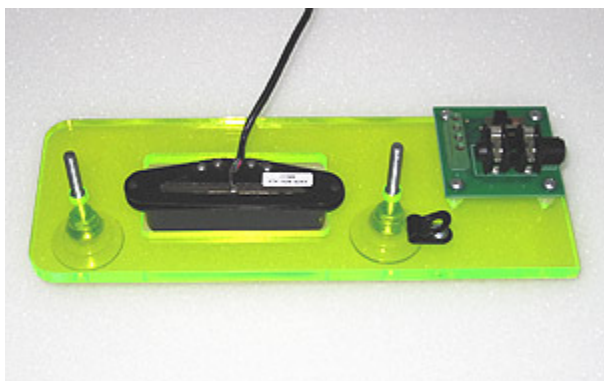


### Pickup Tester / Sampler

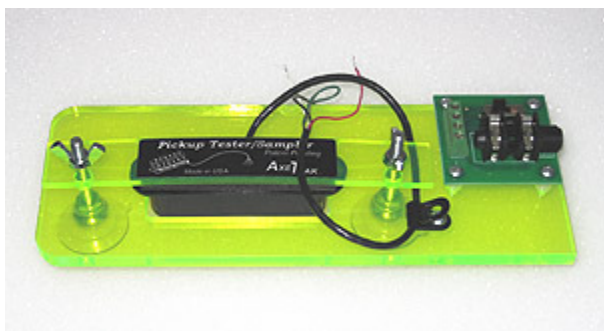
Congratulations and thank you for purchasing the AxeTrak® Pickup Tester / Sampler for Electric Guitar. We have gone to great lengths to insure that you are purchasing a high quality, well-made product. Please be sure to read through this information carefully, as it contains important information on the performance and operation of your new AxeTrak® Tester.



The first step to testing a pickup is to mount the pickup upside down, securely on the test fixture. This is done by removing the pickup mounting plate (small acrylic strip that has company label), and the two wing nuts (thumbscrews). Do a preliminary adjustment to the height of suction cup leveling feet so that the pickup will float above the strings. Final height adjustment will be made just before tester is mounted onto the guitar.

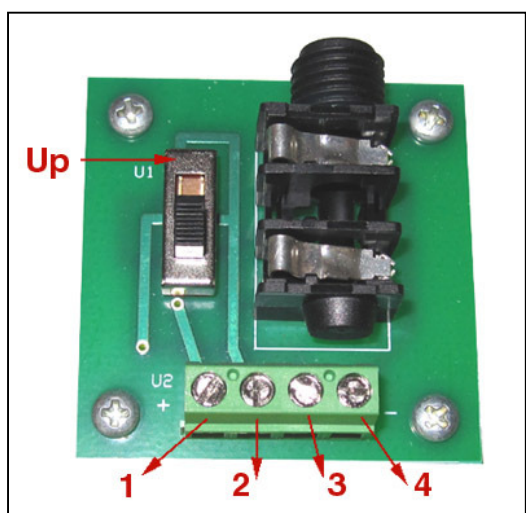


Place the pickup that you would like to audition on the base of tester, face down. Make sure that the orientation of the pickup is the same direction it would be if you were permanently mounting it on the guitar. (In other words, the side of the pickup that would normally be under the low E string should now be over the low E heights.) Center the pickup in the cutout space so that when you place the pickup mounting plate back on the tester, the pickup will still be centered. Now place the pickup mounting plate on the two leveling suction cup studs and lightly tighten the two wing nuts (thumbscrews) just tight enough to hold the pickup in place. Do not over tighten.



Carefully pull the pickup wire onto the cable clip as this will help hold the wire in place. Check your pickup wiring diagram or check your pickup manufacturer's website so that you will know how to correctly wire the leads to the terminal block. It is important that you do not over tighten these screws on the terminal block.

For two-conductor wire pickups use terminal # 1 for the hot wire and terminal # 4 for the ground wire. The position of the 3-position slide switch does not matter. If there is a shield wire also connect it to terminal # 4.



