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FANTASTICK UNDERSADDLE TRANSDUCER

Thank you for purchasing the FanTaStick undersaddle transducer. This pickup is handcrafted in USA to very tight tolerances. The six individual piezo crystals are selected in groups by only thousands-of-an-inch height tolerance and by equal signal strength. Only six absolutely matched piezo crystals are used in one pickup.

Preparation and saddle compensation:

- **Tip:** Loosen the strings and clamp a capo on the 10th fret. Pull out the string pins and the ball ends of the strings. The capo will hold the strings on neck and tuners. Using this method you don't have to remove the strings entirely and can quickly reinstall them after the pickup is installed.
- Remove the saddle and shave 1.5mm (height of the pickup) off its bottom side. **Tip:** If you have a vice with at least 3" (80mm) jaw width, you can clamp the saddle upside down into the vice and leave exactly 1,5mm (height of the pickup) exposed. Now simply file down flush to the jaws.
- **NOTE:** It is absolutely important that the saddle slot and the saddle underside are machined precisely straight and smooth. To give you an example: if there would be a hair-fine groove in the saddle slot right underneath the A string (even a so little one that you cannot see it), this string would be lower in volume because the pickup receives less mechanical string pressure here than on the other strings. In case you run into this problem, add a small piece of paper in the saddle slot under the pickup to counteract the unevenness.

Drilling the endpin jack hole:

- Drill or widen the endpin hole to 1/2" (12,5mm) using protective tape to cover the area around the hole. This helps to prevent chips and scratches. If you use standard drill bits work your way up in 5 or 6 drill steps from smaller size bits to finally 1/2".

Installing the transducer:

- Carefully remove the FanTaStick from its package and make sure not to bend or break the solder spot between cable and pickup. **Please handle the transducer with care during the entire installation!**
- Locate the position of the pickup's cable hole in the saddle slot on the **LOW e string side**. The shapes of the six piezo blocks, each one is 1/4" (6.5mm) wide, show on the underside of the FanTaStick. They must align with the six guitar strings. You have some tolerance here because we use 1/4" (6.5mm) wide piezos but please try to align it as close to the center of each piezo as possible. Mark the hole location in the saddle slot.

Note: If a bridgeplate pickup system (like the PURE) is presently installed in your guitar, please consider that you might have to drill the cable hole at a slight angle in order to avoid damaging a pickup underneath.

If you have a properly installed PURE system in your instrument, this should not be a problem but please double-check. If everything is in order the hole can be drilled straight perpendicular to the guitar top.

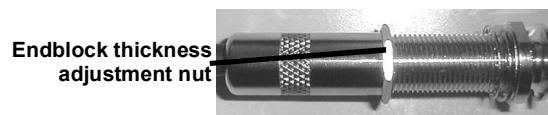
- Drill a 3/32" (2.3mm) hole through bridge and guitar top on the marked location in the saddle slot.
- Remove all debris around the hole and the saddle slot. Make sure the saddle slot is absolutely clean.
- Insert the pickup's cable into the hole, fit the pickup in the saddle slot and replace the saddle.

Soldering the wire to the jack:

- Open the jack's screw cap and slide it over the pickup's wire end.
- K&K Power Blend systems have a RCA connection. The FanTaStick-pickup-only comes with an endpin jack. Both systems can be soldered though soundhole access.
- Solder the (inner) signal lead of the pickups wire to the tip terminal (shortest center terminal; on the endpin-jack there are 3 terminals in the center, use the shortest one; on the RCA plug there is just one center terminal) and the (outer) ground lead to the common ground (which is also the strain relief of the jack).
- Replace the screw cap.

Endpin jack-and final installation:

- Unscrew the endpin jack's strap knob
- Take off the nut and washer.
- Find out the thickness of your end block and set the nut on the cap accordingly (see picture below). Once in place, screw the cap against it to secure the nut.



- Insert the jack from the inside into the endpin hole.
TIP: a chopstick or something similar helps to get a hold on the jack and pull it through the hole.
- Attach the outside washer and nut and tighten. Attach the strap knob.

Note: Make sure that the strap knob screws in **ALL THE WAY** over the outer threaded part of the jack, so that a tiny portion of the thread is exposed when the strap-knob is tightened.

Now you are ready to restring your guitar and test the system for string balance.

Troubleshooting:

If one or more strings are lower in volume:

- Check for proper pickup alignment
- Check for straightness of the saddle underside. Stand the saddle on a straight surface (I.E. a knife blade) and hold it against a light source. Rework if necessary.
- Place small pieces of paper in the saddle slot **under** the pickup at the corresponding string(s).

If one string is higher in volume:

- Check for proper pickup alignment
- Check for straightness of the saddle underside. Stand the saddle on a straight surface (I.E. a knife blade) and hold it against a light source. Rework if necessary.
- Check for a small elevation in the saddle slot and carefully remove some material with a proper tool (a small screwdriver blade used as a chisel might do the trick)

If the entire pickup does not work:

- Check the soldering on the endpin jack or the RCA plug.
- If you have a continuity meter on hand check for continuity.
- If continuity exists cut the pickups wire 1" (25mm) from the jack, carefully strip the insulation and resolder properly.