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# Sadowsky MetroExpress Bass Guitar

## *Stellar Response & Clarity at a Budget Price*

**B**ack in 2003, Roger Sadowsky started his made-in-Japan MetroLine of bass guitars in an effort to make his high-quality instruments more affordable to the public. The new MetroExpress is a response to the overwhelming success of the MetroLine, with Sadowsky forging a relationship with one of the top factories in Japan to make even more affordable instruments.

Available in four- and five-string versions (both with street prices just shy of \$2,000), each MetroExpress bass comes standard with the same stellar strings, hardware and electronics found in Sadowsky's New York instruments (including the company's legendary pre-amp). In addition to the cost-saving factors of the new factory setup, pricing has been reduced by limiting finish options to the most popular six finishes (the four-string test bass had a super-cool ice-blue metallic finish) and offering only maple necks and two body/fingerboard combinations. All MetroExpress bass necks have graphite strips inserted to reduce dead spots and create more responsiveness. The test bass featured an ash body and maple fingerboard, the other option being an alder body with a morado (similar to rosewood) fingerboard. This bass is very light. In fact, all MetroExpress basses are guaranteed to be under 8.9 pounds—goodbye, shoulder fatigue!

I played the MetroExpress through several rigs, including Aguilar, Ashdown, Ampeg and Trickfish. Results were consistent—response and clarity are absolutely stellar. Setup out of the box was perfect, and the nitro

finish on the neck helped it play fast and feel comfy. String tension was spot-on—not too loose, not too tight. Fit and finish were predictably superb. The Sadowsky bridge is a thing of genius, allowing for quick string changes by inserting the ball-end from the pickup side, then anchoring.

Two Sadowsky J-pickups are on board, and controls include master volume, pickup pan, passive treble roll-off (pull for passive mode), and stacked active treble and bass circuits that are boost-only. I'm a huge fan of this pre-amp. It's so musical, offering incredible tonal flexibility at your fingertips. Passive mode exhibits some great classic J-growl and is not just a "throw-away feature" for when your battery dies. In live settings, this bass really shows off.

A little over five years ago I had the pleasure of reviewing a Sadowsky NYC 24-fret five-string bass and was truly blown away. Not surprisingly, the new MetroExpress is also an absolute killer, offering all of the playability and sound quality expected out of a Sadowsky bass but at a fraction of the cost. —Jon Paul

[sadowsky.com](http://sadowsky.com)

