

# UNDERWOOD PICKUPS

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR BASS VIOL PICKUP

**PLEASE FOLLOW  
INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.**

**DO NOT BEGIN INSTALLATION UNTIL  
ALL INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN READ  
AND CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD.**

**PREPARING THE BRIDGE:** In most cases, the Underwood Pickup can be installed in the bridge of your instrument with little modification. However, all bridges do not use the same style bridge wings (or "arms") and the cut may not be even in all cases. The pickup should be checked for correct fit and a decision made as to which of the following approaches need to be used.

**Please do not install the pickup until it can be easily inserted in the wing slot. Pressure should be very light. The pickup or the bridge may be damaged if the pickup transducers are forced in. The pickup should be just tight enough to stay in place when the instrument is played or transported.**

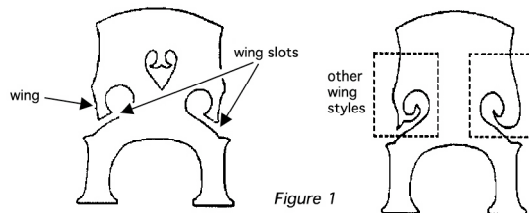


Figure 1

**WING SLOT TOO NARROW:** Use medium grit sandpaper, an ordinary 10" flat file, an emery board or other abrasive device to remove small amounts of wood from the wing. (See figure 1.)

**DO NOT REMOVE WOOD FROM THE LEG  
OF THE BRIDGE UNLESS IT IS UNEVEN.**

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Exercise caution when trimming the wing as it may be fragile due to cross graining or narrow section. Be certain that the "walls" of the slot remain "square" or parallel as you work. It may be necessary to align the walls if the bridge was poorly cut originally. Do the work with the bridge in place and under string pressure. Work slowly and check the fit often.

**WING SLOT TOO WIDE:** Use the shim stock provided or make additional ones from manila or firm index card. It is best not to build up too many layers of card as the tone might be damped somewhat. If more than three or four layers of card material are needed it may be necessary to use hardwood veneer or similar material to fill the gap. Hobby shops are a source for thin plywood or veneer.

**PLACE SHIMS BETWEEN THE PICKUP  
AND THE LEG. DO NOT GLUE THE  
SHIMS TO THE PICKUP. DO NOT GLUE  
THE PICKUP TO THE BRIDGE!**

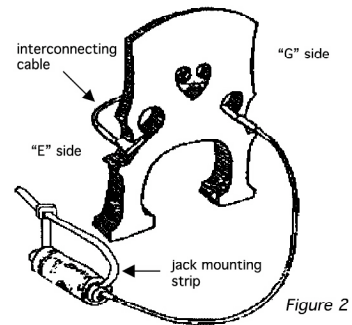


Figure 2

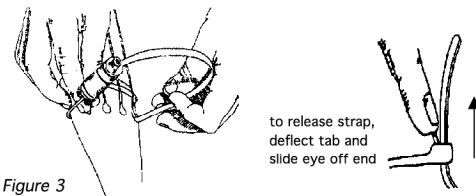


Figure 3

**INSERTING PICKUP:** (Refer to figure 2 for correct position for pickups.) Remember, the interconnecting wire should pass over the top or finger board side of the bridge. Keep wires away from contact with the soundboard, bridge, or strings to prevent buzzes or rattles. Avoid flexing of the wire near the pickup cases to prevent internal damage.

**MOUNTING THE OUTPUT JACK:** (Refer to figures 3 and 4.) Route the output wire under the strings behind the tailpiece. Insert the nylon strap ends in the string holes so the output jack lies across the tailpiece at the stringholes. You may place it on the back of the tailpiece if you wish, wherever convenient to avoid conflict with other accessories such as a bow quiver. Insert the small end of the nylon strap into the eye of the buckle end. Note the small release tab in the eye of the buckle. This tab should be against the ribbed side of the small end of the strap and ratchets as the strap is pulled tight. Do not trim the end of the strap if you expect to remove and re-install the pickup. **VERY IMPORTANT!** Choose a patch cord that has low capacitance and low noise characteristics. Some standard guitar cables, especially the coiled or spiral types, may not perform well due to high capacitance. Ball tip plugs, such as the Switchcraft 470, are recommended as they fit the Switchcraft jack of the Underwood. Some plugs may be too loose and cause static or buzzes due to intermittent contact.

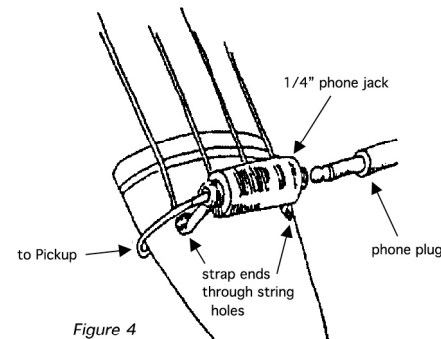


Figure 4

**AMPLIFIER AND PICKUP ADJUSTMENTS:** Plug the patch cord into the pickup output jack and the amp input. Set amp controls as follows: Set volume to lowest point. Set all tone controls to their "flat" or mid-range positions. Turn on the amp and start advancing the volume control. No feedback should occur (if the pickup is properly installed) until the volume control is near distortion level. Try to avoid playing situations in which the amp is facing the soundboard of the bass or is directly adjacent to the instrument as this may lead to feedback at lower than needed volume levels. When the desired volume level is obtained, check for balanced output by playing a range of notes on each string. Most players find the "flat" settings to be the most natural sounding. However, the input impedance and overall frequency response of amps of various manufacture tend to vary, so it may be necessary to adjust the tone controls. Always start with the controls in the "flat" position to obtain optimal results. Bass viol tone has lots of highs and "woodiness". The Underwood Pickup will enhance the true sound of your instrument, so don't roll off those highs until you have heard and judged them.

### TWO-YEAR SERVICE AND WARRANTY

*If you experience any problems with your pickup within a two-year period after date of purchase, please contact us. We will gladly replace or repair any unit found defective due to manufacturer's fault provided that a description of the problem is enclosed with the pickup and it is returned to us intact and un-tampered with. The warranty applies only to the original purchaser and is limited to units that have been properly installed and used for purposes intended by the manufacturer. Defects in materials and workmanship are fully covered.*

## UNDERWOOD PICKUPS

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