

Circle K Strings

Circle K's commitment to product excellence is borne of 60 years of combined experience. In addition to string development, design and production, our history also includes machine design and development and musical instrument design and production. You can expect a great deal from these strings – because a great deal went into their creation.

Vernacular

Balanced Tension Sets

String sets of this type have closely matched tension from string to string. This allows for consistent playing technique across the fret board and consistent tone, output and playability from string to string.

Traditional Tension Sets

Historically, string sets have had tension relationships that grow tighter as the strings go higher in pitch. This was originally done to compensate for poor low end response from amplification systems and has made recording unduly challenging. Traditional tension sets are perfect for fan fretted instruments.

Alternate Key or Drop Down Tuning

This is characterized by maintaining the standard intervals – 4ths – between strings, but adjusting the tuning of the string set to pitches other than the traditional low-side E or B.

Drop Tuning

Customarily, drop tuning provides a 5th relationship between the lowest and next-lowest strings, with the balance of the set maintaining 4ths intervals going higher. There are some variations on this theme.

Interpreting the Data

The tensions indicated are in pounds, are provided in half-step increments, and are based on a 34" scale length. If you are selecting gauges for a 36" or 37" scale length instrument the tensions indicated are accurate at one half step lower than the pitches indicated. If you are calculating for a 40" scale instrument the tensions are accurate at a step-and-a-half lower than the pitches indicated.

On average, standard tension at traditional pitches on a contemporary electric bass guitar is between 35 and 45 pounds for any given string. This is a reasonable bench mark when considering the appropriate gauges for specific tunings.

Plain Bass Strings

Size	Unit Weight	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
.008	.000014240	11.7	13.1	14.7	16.5	18.5	20.8	23.3	26.2	29.4	33.0		
.009	.000018022	14.8	16.6	18.6	20.9	23.4	26.3	29.5	33.1			11.7	13.2
.010	.000022252	18.2	20.5	23.0	25.8	28.9	32.5			11.5	12.9	14.5	16.2
.011	.000026925	22.1	24.8	27.8	31.2	35.0		11.0	12.4	13.9	15.6	17.5	19.7
.012	.000032039	26.2	29.5	33.1	37.1		11.7	13.1	14.7	16.5	18.6	20.8	23.4
.013	.000037605	30.8	34.6	38.8		12.2	13.7	15.4	17.3	19.4	21.8	24.5	27.4
.014	.000043607	35.7	40.1		12.6	14.2	15.9	17.9	20.1	22.5	25.3	28.4	31.8
.015	.000050050	41.0		12.9	14.5	16.3	18.3	20.5	23.0	25.8	29.0	32.5	36.5
.016	.000056961		13.1	14.7	16.5	18.2	20.8	23.3	26.2	29.4	33.0	37.0	41.6
.017	.000064300	13.2	14.8	16.6	18.6	20.9	23.5	26.3	29.6	33.2	37.2	41.8	
.018	.000072088	14.8	16.6	18.6	20.9	23.4	26.3	29.5	33.1	37.2	41.8		13.2
.019	.000080360	16.5	18.5	20.7	23.3	26.1	29.3	32.9	36.9	41.5		13.1	14.7
.020	.000089031	18.2	20.5	23.0	25.8	28.9	32.5	36.5	40.9		12.9	14.5	16.2
.021	.000098155	20.1	22.6	25.3	28.4	31.9	35.8	40.2	45.1		14.2	16.0	17.9
.022	.000107666	22.1	24.8	27.8	31.2	35.0	39.3	44.1		13.9	15.6	17.5	19.6
.023	.000117702	24.1	27.1	30.4	34.1	38.3	42.9		13.5	15.2	17.0	19.1	21.5

Wound Nickel/Steel Hybrid Bass Strings

Size	Unit Weight	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
.025	.000124568	25.5	28.6	32.1	36.1	40.5	45.5		14.3	16.1	18.0	20.3	22.7
.026	.000144691	29.6	33.3	37.3	41.9		13.2	14.8	16.6	18.7	21.0	23.5	26.4
.027	.000153146	31.4	35.2	39.5	44.4		14.0	15.7	17.6	19.8	22.2	24.9	27.9
.028	.000161203	33.0	37.1	41.6	46.7		14.7	16.5	18.5	20.8	23.3	26.2	29.4
.029	.000178551	36.6	41.0	46.1		14.5	16.3	18.3	20.5	23.0	25.9	29.0	32.6
.031	.000198902	40.7	45.7	51.3	57.6		18.1	20.4	22.9	25.7	28.8	32.3	36.3
.033	.000223217	45.7	51.3	57.6		18.1	20.4	22.9	25.7	28.8	32.3	36.3	40.7
.035	.000249034	50.1	57.2		18.0	20.2	22.7	25.5	28.6	32.1	36.1	40.5	45.4
.037	.000276237	56.7		17.8	20.0	22.4	25.2	28.3	31.8	35.6	40.0	44.9	50.4
.039	.000304788		17.5	19.7	22.1	24.8	27.8	31.2	35.0	39.3	44.1	49.5	55.6
.041	.000334965	17.2	19.3	21.6	24.3	27.2	30.6	34.3	38.5	43.2	48.5	54.4	61.1

Wound Nickel/Steel Hybrid Bass Strings (cont'd)

