

# Testbericht Marleaux Consat Custom Fünfsaiter

**Review from "Bass Frontiers" - U.S.**

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At the winter NAMM Show in L.A., the Marleaux Booth was a popular spot. Bass heroes and mortals alike kept coming back to play these fine German basses.

The model tested is the Consat 5. The body of this bass is a gorgeous figured maple with a top of flame pearwood. The pearwood top has a color similar to light redwood. The neck is constructed of birdseye maple and walnut. It has a very comfortable flattened oval shape. The ebony fingerboard sports 24 mebring-jumbo frets that are meticulously seated and dressed. The neck-to-body joint is a 6-bolt arrangement. It's a very deep neck set; penetrating the body 5 inches. The bolts are recessed into brass ferrules. This is an extremely stable attachment. There are no gaps anywhere in the neck/body joint. A single truss rod provides adjustment at the heel end of the neck. The finish is a satin acrylic, flawlessly done.

This bass has one of the best B strings we have heard on a 34" scale. A zero fret gives even tone and response between open and fretted notes. String spacing is 3/4" center-to-center at the bridge, so it's a very comfortable slap bass. Tuners are by Gotoh, and the bridge is from Elastic Trem. Pickups are 2 Bartolini soapbars. The Marleaux preamp is quite unique with 3 band E.Q., pun pot, volume, active/passive switch, and "programming switch." The programming switch lets the user select the center points for bass, mid & treble, and then cut or boost to their own taste. But don't think this bass needs a ton of EQ to sound great. It's fat & warm in passive mode, too.

The versatile EQ makes it very easy to dial in anything from a mid-heavy fusion fingerstyle sound to one of the punchiest slap tones around. Overall sound is very balanced and detailed. The B string has good tension and tremendous bottom without losing clarity or focus. The mid and upper range also excel, and the bass is virtually buzz-free both acoustically and when plugged in. Reference rig's used were Glockenklang Head & 4x 10 Glock. cabinet. (of course, it's German) SWR and Trace Elliot heads and cabs cranked up to loud stage volume through the Glockenklang rig was quite a beast - clear, loud and clean.

By paying close attention to all the details that affect the timbre and playability of basses, Tillman Antos and crew have created a superior instrument for the serious bassist. They also build basses in 4- & 6-string, neck-thru and optional woods and electronics.