

HiFi DNA

Pickup System Installation Guide



Important! Please read before installation.

! 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.

! Some guitars are not compatible.

If you find that your bridge plate doesn't have adequate space to accommodate the DNA sensors, our HiFi System could be an excellent alternative. The standard HiFi System includes sensors that are approximately 1/10" (2.5 mm) smaller than the DNA sensors. See below for details.

Requirements for a successful installation:

- **The entire adhesive surface on each sensor must make 100% contact with the bridge plate.**

This is essential for proper performance. It is crucial that there are no high or low spots, holes, or any other obstructions on the surface where the pickups are to be installed.

For example, the removal of previously glued-in pickups can cause these types of issues, creating a scenario where the sensors cannot achieve sufficient contact, creating a negative effect on their performance. In cases like this, the surface of the bridge plate must be restored prior to installing the HiFi DNA sensors.

- **Use adhesive supplied by Baggs ONLY.**

There are extra adhesive pads in the box.

NOTE: MAKE SURE YOU USE ONLY THE GRAY-BACK ADHESIVES FOR THE HiFi DNA. THESE ARE A DIFFERENT SHAPE THAN THE ADHESIVE PADS FOR THE ORIGINAL HiFi.

- **DO NOT GLUE PICKUPS IN!**

This will render the pickups incompatible with the preamp and will void the warranty.

- **Examine the bridge plate.**

You will need a clean, flat area with a bare minimum of 7/8" (22 mm) useable space in front of the bridge pins.

Some guitars have a narrow X-brace pattern (more prominent on vintage models). In these cases, there is not enough space between the braces to allow for proper installation of this pickup (Fig 2.1 and Fig 2.2).

In other cases, the bracing may have enough width to accommodate the sensors, but there may not be enough space in front of the bridge pins. Remember, the entire surface of each pickup must contact the bridge plate. Do not install the HiFi DNA sensors if you have to hang them over the edge of the bridge plate, as this will lead to unsatisfactory results.



Fig 1.1
Sensor placed on
uneven surface



Fig 1.2
Sensor placed on
clean, even surface



Fig 2.1 Narrow X bracing or small
bridge plate - Sensors do not fit.



Fig 2.2 Ideal installation.

Step 1: Assemble the mounting-jig and prepare the bridge.

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

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.

Step 2: Position the mounting-jig on the bridge.

Place the mounting-jig over the bridge (outside the guitar) and adjust the short end of the posts to fit into the outer bridge pin holes. Set the jig into the pin holes. This will give you a visual reference for placing the pickups in the desired location inside the guitar.



Fig 3 Lower mounting-jig on to bridge top.

Step 3: Note the sensors' colors.

The HiFi DNA sensors are color-coded on their bottom surface—Orange and Black. The colors correspond to their intended location on the bridge plate—Orange goes on the treble side and Black goes on the bass side.



Fig 4 Sensors are color coded: Orange/Treble and Black/Bass.

Step 4: Position the sensors on the mounting-jig.

To install the sensors, first place a small adhesive dot (included) on the top of each one.

With the mounting-jig still on the bridge top, remove backing from the dots and attach the sensors to the surface of the tool, centering them over the saddle with Black placed between the low E and A strings, and Orange between the B and high E strings.

The pickup wire should be centered between the pins, leaving enough room between the pickup and pin holes to avoid rattling once the pins are installed.



Fig 5.1 Adhesive dots on sensors.

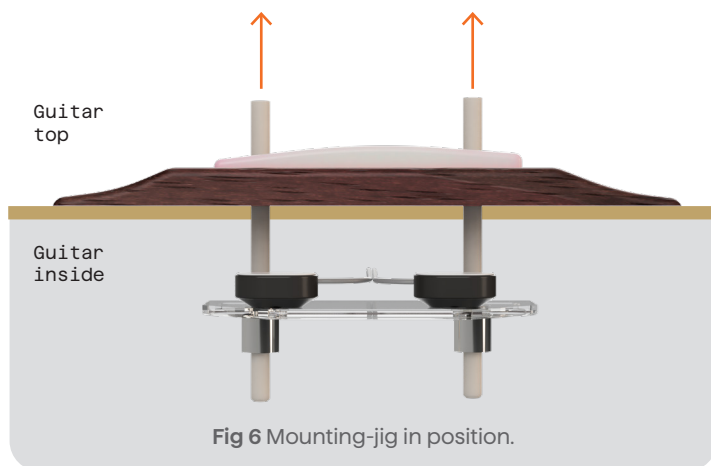


Fig 5.2 Sensors placed on mounting-jig.

