Schatten Design
Better By Sound

Handmade Pickups For Acoustic Instruments

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Installation Instructions M-05 Std, M-05 Pro Pickups

Before You Start, A Word About Amplification:

M-05 passive pickups have been designed to operate properly and sound good without the use of a preamp when plugged into any normal electric guitar amp. As a non-preamped piezo pickup theM-05 has an impedance of approximately 2 mega ohms which most electric guitar amps will handle. As with any passive pickup, the sound can be further enhanced and EQ'd with an outboard preamp.

PA systems: If you require the added ability to be able to plug directly into a P.A. or mixer then a preamp designed for pickups will be necessary. The preamps that are built into PA systems are microphone preamps and generally will not work properly with a passive pickup.

Acoustic Amps: If you are plugging into an acoustic amp a preamp may be required depending upon the design of that acoustic amp. Acoustic amps may or may not require the use of a preamp with a passive pickup and that will depend upon whether or not there is a special built in preamp section within that amp that specifically allows for the choice of plugging in either a passive (non-preamped) or active (preamped) pickup. This choice is quite often a second channel or a pushbutton on the amp's control panel. Many acoustic amps show a selection that may indicate the choice of 'high impedance' and 'low impedance'. Low impedance in these instances usually indicates that in this range the amp will handle an impedance of 1000 ohms or less - which will allow active pickups with preamps to be used.

High impedance in these instances may indicate an allowable impedance in the 2 or 3 mega ohm range - which will allow passive pickups to be used. Or it may indicate a maximum input impedance allowed of 20,000 ohms or less - which will handle magnetic electric guitar pickups but not passive pickups. You should carefully read the technical specifications of your acoustic amp in order to see what it will do.

Installing the M-05

1) The sensing element for the M-05 series of pickups requires a flat area approximately 1/4" high by 1 1/2" in length on the face of the saddle part of the bridge of the instrument. Check the fit of the element against the bridge. Re-contour or shape the bridge only if necessary. Most normal compensated bridges (such as the one shown at the right) have enough flat surface area without having to do any bridge modification.
2) Remove the strings and tailpiece from the instrument.
3) The VHB tape side of the thin metal stand-off will adhere to the underside of the tailpiece. Before attaching the stand-off to the tailpiece, check the fit and trim the stand-off if necessary.
4) Remove half of the backing paper from the stand-off and press the stand-off firmly into place on the underside of the tailpiece. The black protective material should be facing downwards toward the instrument top.
5) Remove the backing from a 1/4" wide strip of VHB tape and press it into place on the brass face of the sensing element..
6) Remove the backing from the VHB tape, position the sensing element over the flattest area of the bridge and firmly press the element into place on the bridge face.
7) Reinstall the tailpiece on the instrument
8) Reinstall the strings.
9) Any excess wire can be stored inside the jack assembly by slowly but firmly pushing it in through the grommet hole in the jack box.