

LB6 SERIES

INSTALLATION MANUAL & USER'S GUIDE

L.R. Baggs

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OVERVIEW AND CAUTIONS

We recommend that this system be installed by a professional dealer/installer. We do not provide installation advice or support for home or hobbyist installations. Installers: please read the instructions carefully before proceeding. We will not be responsible for any damage to the guitar or personal injury resulting from installation, improper installation, use or misuse of the product.

Before beginning, check to make sure that the string spacing of the pickup matches that of the guitar. String spacing specifications are available on the back of the package and on our website -- www.lrbaggs.com.

In most cases it is necessary to re-route the saddle slot to equal the length and the width of the pickup.

Do not sand or file the sides, or shorten the length of the LB6, LB6X or LB12. This will void the warranty.

Heat generated from a belt-sanding the top surface of the pickup may damage it; if a belt sander is used to shape the top surface of the saddle, proceed slowly and with caution.

Never grind any part of the pickup to make it fit.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Position the pickup laterally for correct string balance by laying the pickup on its side on top of the string at the saddle. There should be an equal amount of saddle outside each E-string. Mark the bridge where each end of the pickup falls.

Note: If the pickup is an LBC (classical), the rules are slightly different. The Length of the LBC is designed to be cut down to fit the bridge; you can remove up to 1/4" (6.5 mm) from each end of the pickup. Center the pickup laterally over the strings as above and note how far it hangs over the ends of the bridge. Use a jeweler's saw to remove the excess from each end of the pickup; make the initial cut through the bottom (brass) side of the pickup and remove all burrs that are left from the cut. Even the smallest burr left on the bottom surface of the brass could have a negative effect on the string balance. Finish the ends gently with a file. Not not grind or saw the ends off. See the LBC notice below for more information.

2. The existing saddle will be used as a guide to duplicate the action with the new saddle/pickup, so if any changes need to be made to the action or the compensation, do that using the old saddle now. After you are satisfied with the action, scribe a line along the entire length of the saddle (while it is still in the slot) along the top surface of the bridge (see figure 1). Remove the saddle and set it aside to be used later.

4. Re-route the saddle slot to a width of 1/8" to the end marks on the bridge (from step 1) to a minimum depth of 3/16". This depth is necessary to provide support for the saddle and to protect the bond between the brass chassis and the saddle. An absolutely flat surface on the floor of the saddle slot is crucial to achieve the best results from the pickup, so be sure to use an adequate flat routing fixture and sharp cutter. The cutting tips of a 1/8" Dremel router bits are soft, dull easily and will leave fillets in the slot. These fillets will keep the pickup from contacting the bottom of the slot fully and cause sound and balance problems.

5. Gently press the pickup into the slot until it is firmly seated. Make sure the wire does not bind in any way. The pickup should be a loose press fit (not sloppy). Do not wedge the pickup into the slot. If the pickup does bind on the sides, you may carefully hand-sand the sides of the pickup against a hard, flat surface with 150 grit sandpaper. Sand gradually, checking your progress frequently and be careful to keep the pickup cool. Do not attempt this on a belt sander.

6. With the pickup fully seated in the slot, scribe a line along the front surface of it as it exits the top surface of the bridge (the same as in step 2). Remove the pickup from the slot by pulling straight up. Do not crimp the wire.

7. Place the old saddle next to the pickup, match the scribed lines from step 2, and trace the top contour from the old saddle onto the new saddle/pickup. Re-coil the wire on the pickup and carefully belt-sand the shape into the new saddle (be careful not to overheat the pickup). Intonate the new saddle and place it in the slot.

8. Run the lead wire to a fully shielded jack or a shielded internal buffer/preamp. You may connect the LB6 to most existing internal preamps.

This pickup needs no step-up or preamplification when used directly into most musical instrument amplifiers. By nature, however, it is an ultra-high impedance device, and it will load some preamps, effects, equalizers, studio boards, stereos, tape recorders, wireless transmitters or any device with less than a 2 meg input impedance. This will result in a hard, bright, nasal sound quality that is very unpleasant. We recommend the use of a high-quality active direct box such as our Para D.I. into a full-range PA system with reverb for best results.

fig. 1

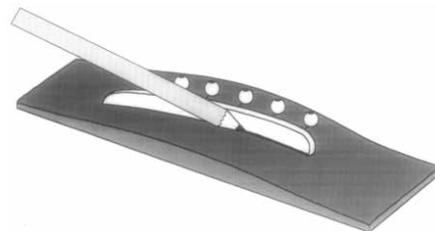
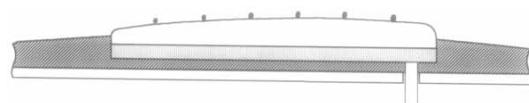


fig. 2



IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR LBC USERS

To ensure trouble-free installation:

1. The LBC pickup is made extra long to accommodate the various saddle lengths of classical guitars. To maintain proper string balance, you must cut an equal amount from each end of the pickup. For example, if it needs to be a total of 1/4" shorter, cut 1/8" from *each* end.

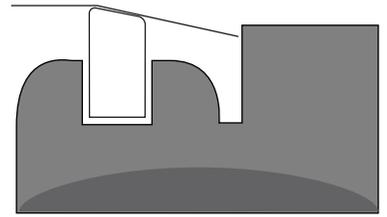
2. Support the length of the pickup on a flat surface and cut each end off with a jeweler's saw, starting on the brass side. Gently sand or file any remaining burrs. **Do not grasp the pickup in a vise while cutting and do not grind or power sand. Do not band-saw the ends off!**

After installation, if you notice distortion (particularly with unwound strings on guitars with low action and/or string angle), you might be experiencing what we call "nylon string roll. Unlike steel strings that stabilize themselves by wearing a small groove in the saddle, nylon strings are softer than the saddle and will not bite into it. The unanchored strings will roll and travel on the saddle when vibrating. The pickup will amplify the rolling motion and add this to the sound.

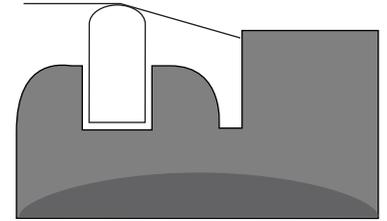
To remedy this problem, be sure that the top of the saddle is basically flat with slightly rounded front and back edges (see figure 1). The front of the saddle should be higher than its back edge (as high as the string angle will allow without having the string in midair over the back of the saddle, as shown in figure 3). Then cut a shallow v-shaped groove in the saddle (approximately half the thickness of the string) for each string to rest in. This will help anchor the strings firmly in the saddle.

fig. 3

correct



incorrect



incorrect

