Pickup Screws & Threaded Inserts

Installation manual — Direct Mount & Bass Pickup.

Before You Begin

Please check that you got the right screws and inserts for your instrument :-)

In the kit:
• 4 × machine screws (18 mm) with a **smooth, unthreaded shank** near the head
• 4 × brass threaded inserts (8 mm long)
• 1 × Nectite hex mounting tool

Thread type (important):
• **Metric (M3)** — for import pickups and most Asian-built instruments
• **Imperial (#3-48)** — for US pickups (Gibson, Seymour Duncan, DiMarzio, Bare Knuckle, …)

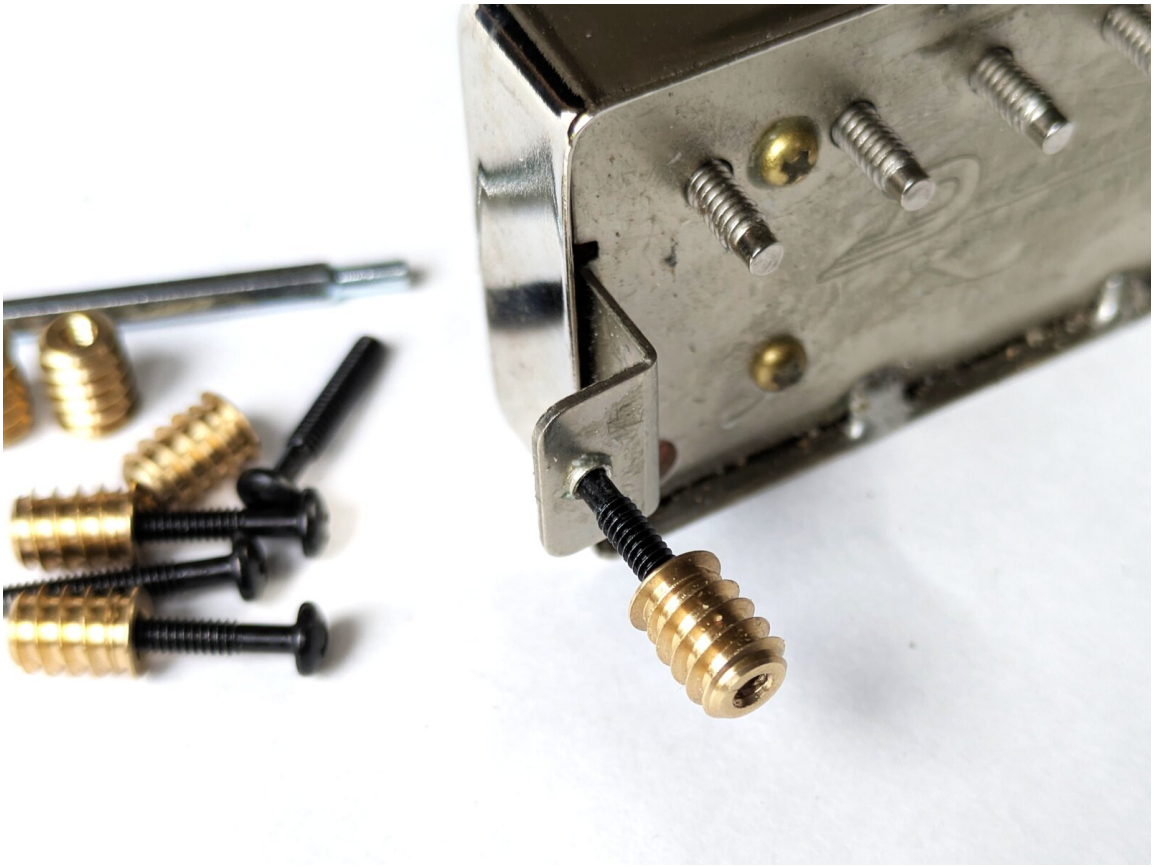
You will need: a drill with a **5 mm** drill bit (for very hard woods, 5.5 mm). Metric and imperial inserts are identical on the outside — same hole, same 5 mm bit.



How It Works

The brass insert seats permanently in the body. The machine screw threads into the insert — metal on metal. The **smooth shank** lets the pickup ear slide freely up and down the shaft, so you get precise height adjustment just by turning the screw. No foam, no shims, no matchbooks.

Your pickup stays completely untouched — the ear is never drilled out, so you can always put it back in a mounting ring.