Step 5: Position the mounting-jig inside of the guitar.

Remove the adhesive backing from the surface of each sensor and bring the jig with the sensors into the guitar through the sound hole. Feed the two rods into the outer bridge pin holes until they poke out of the top of the bridge.

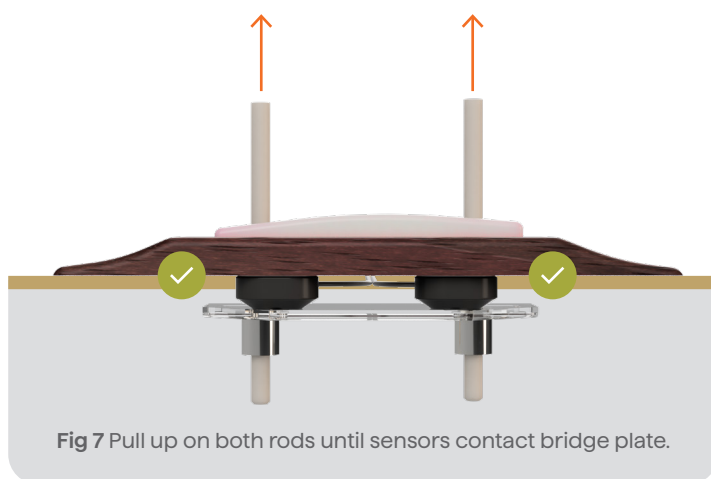
Grab one of the rods from outside of the guitar. While holding the one rod, let go of the jig inside the guitar and grab the other rod on the outside of the guitar.



Step 6: Press the sensors against the bridge plate.

Pull straight up on the rods together until the pickups contact the bridge plate.

Before removing the jig, reach inside the guitar and press each side up against the bridge plate to secure the sensors. Remove the jig from the sensors, one at a time, and take the jig out of the guitar. Pressing down on each rod successively will help pop the jig loose from the sensors. If the adhesive dot does not come off in the process, peel it away from the sensor by hand.



Step 7: **IMPORTANT!** Now seat the pickups

This is done by pressing firmly on each pickup separately for approximately 10 to 15 seconds, simultaneously applying equal pressure from the outside of the guitar with your other hand.

This is key to achieving the best results from your HiFi DNA System. Sensors that have not been seated will sound thin and edgy.

Check the placement using a mirror and a light source, and make certain the pickups do not contact the bridge pins or the string ball ends. If you discover that they are contacting either, you must pull them off and re-stick them. Be sure to use a new adhesive pad (included) each time a sensor needs to be repositioned.



Step 8: Drilling the strapjack hole

! If your guitar already has a ½" (13 mm) hole in the tail block, proceed to Step 9.

! **Caution!** Do not use a spade bit or standard drill bit for this.

Begin by placing a piece of masking tape over the area to be drilled (generally, in the center of the tail block). This is to protect the guitar's finish. Drill a pilot hole approximately 3/16" (5 mm) in diameter.

This jack requires a clean, ½" (13 mm) hole in the tail block of the instrument. The easiest way to drill this hole accurately and effectively is to use a 1/2 step drill-bit, available at any hardware store. Other options are to use a Forstner bit or a brad-point bit.

Now you can finish up using the step drill. Place the tip of the step-drill bit in the pilot hole, line up the drill as straight as you can, and proceed to drill until you've gone all the way through the tail block.

Step 9: Install the strapjack.

Remove the strap ring, retaining nut, and one washer from the end of the jack. There will still be one flat washer, one star-locking washer, and one nut remaining on the threaded barrel of the jack.

Adjust this nut and the washers to a depth on the barrel that will allow approximately 90% of the smaller threaded portion of the jack to extend beyond the tail block outside the guitar. Bring the jack down through the soundhole into the guitar and insert it into the pre-drilled hole in the tail-block to check the adjustment. There should be a couple of threads remaining within the hole.

With the jack in place, lay the remaining washer over the threads and attach the external retaining nut until it's tight.

Finish by attaching the strap ring.

Upon completion, the small threaded section of the jack should be flush or near flush with the end of the strap ring. If the threaded section is recessed too far, the plug will not make electrical contact with the jack.

