

**SPECIAL CAREER REPORT: NEW WAYS TO EARN \$\$\$**

# **BASS PLAYERS**

**LEARN IT NOW!**  
**LESSARD  
LICKS**

**TRAD  
WALKING  
BASS**

**WORLD &  
GOSPEL  
GROOVES**

**DAVE MATTHEWS BAND**

**STEFAN LESSARD**

**GETS BACK  
TO THE GROOVE!**

**SLACKERS  
SQUAREPUSHER  
NOFX**

**2 NEW COLUMNS!**

Go Metal with **Dorian 27**

Hone Your Chops with **Adam Nitti**

**WARWICK'S RAD NEW HYBRID HEAD  
HOW IT WORKS, HOW IT RATES**

JULY 2001

\$4.95 U.S., CAN. \$5.95, U.K. £3.25



A MUSIC PLAYER PUBLICATION

# The Rizzolo Bass

## Straight From The Bass Strait

Tasmania, just south of Australia, is separated from the continent by the Bass Strait. The island may be best known for the Tasmanian devil, the ill-tempered marsupial that also starred in Warner Bros. cartoons. But Tasmania has more to offer than just the devil and the deep blue sea.

Luthier Gary Rizzolo began performing in the mid '60s, and his passion for guitars led him into the art of lutherie. Since 1975 Rizzolo—who has a Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Wood Design from the University of Tasmania—has built and repaired basses and guitars of all sorts in his one-man shop. "I come from a family of artisans, and I believe that in order to make a fine instrument you should not only be able to play but also be skilled with wood, finishes, and setup," Gary says. He points out that Tasmania produces fine tone woods such as fiddleback blackwood ("like a blend of maple and mahogany"), Tasmanian oak, walnut, and myrtle. For electronics and hardware, he usually uses brands such as Seymour Duncan, EMG, Kent Armstrong, Schaller, Gotoh, and Hipshot.

"What I like about the bass is achieving that rock-solid feel and sound. This comes only from a well-built instrument. Every detail has to be just right—from the way the frets are put in, to the machine heads, trussrod, choice of fretboard timber, and bridge. All color the overall sound."

Among Rizzolo's models are the Wave bass (which has a Carl Thompson-like carved top horn) and the Jazz-style RB Basses. Pictured is the RB Custom V, which can be ordered in walnut, blackwood, or oak for the one-piece body and graphite-reinforced neck. The pickups are Kent Armstrong, tuners are Hipshot, and bridge is Kahler. Price, including an SKB hardshell case, is about \$1,630 U.S. The RB has only a single coil switch and a pickup-selector switch, with no rotary controls.

Rizzolo admits he has a soft spot for the Fender Jazz. "The RB V is based on the Jazz in body, but it's a bit smaller and reshaped around the horns for the soft-contoured neck-to-body joint. The edges are rounded, too, which visually lightens and softens the shape.

"I prefer to build instruments one at a time so the whole concept is planned and brought to completion. The customer and I tease out what he wants in an instrument, and I work in various suggestions and ideas. That's how I got the idea for no knobs—one player was lamenting that he never touches an instrument's controls, since he adjusts the amp's instead."

So far, Rizzolo's clients are mostly local, but he's seeing more mainland Australian customers. "I guess it's a word-of-mouth thing. Our Web site has raised awareness of what's available, and some brave musicians have made purchases over the Net."

—Mikael Jansson



### Contact Information

Rizzolo  
113 York St., Sandy Bay  
Hobart, Tasmania 7005  
Australia  
(011-61) 3-6234-3137 phone/fax  
rizzolo@netspace.net.au  
www.netspace.net.au/~rizzolo

## WARWICK GIVEAWAY WINNERS

The January and February 2001 BASS PLAYER/Warwick Giveaway Grand Prize winner is **Chris Joyce** of Exton, Pennsylvania, who receives an Infinity LTD 2000 4-string, Quad VI head, and W-411 4x10 cabinet.

Second Prize winner **Jeff Silver** of Germantown, Maryland, gets a CCL 250-watt combo amp.

**Craig Van Ess** of San Jose, California, receives the Third Prize CCL 150-watt combo.

## Q&A

*I have a bass with an oil-based finish on the neck and fingerboard. I've played it for about a year, and the fingerboard has become dirty. How do I clean it?*

Chris Stone  
San Francisco, CA

It's always best to ask the manufacturer for advice regarding an instrument's care and upkeep—by calling customer service, checking the Web site, or speaking to an authorized service center. Two manufacturers who use oil-based finishes spoke to us about proper maintenance. Byron Smith of Ernie Ball says, "If the neck gets really dirty, you can use high-

grade lemon oil or a small amount of Murphy's Oil Soap diluted 3:1. If the dirt has gotten into the wood, it cannot be removed except by sanding, which we do not recommend. An occasional dose of gunstock oil will help keep the neck maintained. We use Birchwood-Casey Tru-Oil on all Music Man instruments, but any good gunstock oil will work." Dan Lakin of Lakland Basses adds, "We use a tung oil-finish with a top layer of cyanoacrylate adhesive on our basses. Practice preventive care by cleaning your hands before you play and wiping down your bass afterward."

Got a question? Send it to:  
Q&A/BASS PLAYER  
2800 Campus Drive  
San Mateo, CA 94403  
bassplayer@musicplayer.com