For pickups that have four conductors plus a shielded conductor, do the following: Attach the hot wire to terminal # 1. Attach the ground wire plus the shielded wire to terminal # 4. Terminal # 2 needs to be the corresponding lead of the coil connected on terminal # 1. Terminal # 3 needs to be the corresponding lead of the coil connected on terminal # 4. In other words, terminal # 1 and # 2 will be for one coil on the pickup, and terminal # 3 and # 4 will be for the other coil. These connections are crucial for the correct operation of this device.

#### ( Switch Position Based On Diagram )

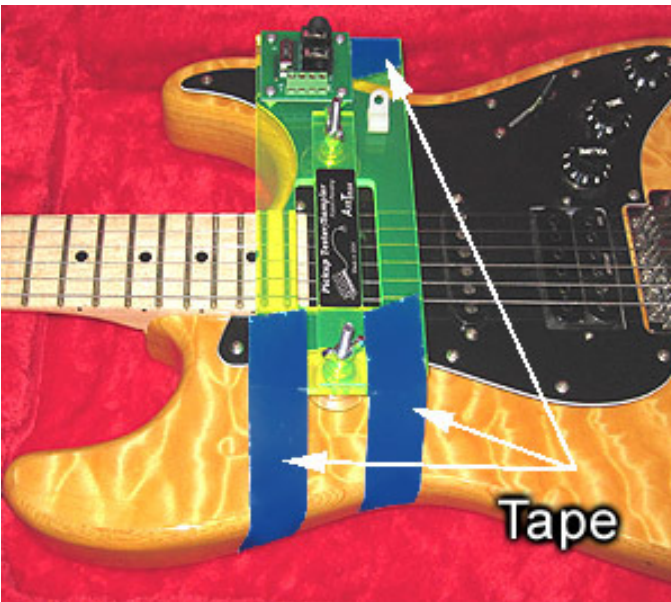
- 1. Switch in down position** – Pickup will be wired in **Parallel**. Resistance reading at the output jack should be half the resistance of one coil.
- 2. Switch in the middle** - pickup will be wired as **Single Coil**. Resistance reading at the output jack should be the exact resistance of one coil.
- 3. Switch in the up position** - Pickup will be wired in **Series (Standard Humbucker Mode)**. Resistance reading at the output jack should be two times the resistance of one coil.



The acrylic base on the Pickup Tester has threaded aluminum inserts. These inserts allow for infinite height adjustments of the leveling suction cups by turning them either clockwise or counterclockwise. They should be adjusted so that the pickup sits at the desired distance from the strings.



With the tester now ready to be mounted on the guitar, hold it where you would like to mount it and verify that the pickup height is set how you want it. After you are satisfied with the height that the pickup will float over the strings, plug in a lightweight guitar cable into the output jack of the tester. Put the tester in place and gently press down with firm pressure close to the threaded leveling suction cups and then apply three pieces of inexpensive painters block tape to hold the fixture securely to the guitar. The guitar surface should be clean from dust and oil for best suction. For pickups that have 4 conductors and a ground wire, the 3 position slide switch mounted on the circuit board will allow you to test split coil, parallel, and series wiring configurations.



The suction cups on the tester should grip good enough to hold the tester in place for testing while the guitar is lying flat. However if you plan to strap your guitar on and hang it around your neck while testing it, we strongly recommend that you use three pieces of painters blocking tape to help secure the tester to your guitar as shown in the diagram. This tape will not hurt the guitar or tester and does not leave a residue. This tape will allow you to reposition the fixture numerous times without it needing to be replaced. We also suggest running your guitar cable through your strap (like you would if you were playing on stage) so that the weight of the cord is not pulling on the tester.

**IMPORTANT:** It is important that the pickup you are testing is not directly over the poles of a pickup currently mounted on your guitar because the magnetic fields will interact with each other and possibly distort the true sound of the pickup being tested. Tester should be placed so that the poles of the pickup being tested are approximately  $3/8$  of an inch or 9mm on either side of the poles on a mounted pickup.

### **AxeTrak**

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