Be sure to adjust this until it is correctly positioned. A proper installation will increase the jack's longevity.

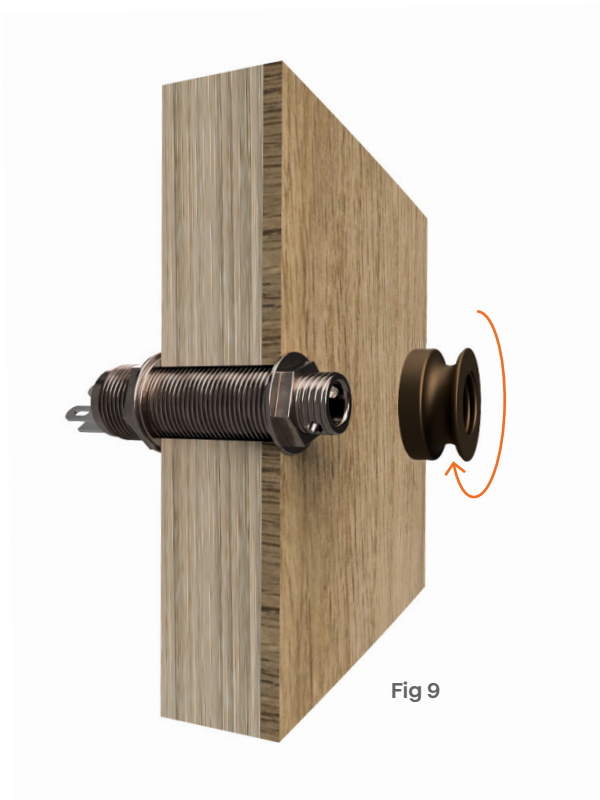


Fig 9



Fig 10.1 Jack tip **NOT** to be recessed inside strap-ring.

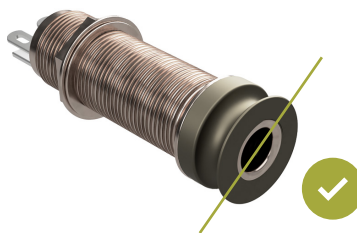


Fig 10.2 Jack tip **MUST** be flush with strap-ring.

Step 10: Secure the wires.

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. Please observe the method (Fig 11.1 and 11.2) of how to grip the wires within the clips.

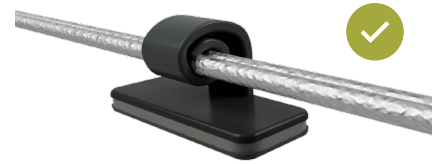


Fig 11.1 Correct: This method will keep wires off the surface of the instrument and hold them securely preventing unwanted vibrations.

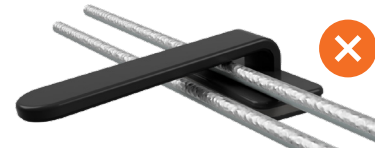


Fig 11.2 INCORRECT: This method is common but not effective. It will allow the wires to vibrate, which will cause unwanted noises to occur in your signal.

Step 11: Prepare and place the remote control and battery bag.

Clean each surface in the guitar with a dab of rubbing alcohol prior to attaching the adhesives in those areas.

Inside the guitar, install the remote control at the top of the soundhole and place the battery bag on the neck block, or directly on the back if the neck block can't be used.

Last, secure battery and remote wires along the side of the guitar; two more clips should be sufficient.

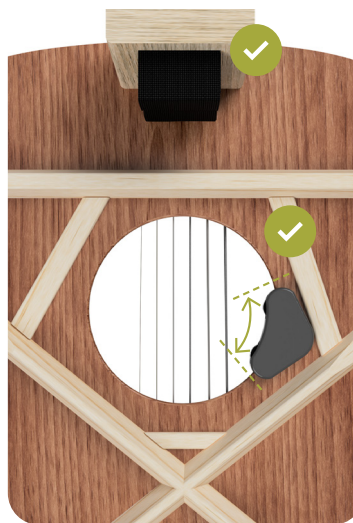


Fig 12.1 Remote control and battery bag installed.



Fig 12.2 Remote control installed.

Step 12: Plug in and play!

To test your new pickup system, plug into a full-range PA or amplifier and make some music!



Need help?

For support, please [contact](#) our customer service department, or you can consult the troubleshooting guide on our website at baggs.co.