

Installation Instructions: Suspended Pickguards

(Preview page only: the complete version of these instructions is supplied free with all orders for pickups or wiring kits.)

Installing a floating pickguard on a new or vintage archtop guitar is not a complicated operation *per se*. However, if you have any question about your ability to install the parts without damaging the instrument, we recommend that you give the materials and these instructions to an experienced repair technician. A professional installation is well worth the peace of mind in getting it done right the first time. However, if you are in a locality without a skilled luthier, or have the requisite experience, tools, and skills yourself, you may wish to follow the instructions below to complete the installation on your own. The procedures outlined below are for informational purposes only, and archtop.com assumes no liability of any kind pursuant to their execution.

Tools and materials required:

- Hand drill, power or manual
 - Small countersink bit
 - Miniature clamp with padded jaws
 - Machinist rule or other fine-graduated straightedge
 - Acrylic plastic glue or model cement
 - Padded workbench
- 1) **Preparation:** Pad workbench with towels or other soft cloth to avoid abrasion to guitar finish. Many new guards are supplied with a clear protective plastic film cover, which should be left in place until installation is completed. Make sure guitar is strung and bridge is in proper position before beginning installation. Position pickguard onto guitar, making sure to allow adequate clearance for easy finger access to the bridge adjusting wheel.
 - 2) **Attachment of Pickguard to Fingerboard Extension:** Most Gibson and Epi pickguards are attached with a screw to the upper treble side of the fingerboard where it extends over the body. If your old guard was attached this way, make a small pencil mark on the edge of the new guard where the existing screw hole is located. Measure the height of the mounting hole in the side of the fingerboard. Drill a small screw hole through the side of the new plastic neck mounting block accordingly, and attach it with a small wood screw. Check to make sure guard height is correct at the fingerboard. If the depth of the plastic block needs trimming, it may be sanded on a bench sander, or on an ordinary sheet of coarse sandpaper taped to the workbench.
 - 3) **Attachment of Pickguard to Soundboard:** If the old guard was screwed directly to a hole in the soundboard, we recommend attaching the replacement guard to the side of the fingerboard as above if possible. However, on instruments where the fingerboard is attached flush to the top (as seen on Gibson L-50, L-48, some Vegas, etc) this is not an option, and they will need to have the guard reinstalled back in the existing hole. To position this hole accurately in the new guard, place a short section of toothpick in the existing hole with the blunt end up. Coat this end with a bit of talcum or other non-abrasive powder and touch to the back of the new guard in the desired position for installation, leaving a mark that can be used to drill the new hole.

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