Step 1 — Prepare the Guitar

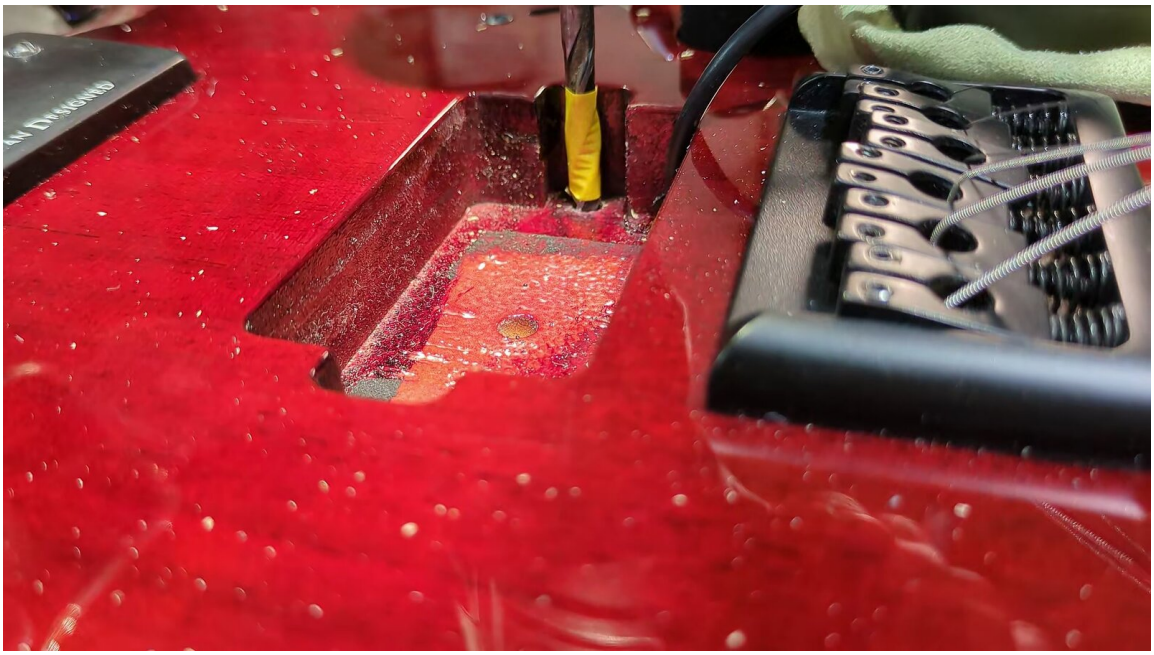
1. Loosen or remove the strings so you can work safely.
2. Remove the pickup (from its mounting ring or its current mounting).
3. Check the thread: **metric or imperial?** Compare with your existing pickup screws or the manufacturer's spec.



Step 2 — Drilling

IMPORTANT: Practice on a piece of scrap wood (hardwood) first. A spare insert is included in every kit — use it to get a feel for the process before touching your instrument.

1. Position the pickup and mark the drill points **through the ear holes**.
2. In most cases the guitar already has the original direct-mount wood-screw holes — **they centre your 5 mm drill bit** perfectly, no separate pilot hole needed.
3. Drill **perpendicular** to the surface.
4. **Mark the depth** on the drill bit — the insert is 8 mm long, so don't drill through the body. A piece of tape on the bit makes a perfect depth stop.
5. Remove dust and drill cuttings.

