



Les Paul Guitar Pickup Replacement

Change out the humbucker pickups in your Gibson Les Paul, or Les Paul replica.

Written By: Tiaron Starrine



INTRODUCTION

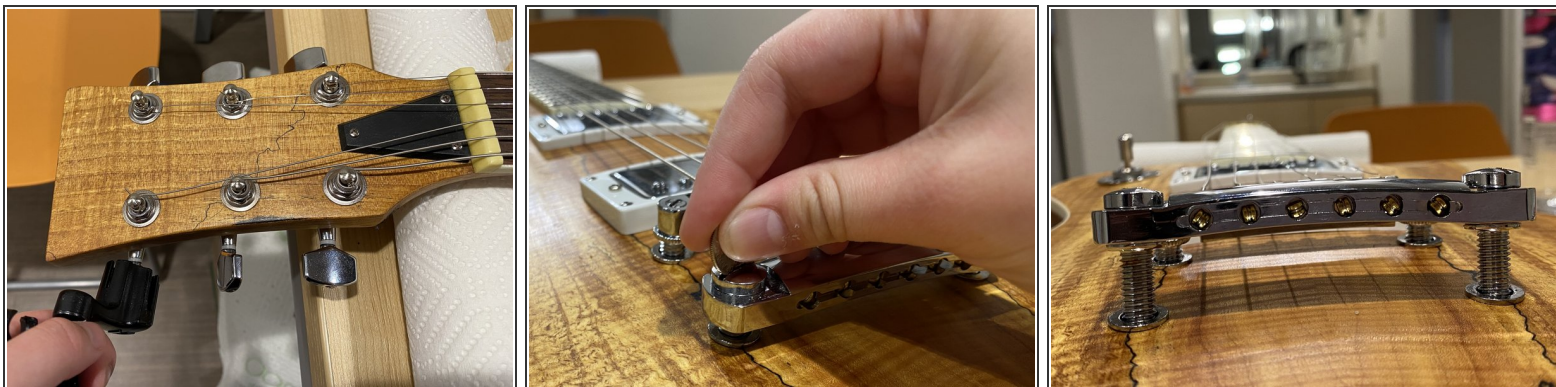
Your axe isn't sounding right or just isn't working but you don't want to spend a lot to fix it? This will let you change out your pickups in no time, without damaging your wallet in the process. Have a new set of pickups ready and you can jump right in. This guide will walk you through the process of changing the pickups on your Les Paul guitar.



TOOLS:

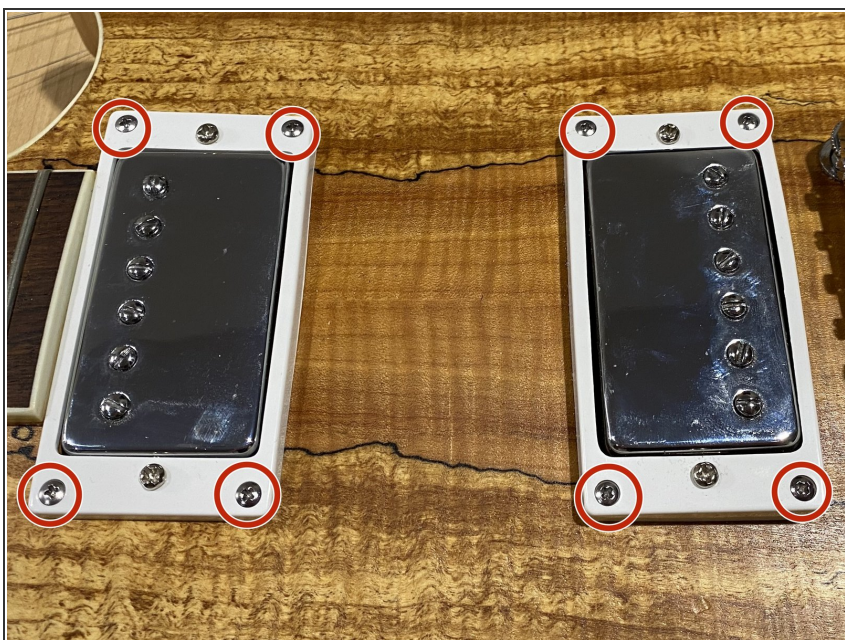
- [Guitar string winder and cutter](#) (1)
- [Coin](#) (1)
- [Soldering Iron](#) (1)
- [Solder](#) (1)
- [Phillips #0 Screwdriver](#) (1)

Step 1 — Pickup



- Loosen the guitar strings using a string winder.
- ⓘ The three strings closest unwind clockwise and the three farther away unwind counterclockwise.
- Using a coin, carefully begin unscrewing and removing the tailpiece.
- ⓘ You can use a flat head screwdriver, but it will damage the finish on your tailpiece.
- Remove the tailpiece by completely unscrewing it from the metal inserts and then gently lifting the assembly out of the body and set off to the side.

Step 2



- Use the Phillips #0 screwdriver to remove the eight screws keeping the pickups in place.
- ⓘ All screws are the same size.

