

The Thunderbolt: Price/Performance Breakthrough

In 1992, the bass world was rocked by the introduction of M.V. Pedulla's stunning Thunderbass. With its sleek styling, superior playability, and deliberately powerful tone, it quickly established itself as one of the most versatile and commanding basses ever built. Realizing that not every bassist wanting a Thunderbass could afford one, the luthiers at Pedulla Guitars spent almost a year designing and refining a new bass that would offer a lower-priced alternative while still putting a great instrument into the hands of waiting bassists. Now Pedulla presents the Thunderbolt, with virtually all of the elements that make the Thunderbass one of the most desirable instruments for bass players of every musical inclination. The elegant styling, incredible tone, and great feel are here in a bolt-on-neck bass that shares most aspects of the Thunderbass' look and feel, but has a formidable personality all its own. What's more, the Thunderbolt is also extremely affordable, with 4-, 5-, and 6-string models having list prices of \$1,895, \$1,995, and \$2,095, respectively.

Unlike many basses with bolt-on necks, the Thunderbolt is constructed so that its neck fits the body like a hand fits a glove. Every neck is individually selected, tested, and fit into a neck slot with absolutely no spare space. The results? A more solid feel, a more solid tone, and a neck with rock-steady stability. In addition, the transition from the neck to the body is tapered so that the feeling is more like a neck-through-body instrument, and access to the upper frets is completely unhindered.

The neck is extremely rigid maple with a 22-fret rosewood fingerboard, a classic combination that feels velvety, sounds warm, and inspires musicality. With 22 frets instead of 24, the Thunderbolt's slightly shorter fingerboard offers the player a meatier, more substantial slap-style sound, plus the combination of the woods and the electronics yield the classic, punchy attack that propels the bottom end onstage or in the studio. Also intended to enhance the Thunderbolt's tone, the machined brass bridge imparts extra highs while keeping a firm grip on the bottom end, anchoring the tone to the maple body and translating into dynamic tonal response. To ensure the best from the Thunderbolt, it is strung with R. Cocco handwound, high-precision strings.

No less impressive than the neck is the sculpted body, consisting of soft Eastern curly maple with a bookmatched top of either AA-grade flamed maple or bird's-eye maple (both are offered at the same price). Finishes include light gold, peacock blue, cherry, or solid black—all impeccably applied, extremely durable, and stunningly accented by the Thunderbolt's black hardware.

The Thunderbolt features the same exclusive Pedulla active electronics as those employed in the Thunderbass, plus the straightforward control setup consisting of a master volume, a master tone, and a pickup-blend knob to govern the preamp and two proprietary tone modules designed in conjunction with Bartolini. The result is maximum versatility with minimum clutter. And like Pedulla's Thunderbass and Thunderbuzz fretless, its Thunderguts™ switchable circuit adds another dimension to its already devastating tonal range, accessing a thicker character with a tight, articulate low end and midrange.

The M.V. Pedulla Thunderbolt: Elegant styling, a great sound, and an affordable price. This may well be the perfect bass.

Thunderbolts, Thunderbasses, and Thunderbuzzes are available from all authorized M.V. Pedulla dealers. For further information, contact M.V. Pedulla Guitars, P.O. Box 226, Rockland, MA 02370.



Thunderbolt 5-string

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The Serious Bass

Pedulla's Thunderbolt: Price/Performance Breakthrough



Thunderbolt 4-string

Thunderbolt

SPECIFICATIONS

Number of strings: Available with four, five, or six strings

Body material: Soft Eastern curly maple with AA-grade flamed maple or bird's-eye maple top

Neck: Two-piece laminate of quartersawn hard Eastern maple

Fingerboard: Rosewood

Number of frets: 22

Bridge: ABM machined brass (adjustable height, spacing, and intonation)

Nut: Bone

Tuning machines: M.V. Pedulla/Gotoh

Pickups: Two Bartolini humbuckers

Controls: Master volume, pickup pan, and master tone for custom active circuitry, plus Thunderguts™ switch

Scale length: 34"

Body width: 12³/₄"

Body length: 18³/₄"

Body depth: 1⁵/₈"

Overall length: 44¹/₈"

Weight: 8 lbs, 1 oz

Finish: Polyester, available in light gold, peacock blue, cherry, and solid black

Further information: M.V. Pedulla Guitars, P.O. Box 226, 83 E. Water St., Rockland, MA 02370.

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About M.V. Pedulla Guitars

Founded in the Boston area in 1975 by luthier Michael Pedulla, M.V. Pedulla Guitars has a reputation as one of the premier makers of fretted and fretless basses. Employing the finest materials and the best of modern technology and traditional handcraftsmanship, M.V. Pedulla Guitars is dedicated to building instruments of extremely high quality—without a “custom” price tag.