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Pickguard Instalation And Care.

VIDEO TUTORIAL ON PICKGUARD INSTALLATION and CHANGE BRIDGE SINGLE COIL TO HUMBUCKER

- Our easy to follow, step by step video. On [YouTube - ProSteelPickguards](#)

Or visit YouTube link in the 'Totally Good Links' on right side of Home Page www.prosteelpickguards.com

For those replacing the first time, it's about a 30 minute adventure. No need to take the neck off any guitar. You can also keep the same strings. If yours is a 22 fret Strat neck with fingerboard overhang, the pickguard will slide out and back in.

If your Fender Humbucker is 3 screw, don't worry, they also have Centre Height Holes both sides of pickup under the guard.

IMPORTANT: To avoid scratching when fitting your steel guard, take care with metal objects like screwdrivers or pickup baseplate. This is steel, so protect guitar top with cloth to avoid scratches when installing components to the steel guard. Lastly, remove cloth and secure new guard with supplied screws.

Your electronics will be fine. The Guard will be grounded through the pot shafts (vol and tone), and will also act as an electromagnetic shield reducing noise. String resonance from the body is distributed more effectively through the steel guard. This improved resonance transfers to the pickups more efficiently through the direct guard mounting screws.

To keep your stainless steel pickguard looking new, occasionally wipe over using a clean cloth with rubbing alcohol or ethyl alcohol etc. These won't affect your guitar top finish. This improves the shine of steel and helps remove salts deposited from the air, perspiration and finger oils from the surface. Do not use metal polishes or cleaning pastes on colored or mirror steel. If you ever see a tarnish mark over time, rub hard with a damp cloth and surface will clear and heal to normal. Your guard will be looking great for a very long time.

These guards are made of non-magnetic, quality 304 grade austenitic stainless steel. This contains at least 16% chromium to form a passive film of chromium oxide, which prevents surface corrosion. If you play with a metal or stone pick, this will most likely show in small scratches, adding some funky character to the surface finish, otherwise it is still great looking and very durable.

FOR A HSS GUARD: [There is a Strat HSS Auto-Split Mod.](#)

FOR A HSH GUARD: [There is a Strat HSH Auto-Split Mod.](#) Simple wiring tricks using your existing Fender internal electronics to split the Neck and/or Bridge humbucker coils at the Mid notches to retain the Strat 'quack'.

Available from <http://www.prosteelpickguards.com/downloads>

Guards with Molded Humbucker slots, Humbucker height (most modern coils) will rise to 9 mm (11/32") above the top surface of pickguard. At 9mm above the guard on my Strat bridge pickup, it is 2mm (3/32") between high E string and top of humbucker pole screw when string is depressed at 22nd fret. Aprox 1.5mm (1/16") to 3mm (1/8") is recommended for Humbuckers. Too close and it's mud, loses clarity and sounds messy with magnetic pull on the strings.

BUT to balance a Humbucker output volume so it is not too loud, compared to the single coils, it could be lowered to at least 4mm (5/32") away when strings are depressed at 22nd fret. You can adjust any of the 6 Humbucker screw pole lugs also, to fine tune the output vol of all six strings at the bridge.

I have my humbucker set 2.5mm at high E, and 3mm at low E. Then I adjusted these Screw poles only: High E string screw pole up 1 full turn, Low E string screw pole down 1 full turn.

Enjoy your new guard, play on. Feel welcome to post a photo of your geet on the [Facebook page: prosteel.pickguards](#)