Step 3



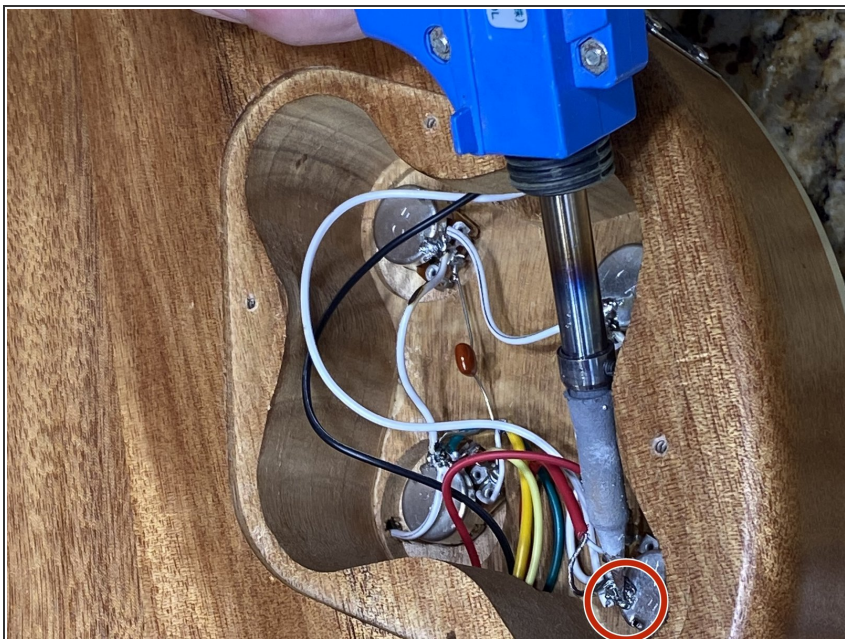
- Note which color wire is coming out of each pickup.
 - Gently flip over your guitar and put it on a soft towel or other soft material. Take off the control cavity cover.
 - Desolder the wires of the pickup from the terminal that is touching the back of the potentiometer, or pot.
- i** A potentiometer is what the pickups are wired to that allow the player to have on-board control of their volume and tone. Terminals are the parts on a potentiometer that you solder the wires to.

Step 4



- Flip over your guitar again. Thread the wire of the new pickup through the body to the control cavity and screw in the pickup using the Phillips #0 screwdriver.
- ☑ Check what color wire is coming from each pickup.
- i** For these kinds of pickups, the neck pickup magnet should face the neck and the bridge pickup magnets should face the bridge.

Step 5

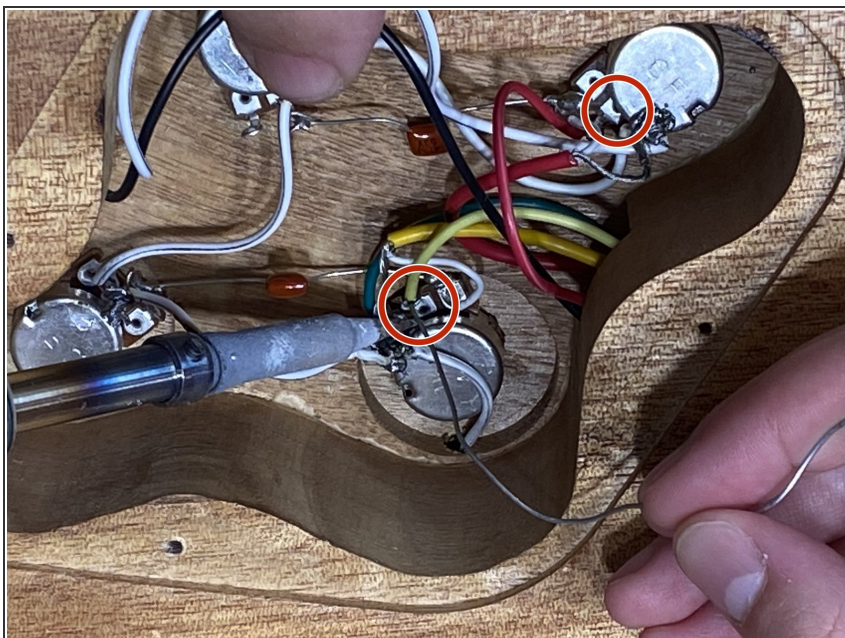


⚠ Do not touch the soldering iron, or let it touch anything but the solder and wires.

i The pickup wire should have multiple wires inside it. Check with the manufacturer which wire is which.

- Solder the new ground wires to the back of the volume pots or to the terminal touching the back of the pot.

Step 6



⚠ Do not touch the metal parts of the soldering iron or the solder after melting it, they will burn you.

i Relative to the output jack, the bottom row is for the bridge pickup and the top row is for the neck pickup.

- Identify your hot wires and volume pots and solder the hot wire to the center terminal of the wires corresponding pot.

Step 7



- ✦ Screw back on the control cavity cover and flip over your guitar.
- ✦ Reattach the tailpiece and tune your guitar.
- Raise and lower the pickups as desired using the two screws on the sides of the pickup rings.

Plug in your beloved guitar and rock out with your fresh pickups