

HEX ACOUSTIC PICKUPS

INSTALLATION MANUAL & USER'S GUIDE

L.R. Baggs

483 N. FRONTAGE RD.
NIPOMO, CA 93444
WWW.LRBAGGS.COM

PARTS LIST

Six (6) hex acoustic saddles
One (1) Allen wrench
One (1) circuit board
One (1) piece of white foam double-sided adhesive
One (1) piece of insulating tape
One (1) piece of copper shielding tape
Three (3) self-stick cable attach platforms
Two (2) capacitors
One (1) length of coaxial cable
One (1) mini phone plug
One (1) endpin jack

READ THIS FIRST

Read the instructions before making any modifications to the instrument. Measure twice, cut once.

L.R. Baggs Co. accepts no responsibility for damage to the installer or instrument resulting from installation or misinstallation of these pickups.

This pickup is not suited for guitars that have unusually short or tall saddles.

The minimum string spacing that the saddles can accommodate is .425" This is the standard 2 1/8" E to E Martin string spacing.

If it is necessary to deepen the saddle slot to accommodate the height of the saddles, you must leave at least .060" of bridge material under the pickup. If this is not possible, do not install these pickups.

These saddles have a total amount of vertical adjustment of .055". If more height is needed, longer adjusting screws can be obtained through our factory.

INSTALLATION

Prepare the bridge: The Hex Acoustic Saddles can be installed two ways. If intonation is not an issue, simply set them side by side in a standard 1/8" saddle slot. Even if the saddles do not rest against each other (because of wide string spacing), the set screws will bite slightly into the saddle slot and anchor the saddles laterally. Or, if intonation is required, you can fill the original slot and route individually intonated slots for each saddle. This option requires an advanced level of craftsmanship and understanding to accomplish -- if you do not already know how to do this, please do not attempt it.

The saddle slot must measure .125" (1/8") front to back and have a minimum depth of .150". At least half of the body (the gold portion) of the saddle must be below the surface of the bridge. This may require routing the slot to a new depth. The saddles should fit semi-snug without binding, but not sloppy (see figure 1).

Drill six holes in the saddle slot for the wires. A drilling template has been provided to ensure accurate alignment. There are three templates to choose from: 2 1/8", 2 3/16", and 2 1/4". Cut the appropriate template to the exact length of your slot so the string markings line up with the string locations. Accuracy is imperative since the location of the wire holes will determine the final location of the saddles. Lay the template in the slot. Check the template alignment before you drill by putting the outer strings on the instrument. Press an indentation into the slot directly on each of the cross marks right next to the dotted string lines using a sharp scribe or tip of a nail. Remove the template and drill a 3/32" hole in each of the scribe marks.

Feed the wires into the holes and place the saddles in the slot so the center of the saddle lines up with the string. Adjust the set screws in the bottom of each saddle for the correct action.

Bring the wires up through the sound hole and solder the inner wires to the rounded pads on the circuit board and the braided wire to the square pads as shown in fig. 2. Solder the extra piece of coaxial cable (provided) to the circuit board in the same way. This will be the final output.

The Hex Acoustic Pickups have a higher output than most acoustic guitar pickups and will not interface directly with any of our onboard preamps. Two small attenuating capacitors are included in this kit that may be soldered to the

circuit board to reduce the output level of the pickups to make them compatible with various preamps. The smaller of the two capacitors will lower the output of the pickups by 10 dB, making them compatible with out classic series of preamps, such as the Microdrive II or the Deluxe Acoustic Preamp. The larger of the two will lower the output by 20 dB for use with out RT series of preamps. No attenuation is necessary if you will be connecting the pickups directly to an amp or an external preamp such as out Para D.I. or Gigpro.

If attenuation is required, solder the appropriate capacitor to the small opposing square solder pads in the upper left or right corners of the circuit board, as shown in figure 3. Either location will work. A soldering iron with a small tip and a pair of tweezers will be needed.

To eliminate hum you must shield the summing unit. Shield the circuit board by first peeling off one side of the backing from the insulating tape and cover all of the signal/hot connections with it (see figure 4). Next, peel the backing from the copper shielding tape and lay it over the insulating tape with the edges touching the ground pad on all four sides (see fig. 5). Now solder the copper tape the ground pad as shown in fig. 5.

A mini phone plug has been provided to allow you to plug the pickups into out onboard preamps. For this option slide the black shielding cap over the extra piece of coaxial cable, solder the inner wire to the tip contact and the braided wire to the ground lug. Bend the arms around the wire and screw on the shielding cap.

Secure the summing board on the inside of the guitar with the double-sided white foam adhesive. It may help to rotate the summing board several times prior to sticking it inside the guitar to braid the six pickup wires together into a larger, more manageable cable. Then secure the wires against rattling with the self-stick cable attach platforms provided.

For direct soldering to the endpin jack, slide the shielding cap over the extra piece of coaxial cable, solder the inner wire to the tip contact, the braid to the ground lug and screw on the shielding cap.



fig. 1



fig. 2

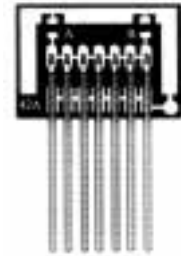


fig. 3

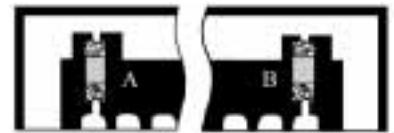


fig. 4

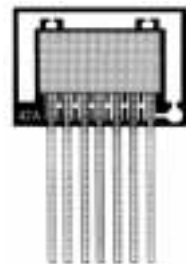


fig. 5

