HiFi

Troubleshooting Guide

ALTERNATE INSTALLATIONS

PIN LESS BRIDGE INSTALLATION

The provided installation tool will not work with a pin less bridge, so we have two suggestions on how to accomplish the installation without it.

First, be sure to follow all the preliminary steps to prep the guitar as laid out in the standard instructions.

The best shot at a successful installation will be to place the pickups directly beneath the saddle on the bridge plate with one pickup between the E and A strings, and the other between the B and high E strings. To achieve this, you must have a way to identify where you are inside the guitar. We strongly recommend against just feeling around and guessing.

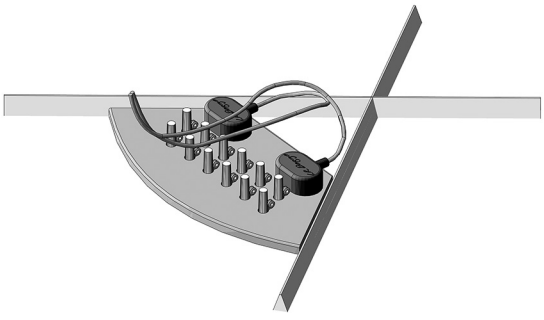
- **OPTION A:** One method is to drill two very small holes (no larger than a toothpick) through your saddle slot; one between the E and A strings, and one between the B and E strings. Remove all burrs or splinters from drilling on the bridge plate with a small piece of fine sand paper on a flat block. Clean with a dab of rubbing alcohol on a cloth. Place a toothpick into each hole pressing them through till the tip just passes through the bridge plate. Feel around under the bridge to find the tips of the toothpicks. Remove backing from one pickup, cradle the pickup between your thumb and two fingers. Try your best to center the pickup over one of the toothpicks, (you may want to apply light pressure from above to hold the toothpick in place) touching it lightly with the adhesive to find its center, and when you arrive there, firmly press the pickup into place. Allow the toothpick to exit the top of the bridge being careful not to break off the tip between the bridge plate and the pickup. Repeat the same procedure with the second pickup. From this point continue with the remainder of the standard instructions.

- **OPTION B:** Another way to identify the ideal location on the bridge plate would be to use a strong magnet outside the guitar on top or on the front of the bridge with a second magnet or straight piece of steel inside. There is no ONE WAY to do this so you will need to spend a little time figuring out the best method for your situation. Try to position the edge of the magnet about one quarter inch in front of the saddle, and the end of the magnet lined up with the outer strings. This should give you a surface to rest the end of the pickup against, as well as a reference to the location of the outer strings.

12 STRING GUITARS

- 12 string guitars pose a minor challenge for installing the HiFi pickups. With the pickups mounted in their standard orientation it is difficult to route the wires around the bridge pins being that there is a second set of pins present. This would create a potential for the wires to contact the pins and likely cause some unwanted audio consequences. In this case we recommend you install the pickups with the wires facing the soundhole. From there just gradually loop the wires back around and secure them with a couple of wire clips on the back of the guitar. See **Fig T-12**.

fig. T-12



RATTLES, AND OTHER UNWANTED NOISES

- **SECURE WIRES:** Being that this pickup has a microphonic response, it is very sensitive to movements and vibrations. The most common area for rattles to occur will be the pickups' braided wires moving around inside the guitar or even rubbing against each other. Therefore, it is very important to make sure all wires are securely held in place with the included wire clips. Please see **Fig T-1a** and **T-1b** for best method. The location of the clip or clips is decided on a case-by-case basis, as all guitars vary.

- **BRIDGE PINS/STRING ENDS:** Another common cause of sympathetic vibrations is any contact between the pickup body or wire with the bridge pins and/or string ends. If this occurs, the pickups will need to be re-positioned accordingly.

