

# Markbass F1 Series Basses

Following the success of their Kimandu, Kilimanjaro, J Series, and JP series basses, Marco De Virgiliis wanted to create a high end instrument series that honored and embraced the storied history of Italian instrument builders, while notching the next chapter of lutherie in his region. In doing this, he created the new F1 Series of basses, which is an ever-expanding array of models that uses only the finest woods and materials. "This is not just a bass series, it is our way to enhance our love and passion for instruments, and as always, bring something new to the table," explains De Virgiliis. "For this special series we are using the peculiarities and unique resources of living in Italy by using local assets to create something at the top level. We're not using these amazing woods simply because they are available to us in Italy, but because of their unmatched characteristics that leads to unique instruments."

To achieve their vision of celebrating and utilizing the wealth of fine Italian materials, Markbass set out to the precise regions where many of the most revered instruments from history have come from. In particular, they followed the trail of the 17th century builder who was regarded as one of the greatest instrument makers who ever lived, Italian luthier Antonio Stradivari. His surviving instruments are now worth millions of dollars, and perhaps the most iconic of his creations is the famed Le Brun Stradivarius violin, which was played by the one and only Niccolò Paganini. Notoriously picky about the woods he used, Stradivari was partial to spruce, so he would travel to the Fiemme Valley to wander the woods and find the perfect trees to craft his instruments from. Now, over three centuries later, Markbass is going to the exact forests that Stradivari did to select the same family of Val di Fiemme Spruce trees for their F1 Series Basses.

The most immediately noticeable observation when picking up an F1 Series bass is its lightness. The Val di Fiemme Spruce was so important to Stradivari for its beautiful resonance and its elasticity for bowed instruments, but also because of how little it weighs. The body of each of the F1 series basses is made of Val di Fiemme Spruce, but the beautiful top woods vary for each particular model. For the MB RB Kilimanjaro F1 5 Oliv bass, as suggested by Richard Bona, the top wood is an Abruzzo Olive, which comes from one of the richest regions for olives that contains century-old trees that are harvested for olive oil. The necks of these basses are made of one-piece quarter sawn maple with a 34" scale, 24 frets (2.4mm), and a GraphTech Black Rusq Nut. The MB JF1 White Battered 4 VG RW has a relic finish with a hard maple neck and 34" rosewood fingerboard with 20 frets featuring vintage cream binding, and MOP block inlays. The JF1 Old Yellow CR MP has a unique aged finish with a maple neck and 34" maple fingerboard with 20 frets featuring vintage cream binding, and MOP block inlays. The JF1 Old White CR

KILIMANJARO



EB is a fretless bass with an Ebony fingerboard, a hard maple neck, and a beautiful vintage finish. Honoring the Italian instrument making tradition, each bass is a unique creation, so the selection of wood and other subtle touches are part of the artisan process that reflects the constant improvements that Markbass makes in evolving their products.

As far as tone, the F1 Series provides all of the low to high richness and magnificent clarity that you'd expect from a high-end bass. The pickups are either single coil J-style passive sets custom designed on Markbass specs with a 70' style layout for the MB JF1 White Battered 4 VG RW, MB JF1 Old Yellow 4 CR MP, and MB JF1-F Old White 4 CR EB, or Bartolini MK5CBC series pickups for the MB RB Kilimanjaro F15 Oliv. But the most important element for the tone of this series is the MB Instrument Pre, which uses an ultra-compact circuit that provides the clearest frequencies for a truly powerful sound. These tone circuits were designed to not only boost the frequencies, but also to provide unparalleled responsiveness when you both engage the boost and also when you cut it. Another focus of these

circuits is to offer subtle differences of volume when you switch from passive to active and vice-versa, which is an important factor for performing bassists who need to change their sound with the simple push of a button. No matter what style of music you're playing, the electronics on these basses will provide you with the exact tone you need.

From the Val di Fiemme Spruce forests, to the hands of bass players all over the world, the Markbass F1 Series honors the centuries old legacy of Italian craftsmanship and the storied resources from the region. Every element of these basses was carefully selected and crafted to achieve the ultimate playing experience that draws from a long line of luthiers who only wanted to provide the best for their players. Whether you're a top-level performer, or someone looking for their next step up with a bass they can play for rest of their life, the F1 model is the choice for you. With remarkable sound, feel, and construction, these instruments are proudly ushering in the next chapter of Markbass, and their quality and attention to detail continues the long and proud tradition of Italian instrument making.



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## SPECS

### MB JF1

**Woods:** Each instrument comes with a wood specs label for body, neck and fingerboard.

**Body:** Val Di Fiemme Spruce

**Neck:** Hard Maple

**Fingerboard:** Rosewood, Maple or Ebony (fretless)

**Scale:** 34" scale, 20-FRET with vintage cream binding, and MOP block inlays.

**Nut:** Bone

**Hardware:** Markbass Custom machine heads, F Style | 20:1 ratio (Gold, Chrome or Vintage)

**Bridge:** Markbass Die cast bridge (Gold, Chrome or Vintage)

**Pickups:** Single coil J style passive pickups custom designed on Markbass specs, perfectly matching Markbass electronic, 70' style layout.

**Electronics:** MB Instrument Pre

**CONTROLS:** VOLUME/ VOLUME/TONE(working also in the passive mode) BASS/MIDDLE/HIGH (on the active EQ )

### MB RB KILIMANJARO F1 5 OLIV

**Woods:** Each instrument comes with a wood specs label for body, neck and fingerboard.

**Body:** Val Di Fiemme Spruce w/ Olive Top ( Ninja RB Bass Shape Design)

**Neck:** One-Piece Quarter Sawn Maple

**Fingerboard:** Selected Maple, 24-FRET / 2.4mm, GraphTech Black Rusq NUT, Black Dots (side)

**Scale:** 34" scale

**Nut:** GraphTech Black Rusq

**Hardware:** Gotoh Tuners, Black, Hipshot Kickass 5 Strings, Black

**Bridge:** Markbass Die cast bridge VINTAGE (VG)

**Pickups:** Bartolini MK5CBC

**Electronics:** MB Instrument Pre

**CONTROLS:** VOLUME/ VOLUME/TONE(working also in the passive mode) BASS/MIDDLE/HIGH (on the active EQ )



**F1 SERIES**