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BASS MASTER RB PLUS

*The First Double Bass System Designed Specifically
for Rockabilly and Country Double Bassists*

Thank you for buying our newly developed transducer! At K&K Sound, we have combined two of our most popular transducers to create an integrated double bass pickup system designed to bring out those percussive and subtle fingerboard sounds, as well as strong and warm bass tones.

Each Bass Master RB 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.

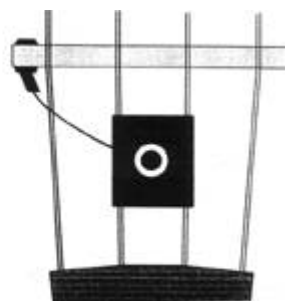
Our specially modified single transducer is ideal for capturing fingerboard sounds. Its unique size and shape allows precision placement, and the equalization from the preamplifier lets the player blend in just the right amount of slap, growl, and other fingerboard sounds to reach their audience, to achieve the exact sound coloration and effect they desire.

The Dual Channel Mixer 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:

The Wing Transducer:

While you can place this transducer in either wing, we suggest the LOW STRING (E string) side. If the slot is too narrow, you may remove material from the lower part of the bridge, as shown in the image. Do not remove too much wood! Best results will be achieved with a snug fit. Shim the slot with thin wood slices if it is too wide.



The Fingerboard Transducer:

Suggested placement of the single transducer is near the top of your fingerboard, on the reverse side. The wire should travel behind your fingerboard, through either the bridge center "heart" (or the unused wing slot, if the heart is too small).

Before you proceed to mount the fingerboard transducer, thread the transducer and wire through the heart. A small piece of foam is supplied for insertion into the bridge heart, to isolate the wire from bridge vibrations; cut a small slice 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 lengths of double-faced 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 favored location - the next paragraph will explain why.

Once permanent installation is desired, 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.

Important: 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 mounting tape is included so you may move the transducer to a different location, listen, and move it again.

Sound Adjustment and Final Setup:

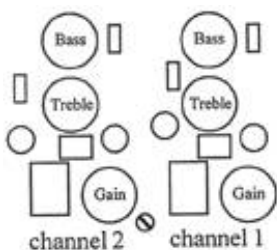


Diagram of internal controls

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 your changes very gradual.

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.

Time and patience will result in the most pleasing sound for your personal style.

Important: 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)