STRING BALANCE

- On most installations, you will end up with very even string balance. However, if you find that you do encounter an imbalance with one or two strings, you can experiment with altering the placement of one or both pickups to achieve better results. For example, you might have a situation where your B string is louder than the G and high E strings. In this case, provided you have enough room on the bridge plate, you can move the pickup away from the saddle, toward the soundhole. As you move in that direction it will soften the attack of the strings just a bit and most times even out the balance between them. For a loud Low E string, move the pickup toward the A & D just slightly. If you have a weak low E, move pickup back in that direction. **NOTE: Be sure to use a fresh adhesive pad each time you move one of the pickups.**

EXCESSIVE BASS RESPONSE

This will occur occasionally on some guitars; most commonly on guitars which naturally have more bass response acoustically and/or lighter bracing. This may contribute to the guitar experiencing more issues with feedback.

- **SETTINGS:** First make sure to have your tone control set in the center detent position.

- **CHECK FOR CORRECT INSTALLATION:** The first thing to do is check to make sure the pickups are installed correctly. Each pickup should be mounted to the bridge plate, directly below the saddle. As the pickups get further away from the saddle location, they will sound more distant and bass heavy. The solution would be to re-install them in the correct location.

- **MODIFICATION:** If installation is correct and bass heavy response persists, there is a way to reduce the bass response of the pickup by removing small sections of the adhesive. This might require some experimentation but here is how we suggest you start. Begin by removing the bass side pickup from the guitar and replace the adhesive pad with a new one. Then using a razor blade carefully remove approximately 1/16" of the pad in the center of the pickup as shown in **Fig T-2**. Be careful not to cut into the pickup as it might create a burr which could negatively affect the pickup's performance. Re-install the pickup and test it. In most cases this will be adequate but it might require a bit of trial and error until you get it right where you want it.

THIN HARSH TONE

- **SETTINGS:** First make sure to have your tone control set in the center detent position.

- **CONTACT/COUPLING:** This effect is generally caused by some sort of interference between the pickup and the surface of the guitar. It could be anything from a small splinter of wood to ª high or low spot, a hole, a rough unfinished wood surface, even a fold in the pickups' adhesive, to a section of the pickup hanging off the edge of the bridge plate. Under normal circumstances this effect should not occur, so if this is what you are experiencing, examine the installation carefully with a mirror and a good light source. If you cannot find an obvious cause, remove one or both pickups. Upon removal, view the adhesive pad. If any portion of it is not making adequate contact you will see a shiny spot in that area, whereas any portion of the surface which had thorough contact with the guitar will have a dull appearance.
  This info may lead you in the direction of a solution.

- **SEATING:** One other thing to observe is whether the pickups were seated correctly during installation as laid out in section 9 of the instructions. A pickup which has not been seated properly is likely to have a slightly thin edgy tone.

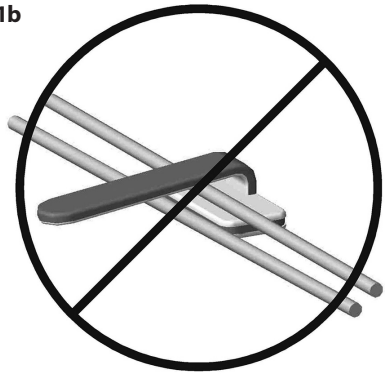
- **POSITION:** Another factor which could cause a thin harsh sound would be if one or both pickups are partially hanging off the end of the bridge plate. Even a very small amount of the body of the pickup hanging off the bridge plate will have a surprising effect on the fullness of the overall tone.

The primary solution to each of these potential causes is do what ever it takes to create a clean flat area where the pickups are to be installed to give assurance that 100% of the pickups' circumference is adequately coupled to the bridge plate.

fig. T-1a

CORRECT! *This method will keep wires off the surface of the instrument and hold them securely preventing unwanted vibrations.*

fig. T-1b



INCORRECT! *This method is common but not effective. It will allow the wires to vibrate, which will cause unwanted noises in your signal.*

fig. T-2