

# HiFi

## Pickup System Installation Guide

### INTRODUCTION

This pickup must be installed by a professional. Please read the instructions carefully before proceeding. We do not provide installation advice or support for home or hobbyist installations. **PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE SOME GUITARS THIS PICKUP WON'T WORK IN!** Lack of physical space, modifications made to bridge plates from former pickup installations and possible deformation of the bridge plate in some vintage guitars may prevent a successful installation.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL INSTALLATION:

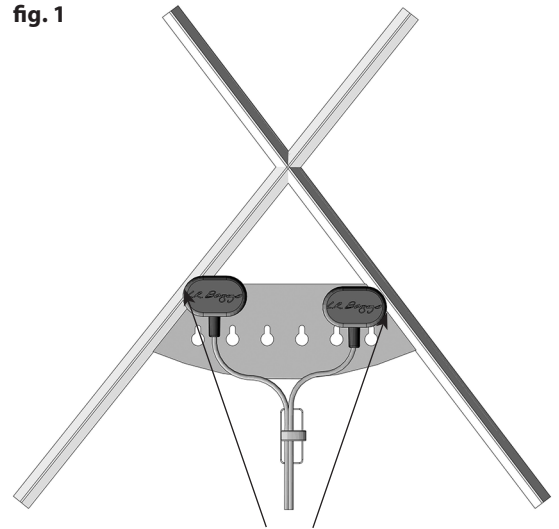
- The entire adhesive surface of each pickup must make contact with the bridge plate. This is **the** make or break for proper performance and this cannot be stressed enough. It is crucial there be no high or low spots, holes, or any other obstructions on the surface where the pickups are to be installed.
- Removal of previously glued-in pickups may damage or alter the flatness of the bridge plate, making it more challenging for the pickups to achieve sufficient contact. If you are installing this pickup in a guitar with this issue, be advised that it will likely take considerably more time to complete the installation as you will need to repair the damage from the glue, prior to installation.
- Use adhesive supplied by LR Baggs ONLY. There are extra adhesive pads in the box.
- **DO NOT GLUE PICKUPS IN!!** Tempting yes, but this will render the pickups incompatible with the preamp and it will void the warranty.
- Examine bridge plate. You will need a clean flat area on the bridge plate with a bare minimum of 3/4" useable space in front of the bridge pins/string ball ends.
- Some guitars have a narrow X bracing pattern (more prominent on vintage models). In cases such as these there is not enough space to allow for proper installation of this pickup. (See **fig. 1**)
- Some bridge plates do not have enough room for the entire pickup in front of the bridge pins. Remember the entire surface of each pickup must be adhered to the bridge plate. Do not install this pickup in this type of guitar.

### INSTALLATION

A special installation tool is included in the box; assemble it prior to beginning the installation. Use of the tool is crucial to achieve full adhesion of the pickup's adhesive to the bridge plate in the ideal location.

1. Prepare the bridge plate by removing all obstacles (splinters, adhesives, glue residue, wax, etc.) and clean the surface using a cloth or paper towel with a dab of rubbing alcohol. Allow to dry.
2. Place the installation tool over the bridge (outside the guitar) and adjust the short end of the posts to fit into the outer bridge pin holes. Set the fixture into the pin holes. This will give you a visual reference for placing the pickups in the desired location. (See **fig. 2**)
3. Place a small adhesive strip (included) on the top of each pickup, directly over the "LR Baggs" logo. (See **figs. 3a** and **3b**)
4. Remove the backing from the adhesives and place pickups on the installation tool as seen in Fig 4. Center the pickups over the saddle with one placed between the low E and A strings, and the second between the B and high E strings. Leave enough room to avoid the string ball ends and place the pickup so the wire strain relief will avoid contacting the bridge pins. (See **fig. 4**)

fig. 1



*There is not enough space for pickups to be installed between braces. In rare cases you might be able to move the sensors slightly toward the center but you will likely lose energy and volume on the outside strings.*

