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**\$6,000
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Beaver Felton

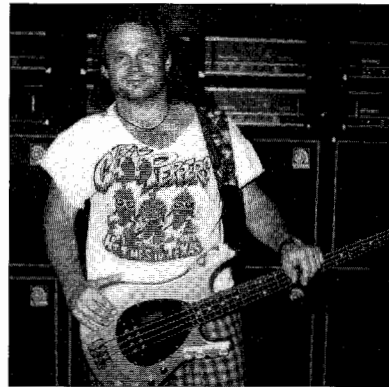
SuperChops founder Beaver Felton has managed to stoke an already saturated market and strike gold with his unique teaching methods.



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Michael Anthony

Van Halen's influence would not be complete if Michael Anthony's hard-driving bass lines and crystal shattering harmonies were overlooked.



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Marcus Miller

The undisputed "Superman of Soul" is rising to the top of the charts with the release of *Tales*. His retro-funk vibe captivates all who listen—so listen.



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Robert Hurst III

Purest Wynton Marsalis discovered this devoted musician. Bob's **Tonight Show** gig has allowed him to grow into the ultimate musical chameleon.



Beaver Felton:

The Man behind the Chops

By Dave LaRue

When you think of today's saturated market of taped instructional materials, you'll find only one company that offers you up to 22 titles. That company would be Beaver Felton's *SuperChops 4 Bass*.

dropped from their label after its first record. By age 29, Beaver was still doing the club circuit on the East Coast. Beaver says, "So, like everybody does at some point, you start thinking what if I don't become a rock star. You know, you start thinking what else can I do to generate income via music. *SuperChops* was born that night."

Having kept up with all the "latest licks," Beaver was sending his tapes to Hot Licks and Star Licks, "...who at the time were the biggest on the scene. They basically both wrote almost an identical letter: You're a great player, your teaching method is excellent, you are nobody. So the next plan of action was, I need to be spotlighted."

"I worked for a couple of months, in '85, and put together this solo that was taped on a little boom box. Just me and that. live. It was kind of a tour de force of all the techniques I knew. I mean I used every false harmonic trick. But it was tied into a well constructed five minute solo."

His goal to be spotlighted was something Beaver Felton would see. But first he would survive an ordeal that would change his life.

"In '85' I was in a car accident while I was on the road. I became Paraplegic." And just for perspective. I was playing six and seven nights a week for like nine years prior to that. And the night before the accident, I was doing the same thing I had always done, which was wearing as little as possible, and doing my bass solos wireless, on table tops. So going from that to twelve hours later—"Hey, I can't move below the waist", was a pretty devastating thing. However, the good thing that took place was about a week later *Guitar Player Magazine* came out and I was featured by Mark Varney's Spotlight. As a matter of fact, I was laying in my hospital bed the first week of my accident, and one of my students called me from Tampa, I was in Georgia, and he said have you seen this month's *Guitar Player*? I said, of course not! He said, you're in Mark Varney's Spotlight and he gave you a really good write-up."

The Spotlight payed off. It did just what



Christopher Lee Helton

"And the night before the accident, I was doing the same thing I had always done, which was wearing as little as possible, and doing my bass solos wireless, on table tops."

Born and raised in Savannah, Georgia, Beaver Felton grew up on Yes and Genesis. Beaver says, "I was really a bedroom player, starting at age 13. I played with a few bands here and there. But I loaned my bass to a friend until around age 15. When I got the bass back, I became a 'serious bedroom player.' I started really getting serious about chops and exercises and learning a lot of Yes, which at that point was considered really cool stuff. At age 18 I joined a top-40 band and realized Yes licks did not work in Leroy Brown—literally."

As with most players, Beaver took the obvious path to stardom—"I went on the road. I'd like to think I got better and better because I immediately started getting a really good reputation in Florida."

Although Beaver had considered going to BIT in 1979, he opted to join a band called Montreux that had just signed a record deal. Would this be his big break? No. The band was

