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# FAQ

## PICKUP QUESTIONS SUMMARY

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## ANSWERS

### **How can I tell which pickup I have?**

A number of the EMG models consist of different magnets, coils, and electronics in similar shells. That can make it hard to tell at a glance what kind of pickup you have. Of course, the first indicator is the shape of the pickup - humbucker, Strat-style, Tele-style, Precision (split-coil) or Jazz bass, etc. If you see visible pole pieces, then this is a Vintage Series pickup.

Once you've narrowed down the general family, you can tell the specific model by the color of the EMG logo on the face of the pickup. For example, if you have a humbucker sized pickup with a silver logo, it is an EMG-81; with a gold logo, it's an EMG-85. The identifying logo color for most of our pickups is listed with their specs on the Product Specification page.

That's still quite not good enough for the Extended Series bass pickups. They all have the same external appearance and all have a silver logo. There's two things to try here. First, there's normally a sticker on the back of the pickup that shows the specific model number. If that's not present, you will want to use a piece of our Magnetic Viewing Paper to visualize the pickup's magnetic structure. You can then determine the appropriate model by matching what you see to our Extended Series Specifications.

### **What is the difference between the EMG-81 and the EMG-85?**

The EMG-81 is our highest output pickup. The EMG-85 has slightly less output than the EMG-81, yet still has plenty of output to overdrive an amp. The EMG-85 has more low end and less high end than the EMG-81. The EMG-81 has less low end and is brighter than the EMG-85.

### **What is the EMG-89?**

The EMG-89 is a dual-mode pickup. There is no electronic filtering going on to simulate a coil tap. There are two bona fide pickups in a single humbucking housing. The single coil portion of the EMG-89 is located on the logo side of the pickup. It is identical in sound to the EMG-SA. The humbucking portion is spread across the entire pickup and sounds like the EMG-85. It's perfectly OK to rotate the pickup 180 degrees to locate the single coil portion of the pickup further away from the bridge for a "beefier" tone. You may also order the EMG-89R, which has the single-coil portion located opposite the logo.





### **Can two EMG-89's be wired to a single push/pull switch?**

Each EMG-89 requires its own double pole/double throw ( DPDT ) switch. For example, if there are two EMG-89's in a guitar, you will need two push/pull pots, two mini toggles, or one of each. The pot portion of the push/pull pot is 25K ohms. It can be wired as a volume control or a tone control. Even though the pot and switch portions of the push/pull pot are physically joined together, they are really two separate circuits.

### **Is there supposed to be a volume difference between the single coil and humbucking portions of the EMG-89?**

There is a noticeable difference in gain between the single-coil and humbucking portions of the EMG-89. Its design reflects the fact that single-coils generally have less gain. Obviously, there are tone differences as well, but the gain difference is also a factor. You can compensate for the gain difference by putting an EMG-PA2 (pre-amp booster) on the single-coil portion of the EMG-89. However as the gain of the single coil is increased, there will be less difference in sound between the single-coil and humbucking portions of the EMG-89.

### **Does EMG make a mini-humbucking pickup like the one found in the Les Paul Deluxe?**

EMG does not make a mini-humbucking pickup. The only humbucking guitar pickup is a standard size (1.5" X 2.75").

### **Does EMG make a replacement pickup for the Rickenbacker 4001 bass?**

EMG does not make a direct replacement for the Rickenbacker 4001 bass. The closest size available is the EMG-HB ("1.5 X 2.75"). The EMG-HB can be installed with some modification to the instrument.

### **The jack I have in my guitar has a much longer shaft than the one supplied with the EMG pickup. Can I use the one in the guitar?**

That depends on what kind of jack you have in your guitar. Active pickups require a stereo jack to turn the battery off when the guitar is unplugged. A stereo jack has 3 solder lugs. Many of the Ibanez guitars come stock with a stereo long shafted jack. There is one lug not used with passive pickups and that is where you will connect the battery black wire. If your jack has only 2 solder lugs it is mono and you will need to replace it. We recommend a Switchcraft p/n 152B. You should be able to find it at any decent electronics parts house. If not, you can order it from us.





**I have a Les Paul and the pots don't fit through the top. Do you have pots that will work for the Les Paul?**

We do have long shafted pots for the Les Paul installation. Customers can order them directly from us or through their dealer. They are not available anywhere else. We also have the long shafted push/pull pots for use with the EMG-89.

**Do you make 25K concentric pots?**

Yes! We stock the A25KX2 dual concentric 25K pot. This model features two independent audio taper controls that fit in a single hole. It's particularly useful when you add one of our single knob EQ units (the SPC, RPC, or EXG). Using the A25KX2, you can relocate your original passive tone knob and volume knob in the same hole, and add the new EQ without making additional holes in your axe.

EMG also offers a dual ganged balance pot for two pickup systems. This unit has two independent control elements on a single shaft.

**What do the DIP switches on my BT/BQ EQ system do?**

These switches set the frequency where the active treble control kicks in. The BT Accessory Technical Page shows the various switch settings and the resultant effects. They make a huge difference in your sound! We highly recommend that you experiment with the switches to find the setting the best suits your playing style.

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