Congratulations on your purchase of a fine, hand-built, Seymour Duncan electric guitar pickup! Installing this pickup in your guitar isn’t rocket science. And, if you’re already handy with tools, it’ll be a snap for you—and fun too! But if you have no experience handling red-hot soldering irons, you’d be well advised to take your new pickup and your trusty guitar to a qualified guitar tech.

The basic steps for Lead Pickups include:
1. Remove the strings from your guitar.
2. Remove the control plate and flip it over.
3. De-solder the original pickup’s wires from the controls and make sure to remember where they were connected.
4. Remove the original pickups from the guitar.
5. Put the Seymour Duncan pickups into the guitar.
6. Tin the wires from the Seymour Duncan pickup, and then solder them into place (see Fig. 1).
7. Replace the control plate.
8. Re-string your guitar and adjust the pickup height so that your new pickup is set between 1/8” and 1/16” from the strings (when they are pressed down at the highest fret on the neck). Then adjust the height of the rhythm pickup so that it balances properly with the output of the lead pickup that you just installed.

If two pickups sound thin and wimpy when used together, chances are, they’re out of phase with each other. If you’re combining your Seymour Duncan pickup(s) with Fender® pickup(s) in the same guitar, you’ll need to reverse the black and green wires on the Seymour Duncan.

Solder = location for ground (earth) connections.
Bridge Grounding

If you are replacing a standard Telecaster® lead pickup that has a metal bottom plate, the bridge & strings were (most likely) being grounded via the bottom plate. The particular model of Seymour Duncan pickup that you are installing has no bottom plate, and so you may need to connect a separate wire to ground your bridge.

To do this: take a piece of wire, and solder one end of it to the bottom of the volume pot. Run the other end of that wire into the lead pickup cavity. Strip about one inch of insulation from the end of that wire. Place the exposed end of that wire on top of the guitar’s body, and screw the bridge down on top of it. The metal bridge will contact the wire, and create a ground connection for the bridge & strings.

Confused? Watch the free installation videos on the Seymour Duncan website (under “Support”). You’ll see how Seymour himself does it and you’ll learn lots of great tech tips. Also, for real-time peer-to-peer tech support, consult the gurus on the Seymour Duncan User Group Forum.

Coil Splitting

Confused? Watch the free installation videos on the Seymour Duncan website (under “Support”). You’ll see how Seymour himself does it and you’ll learn lots of great tech tips. Also, for real-time peer-to-peer tech support, consult the gurus on the Seymour Duncan User Group Forum.

Series/parallel (with push/pull)
Series/split/parallel (with on/on/on mini-toggle)

Visit seymourduncan.com for additional wiring diagrams.