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BASS MASTER Rockabilly

Each Bass Master Rockabilly can be fine-tuned via the separate bass and treble controls within the dual channel preamp, providing an infinite range of combinations for every player and any style of play.

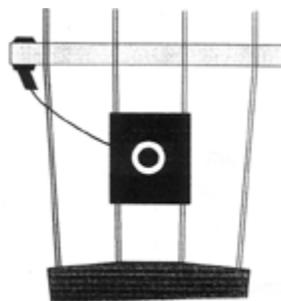
The first component, the popular Bass Max, is mounted in the bridge wing. Two transducers are combined using a sandwich technique, in order to maximize and enhance vibrations captured from the entire bridge. Due to its specialized construction, only one unit is necessary to provide an even signal from all four (or five) of the double bass' strings. Its strong midrange power is ideal for cutting through the mix in loud rockabilly situations, or providing a warm and supportive line for country bluegrass.

The second component is our specially modified single transducer. It is ideal for capturing fingerboard sounds. Its unique size and shape allows precise placement, and the equalization from the preamp lets you blend in just the right amount of slap, growl, and other fingerboard sounds to achieve the exact sound coloration and effect you desire.

The dual channel preamp has internal gain, bass, treble trim pots for each pickup, allowing impressive +/- 20dB tonal adjustments. External volume controls let you balance the volumes of the bridge and fingerboard transducers on the fly. A convenient belt clip is included with this compact preamplifier, which weighs a mere ten ounces with the battery installed. A six foot, high quality three conductor (1/4" stereo) cable is included to complete the package.

Installation and Setup

Wing Transducer: You can attach the wing transducer on either side of the bridge. We recommend trying the low string (E string) side first. If the slot is too narrow, DO NOT FORCE THE PICKUP INTO THE SLOT! YOU WILL BREAK THE PIEZO CERAMIC ELEMENT AND VOID THE WARRANTY! For the right fit, you may have to remove some material from the lower part of the bridge. You'll achieve best results with a snug fit. If the slot is too big, please insert some cardboard or veneer to build it up.



Fingerboard Transducer: We suggest you place the fingerboard pickup near the top of your fingerboard, on the reverse side. The wire should travel behind your fingerboard, through the bridge center "heart" (or the unused wing slot, if the heart is too small).

Before you proceed to attaching the fingerboard transducer, thread the transducer and wire through the heart. A small piece of foam is supplied to isolate the wire from bridge vibrations; wedge it into the bridge "heart" and cut a small slit in it. If the foam block is too large, trim it, but allow enough excess material so it stays in place when compressed, isolating the wire.

Included with your pickup system are two strips of double-sided tape. Pieces cut from the short length of thin tape are for holding the transducer to the back of the fingerboard. The longer length of thicker tape is used to secure the wire to the back of the fingerboard, so it will not buzz or accidentally be snagged. Cut a small piece from the short length of tape, wide enough for the small transducer, and peel the brown backing material off the wax paper; press it in place behind the fingerboard in the specified location (see note below about placement). Peel off the brown paper to leave the thin adhesive layer on the wood, and then press the transducer into place. Never remove the transducer by pulling on the wire; carefully use a thin blade to gently pry it off.

The longer length of tape is to be placed on the back of the fingerboard (cut it to a length to within three or four inches of the bottom end of the fingerboard). You may wish to temporarily secure the wire behind the fingerboard with masking tape, or not secure it at all during the process of settling on your desired location. Once you're ready for permanent installation, tack the wire to the tape, taking care that it is firmly adhered and there is no possibility of it vibrating or buzzing against the fingerboard.

About the placement of the fingerboard transducer: The fingerboard transducer delivers a very different tonal character and resonant depth depending on its placement. Fingerboard backside construction varies, but most are squared off at the neck joint, and then scooped out as the fingerboard continues. The sound changes character as you move from the solid section of the fingerboard towards the thinner, hollowed out areas. The transducer's edges are cut to allow flat placement in any location as the fingerboard profile changes. You are strongly encouraged to experiment with placement at various thickness near the top of the fingerboard, in order to produce the type of tonal response that you desire; sufficient double-sided tape is included so that you can move the transducer to a different location, listen, and move it again.

Sound Adjustment and Final Setup

You will find that the wing transducer has a higher output than the fingerboard transducer, so we recommend that you begin by reducing the internal gain trimpot for the wing transducer (Channel 2) to minimum, and adjust the fingerboard transducer (Channel 1) gain trimpot to maximum; this can be fine-tuned later.

We also suggest that you begin with your amplification system set flat, and proceed by adjusting the internal bass and treble controls one channel at a time, with the external volume for the other completely off. Since each channel has a +/- 20dB range, minor adjustments have a great effect on the sound. Make changes very gradually.

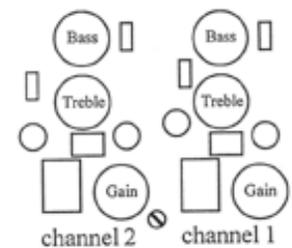


Diagram of internal controls

Once each channel has been individually adjusted to your preference, they can be blended using the external volume controls. You may wish to leave the preamp open to continue making adjustments, to fine tune each channel's bass, treble, and gain controls, as well as your amplification system, to achieve the response you prefer.

Unplug the output cable at the preamplifier when not in use to conserve battery power.

Technical Data

Wing: 22 mm diameter, 4 mm thick
Fingerboard: 12.5 (two edges trimmed), 0.7 mm thick
Preamp: 3" x 3.5" x 1 "
Input Impedance: 1 Mega Ohm (each channel)
Output Impedance: 10 Kilo Ohms
Input: Stereo 1/4" - Output: Mono 1/4"
Cable: 6 foot, 1/4" stereo plugs
Power: 9-volt battery (not included)