fig. 2

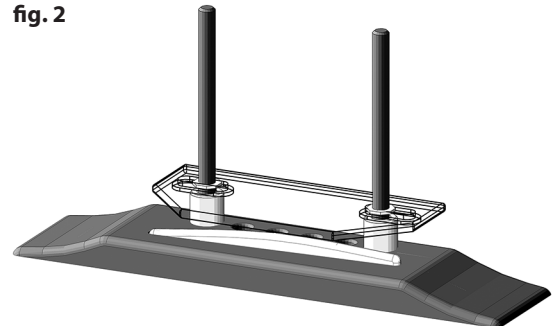


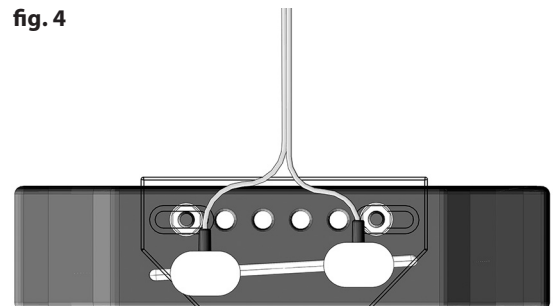
fig. 3a



fig. 3b



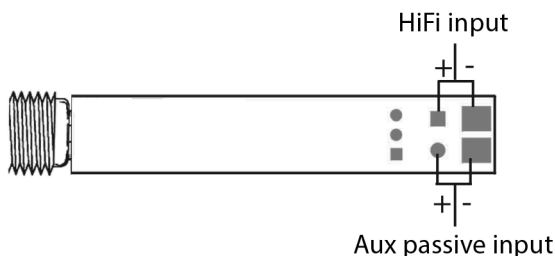
fig. 4



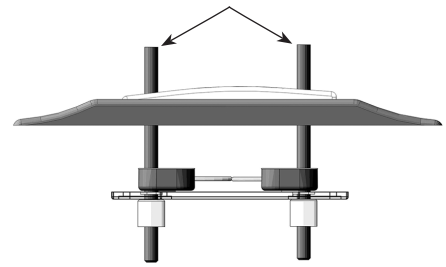
5. Remove the adhesive backing from the contact surface of each pickup.
6. Bring the tool with the pickups inside the guitar through the sound hole. Feed the two rods into the outer bridge pin holes until they poke out the top of the bridge. Grab one of the rods from the outside of the guitar but do not pull up yet. While holding the one rod, let go of the jig inside the guitar and grab the other rod on the outside of the guitar.
7. Pull straight up on the rods until the pickups contact the bridge plate (See **Figs. 5a** and **5b**). Reach inside the guitar and press each pickup against the bridge plate to secure them.
8. Remove the tool from the pickups, one at a time, and take the tool out of the guitar. Pressing down on each rod successively will help pop the fixture from the pickup. If the adhesive dot stays on the pickup please remove it.
9. Seat the pickups by pressing firmly on each one for approximately 10 to 15 seconds, simultaneously applying equal pressure from the outside of the guitar with your other hand.
10. Check the placement using a mirror and a light source and make certain the pickups will not contact the bridge-pins or the string ball ends. If you discover they are contacting either, you must pull them off and re-stick them. (See **Fig. 6**)
11. Install the jack/preamp in the tail block. For installation instructions, please visit: [Irbaggs.com/support/strapjack-preamp-installation-guide](http://Irbaggs.com/support/strapjack-preamp-installation-guide).
12. Secure loose pickup wires with included wire clips; use one or two clips depending on the size of the guitar and the amount of loose wire. It is crucial the wires be held tightly within the clips to protect against sympathetic vibrations which will produce unwanted noises in your signal so, please observe the method shown in **Fig. 7a** and **Fig. 7b** of how to grip the wires within the clips.
13. Install the remote control at the top of the soundhole and place battery bag on the neck block. Last, secure battery and remote wires using 2 wire clips along the side of the guitar.
14. Plug into a full range sound system and make some music.

## OTHER APPLICATIONS

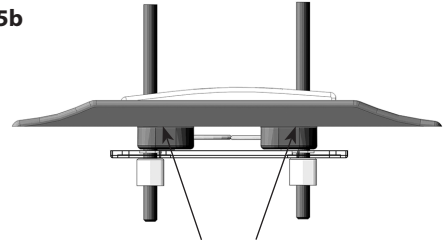
15. **Passive auxiliary channel:** The HiFi preamp provides an option on its circuit board for adding a second passive pickup to your signal in a stereo configuration. Magnetic pickups work best for this scenario. We recommend you do not use high impedance pickups for this application.
16. **Soldering a second pickup:** Solder the hot lead to positive and the ground lead to negative of the auxiliary passive input. See diagram below.  
  
You will need to run your signal down a stereo cable to a stereo input or use a stereo "Y" cable to two separate inputs. The 2nd pickup will be on the "ring" contact of the stereo plug.
17. **Adding a mini-mic:** It is possible to add a mini-mic in the same way the second pickup is connected. Keep in mind, however, that it is a passive channel and you will need to provide phantom power for the mic. The mic will be on the "ring" contact of the stereo plug.



**fig. 5a** Pull upward equally on each rod until the pickups contact the bridge plate.



**fig. 5b**



Both pickups making solid contact with bridge plate.

**fig. 6**



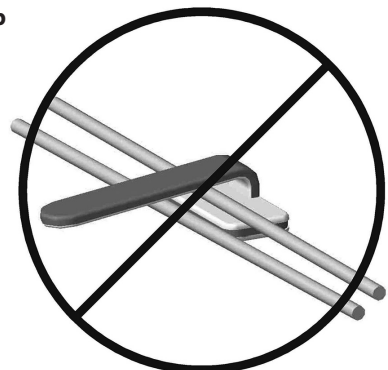
Correct placement

**fig. 7a**



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

**fig. 7b**



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