

Babicz FCH 4

Replacement four-string
bass bridge

Price £79

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Once upon a time replacement bridges such as the ever-popular Leo Quan Badass were a common upgrade. Those days could be back with the FCH 4 bass bridge, the latest product from Babicz, a company established in 2003 by Jeff Babicz and Jeff Carano to produce high-quality acoustic guitars.

Made in Taiwan, the bridge itself is solid metal with a chrome finish (black and gold are also available) and it's designed as a direct upgrade for P or J-style bridges and come complete with five mounting holes. So, it's the familiar four-saddles-on-a-base-plate arrangement - but these saddles have a twist, as the Babicz-designed eCAM system facilitates full contact between the vibrating string and the body of the bass via the base plate...way, way more contact than the old two grub screws. This direct coupling, says Babicz, produces the

least amount of acoustical impedance, resulting in improved tone and sustain. The saddles can be locked in place with Allen bolts, another boon in the quality of tone stakes. Oh, and there's a very useful 11-minute installation video online.

In Use

We tested the bridge using identical basses, one with the Babicz and one without, and can report some noticeable differences. With the FCH bridge the sound was bigger and richer and we noticed more overall volume, both acoustically and amplified. There's also a hint of extra sustain but, to be honest, the other audible benefits are more than enough to outweigh the volume alone.

Verdict

Some of us are reluctant to customise or upgrade our instrument's hardware unless it breaks, but in this instance you might want to think again. Whether you play bass or guitar (they make various guitar models too), if you care about the quality of your sound, you'd do well to look into one. 🎸

FINAL SCORE	
BABICZ FCH 4 BASS BRIDGE	
Build Quality	20/20
Usability	17/20
Sound	19/20
Value for money	18/20
Looks	19/20
Total	93%