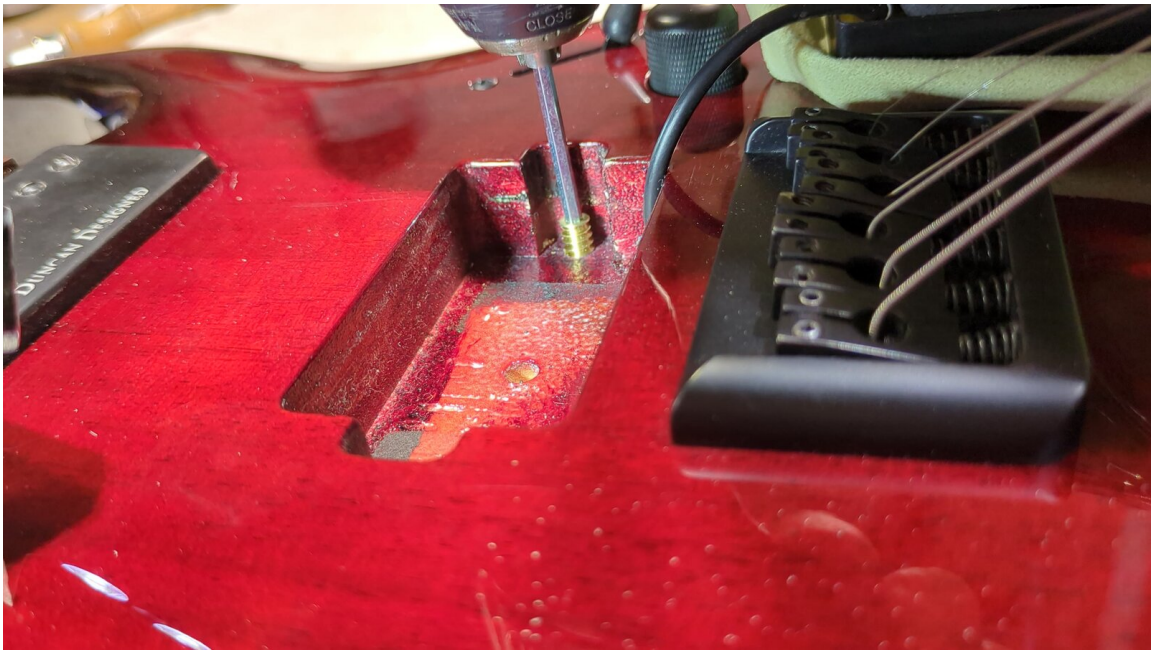


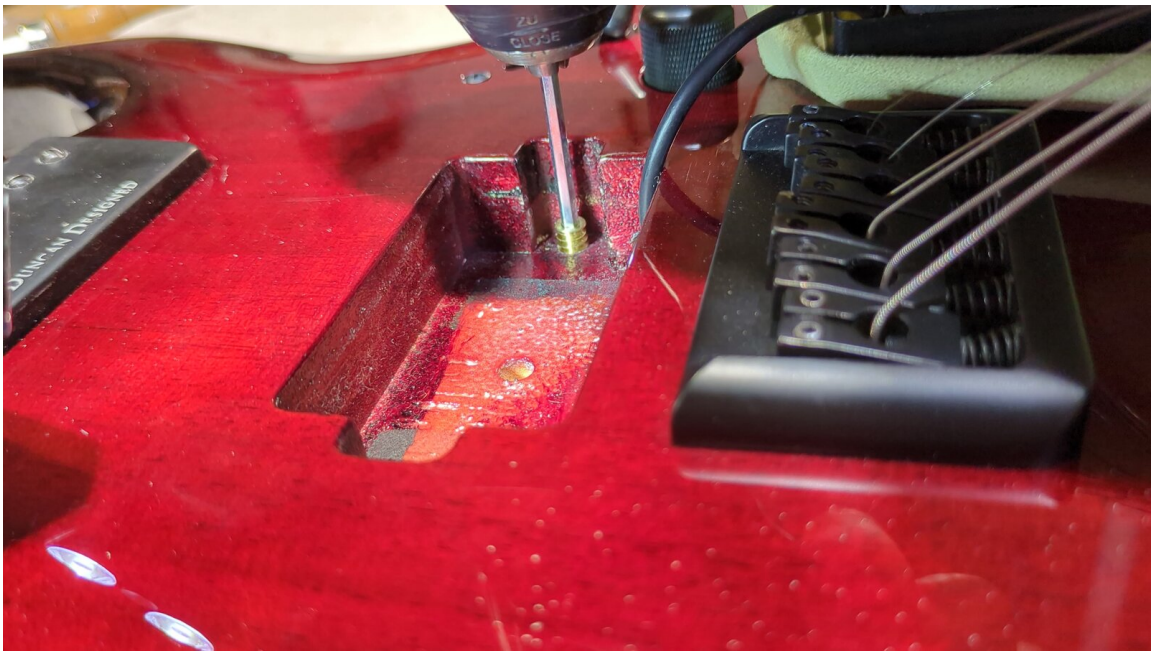

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Step 3 — Installing the Inserts

Use the Nectite hex tool. Screw the insert in **like a corkscrew** — turn the tool, don't push. The insert cuts its own thread by rotation, not pressure. Take it easy, no force.

1. Fit the tool into the insert.
2. Align **perpendicular from the very first turn**.
3. Screw in until the insert sits **flush** with the surface.






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Step 4 — Mount the Pickup & Set Height

1. Place the pickup and line the ear holes up over the inserts.
2. **Put a piece of foam under the pickup** — with a direct mount there are no springs (unlike a pickup ring), so the foam creates the counter-pressure that holds the pickup up against the screws.
3. Screw through the ears into the inserts — the smooth shank lets the pickup **float** on the shaft.
4. Set the height precisely by turning the screw.
5. **Do not overtighten** — firm hand-tight is enough.



Bass Pickup? Same Principle.

The **Bass Pickup** kit works exactly the same way — only the screws are different: **M3 × 35 mm**. The inserts sit in the pickup cavity the same way, **4 per bass pickup**. Same 5 mm drill bit, same 8 mm inserts, same corkscrew technique.



Done!

Restring, tune up, plug in — and enjoy the direct, mechanically coupled pickup sound. And because the ears were never modified, you can always return the pickup to a mounting ring later.

— Michael, Nectite.de

Quick Reference Card

	Direct Mount	**Bass Pickup**
Screws	18 mm, smooth shank	M3 × 35 mm
Thread	M3 or #3-48	M3
Inserts	4 × brass, 8 mm	4 × brass, 8 mm
Drill bit	5 mm (5.5 mm hard woods)	5 mm (5.5 mm hard woods)
Insert location	Guitar body (through ears)	Pickup cavity
Tool	Included	Included

Questions? We're Happy to Help.

Whether it's a tricky compatibility question, a custom sizing request, or just guitar talk — get in touch, we answer every message personally.

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