Size	Unit Weight	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
.043	.000366357	18.8	21.1	23.6	26.5	29.8	33.4	37.5	42.1	47.3	53.1	59.5	
.045	.000404956	20.7	23.3	26.1	29.3	32.9	36.9	41.5	46.5	52.2	58.6		18.5
.047	.000447408	22.9	25.7	28.9	32.4	36.4	40.8	45.8	51.4	57.7		18.2	20.4
.049	.000475438	24.3	27.3	30.7	34.4	38.6	43.4	48.7	54.6	61.3		19.3	21.7
.051	.000512645	26.3	29.5	33.1	37.1	41.7	46.8	52.5	58.9		18.6	20.8	23.4
.053	.000551898	28.3	31.7	35.6	40.0	44.8	50.4	56.5		17.8	20.0	22.4	25.2
.055	.000584407	29.9	33.6	37.7	42.3	47.5	53.3	59.8		18.9	21.2	23.8	26.7
.057	.000625704	32.0	36.0	40.4	45.3	50.8	57.1		18.0	20.2	22.7	25.4	28.5
.059	.000679149	34.8	39.0	43.8	49.2	55.2		17.4	19.5	21.9	24.6	27.6	31.0
.061	.000720293	36.9	41.4	46.5	52.2	58.5		18.4	20.7	23.2	26.1	29.3	32.9
.063	.000765973	39.2	44.0	49.4	55.5		17.5	19.6	22.0	24.7	27.7	31.1	34.9
.065	.000821116	42.0	47.2	53.0	59.5		18.7	21.0	23.6	26.5	29.7	33.4	37.5
.067	.000870707	44.6	50.0	56.2		17.7	19.9	22.3	25.0	28.1	31.5	35.4	39.7
.070	.000939851	48.1	54.0	60.6		19.1	21.4	24.1	27.0	30.3	34.0	38.2	42.9
.073	.001021518	52.3	58.7		18.5	20.8	23.3	26.2	29.4	32.9	37.0	41.5	46.6
.076	.001110192	56.8		17.9	20.1	22.6	25.3	28.4	31.9	35.8	40.2	45.1	50.6
.079	.001188974	60.9		19.2	21.5	24.2	27.1	30.4	34.2	38.3	43.0	48.3	54.2
.082	.001293598		18.6	20.9	23.4	26.3	29.5	33.1	37.2	41.7	46.8	52.6	59.0
.086	.001416131	18.1	20.4	22.8	25.6	28.8	32.3	36.3	40.7	45.7	51.3	57.5	
.090	.001544107	19.8	22.2	24.9	28.0	31.4	35.2	39.5	44.4	49.8	55.9		17.6
.094	.001677765	21.5	24.1	27.1	30.4	34.1	38.3	43.0	48.2	54.1	60.7		19.1
.098	.001831487	23.4	26.3	29.5	33.2	37.2	41.8	46.9	52.6	59.1		18.6	20.9
.102	.001986524	25.4	28.5	32.0	36.0	40.4	45.3	50.9	57.1		18.0	20.2	22.7
.106	.002127413	27.2	30.5	34.3	38.5	43.2	48.5	54.4		17.2	19.3	21.6	24.3
.112	.002367064	30.3	34.0	38.2	42.8	48.1	54.0	60.6		19.1	21.4	24.1	27.0
.118	.002616406	33.5	37.6	42.2	47.4	53.2	59.7		18.8	21.1	23.7	26.6	29.8
.124	.002880915	36.9	41.4	46.5	52.1	58.5		18.4	20.7	23.2	26.1	29.3	32.9
.130	.003154996	40.4	45.3	50.9	57.1		18.0	20.2	22.7	25.4	28.6	32.1	36.0
.136	.003441822	44.0	49.5	55.1		17.5	19.6	22.0	24.7	27.8	31.2	35.0	39.3
.142	.003741715	47.9	53.8	60.3		19.0	21.3	23.9	26.9	30.2	33.9	38.0	42.7

Wound Nickel/Steel Hybrid Bass Strings (cont'd)

Size	Unit Weight	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
.150	.004051506	51.8	58.2		18.3	20.6	23.1	25.9	29.1	32.7	36.7	41.2	46.2
.158	.004375389	56.0		17.6	19.8	22.2	25.0	28.0	31.4	35.3	39.6	44.5	49.9
.166	.005078724		18.2	20.5	23.0	25.8	29.0	32.5	36.5	41.0	46.0	51.6	57.9
.174	.005469937	17.5	19.6	22.0	24.8	27.8	31.2	35.0	39.3	44.1	49.5	55.6	
.182	.006071822	19.4	21.8	24.5	27.5	30.8	34.6	38.8	43.6	49.0	55.0	61.7	
.190	.006605072	21.1	23.7	26.6	29.9	33.5	37.8	42.3	47.4	53.3	59.8		18.8
.200	.007311717	23.4	26.3	29.5	33.1	37.1	41.7	46.8	52.5	59.0		18.6	20.8
.210	.008037439	25.7	28.9	32.4	36.4	40.8	45.8	51.4	57.7		18.2	20.4	22.9
.222	.009091287	29.1	32.6	36.6	41.2	46.2	51.9	58.2		18.3	20.6	23.1	25.9
.232	.009888443	31.6	35.5	39.9	44.8	50.2	56.4		17.8	19.9	22.4	25.1	28.2
.244	.010907182	34.9	39.2	44.0	49.4	55.4		17.4	19.6	22.0	24.7	27.7	31.1
.254	.011787319	37.7	42.3	47.5	53.4	59.9		18.9	21.2	23.8	26.7	29.9	33.6