

Contemporary Stratocaster Special Upgrade Instructions

Revised: November 8, 2022

Before you start, **read these instructions first** to understand what you need to do to install this product. This document describes how to install and use this upgrade with our T3Plus-Switch to get 35 pickup tones.

Assumptions

When correctly installed, this upgrade product will give you 35 unique pickup tones from your stock Contemporary Stratocaster Special guitar.

Tools Needed

You may need one or more of the following tools (*not included with purchase*) to install this product.

- Wire cutters / strippers, regular pliers
- Small Phillips & straight slot screwdrivers
- Hammer
- Wood chisel, 1/2" wide
- Ohmmeter to measure electrical continuity
- Soldering iron (25/30 watt max.) with fine tip, rosin-core solder .022" diameter

Preamble

This upgrade also will have you cutting existing wires on your instrument. You may also need to increase the length of existing wires.

This guitar has a minor amount of body cavity wood that needs to be removed using a wood chisel and hammer to install this upgrade product.

You will make several changes to your instrument, so you need a clear plan. This document is that plan.

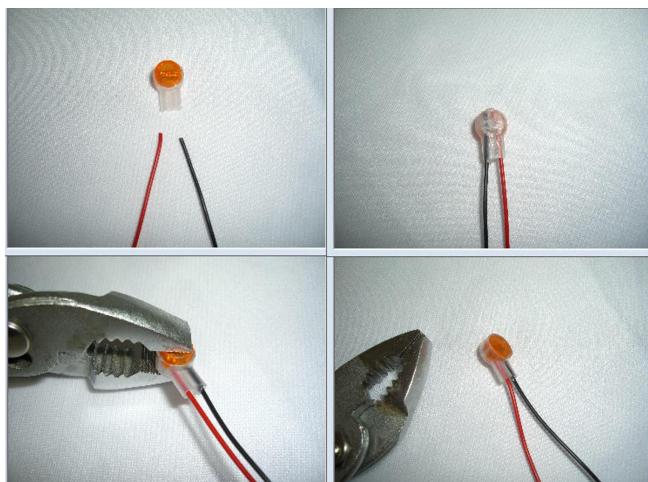
See the **Reference Drawing** on the last page of this document. It is a general drawing of common electric guitar parts. Use a pencil to draw the original circuit of your instrument before you proceed. When you

document where the wires on your instrument (*and the colors of these wires*) were connected, you will have a way to restore it to its original condition should it become necessary.

Adding Extra Wire

After cutting the pickup and other wires (*described later*), they may be too short to reach the specified connection of the Green terminal strip (J1) on the T3Plus-Switch product. You will cut the RED and BLACK wires that are in the included **PARTS BAG** into shorter lengths and electrically connect them together to permit the wire to reach the Green terminal strip connections. You will use the provided 2-wire UY2 yellow/clear connectors.

Insert the unstripped wires to be connected so they "bottom" completely into the UY2 connector. Use pliers to firmly squeeze the UY2 connector top yellow button so it is flush with the clear body to create a permanent electrical connection. After extending the wires, verify electrical continuity between the two pickup wires using an ohmmeter (*some coil resistance will be present*).



The remainder of this document describes how to install, connect and use this upgrade product.

A. INSTALLATION

The T3Plus-Switch included in this upgrade product is designed to control the three single-coil pickups of your Squier Contemporary Stratocaster Special Guitar. After this upgrade is correctly installed, it will give you 35 unique pickup tones.

This upgrade includes a **PARTS BAG** with the following items used for installation.

- Business cards to share with others; Pickup wire labels
- 9" length of black and red insulated wire (to lengthen pickup and input jack wire if needed)
- Several yellow/clear connectors (UY2) to extend wire connections if needed
- Two grey wire nuts

A1. Preparation

You may need to remove your strings to remove your original pickguard and pickups.

Remove the pickguard screws and store them, then remove the pickguard and pickups from your guitar.

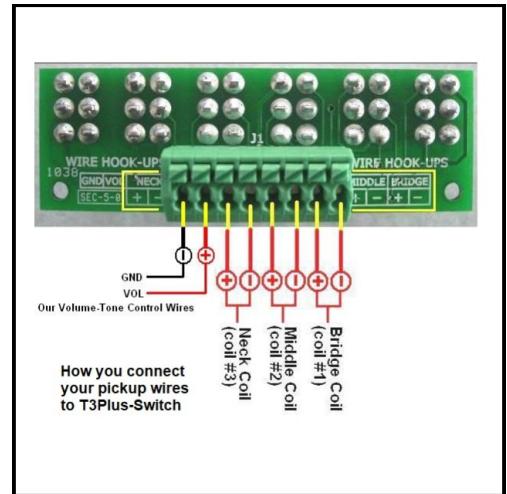
Cut the bridge ground wire where soldered to the controls.

A2. Transferring Your Stock Pickups Into The Upgrade Pickguard

You need to prepare your pickups to be attached to the T3Plus-Switch in your upgrade. Use a magic marker to mark the back of each pickup (B=bridge, M=middle, N=neck). Cut the wires of each pickup from where they are soldered to the original 5-way switch and controls. Leave about 1/4" pickup wire to where they are attached. Your pickup wires are Black for “-”, non-black for “+”. Remove the pickups and mount them into the upgrade pickguard.

A3. T3Plus-Switch Terminal Strip

Attach your pickup wires to the **green** terminal strip (J1) that is on the upgrade circuit board. Use a small screwdriver and press down on the square *release button* located directly above the wire hole. Hold the button down and insert the stripped wire completely into the wire connection hole and then release the button. Lightly tug the wire to confirm it is firmly gripped by the Terminal Strip. A legend is printed on the circuit board with the name of each terminal strip wire hole from left to right. Attach each wire to the correct terminal strip hole. Extend wire if needed (see Adding Extra Wire topic on page 1.) Black is “-”, Red is “+”.



T3Plus-Switch (8-hole terminal strip): [GND] [VOL] [+Coil-3[-] [+Coil-2[-] [+Coil-1[-]

Connect your **NECK** pickup coil to

[+]Coil-3[-] connections on the green terminal strip

Connect your **MIDDLE** pickup coil to

[+]Coil-2[-] connections on the green terminal strip

Connect your **BRIDGE** pickup coil to

[+]Coil-1[-] connections on the green terminal strip

A4. Removing Body Cavity Wood

A small amount of body cavity wood needs to be removed using a 1/2" wood chisel and hammer. Here is where the wood needs to be removed. The red mark on the body cavity identifies approximately where the wood needs to be removed.



Using a hammer and wood chisel, carefully remove the identified area. These pictures show the body cavity wood being removed.

The result of removing this body cavity wood should permit your upgrade to lay down flat on your guitar. If not, remove the extra wood so the upgrade lays flat on your guitar.

Also make sure that your bridge ground wire and output jack wires are not interfering with the upgrade preventing it from laying flat.

A5. Attaching The Upgrade

After confirming that your upgrade will lay flat, follow these steps.

Strip about 3/8" insulation from both wires of your instrument output jack and also your bridge ground wire. Twist the stranded wires so they are tightly bound.

Connect your output jack ground wire to both the upgrade marked black wire and your bridge ground wire. Twist all three wires in a clockwise direction to be tightly bound. If needed, add extra wire described on page 1.

Attach an included grey wire nut to these three wires by pressing it onto the wires and twisting it in a clockwise direction until the grey wire nut is firmly on and securing the wires.

Connect your output jack signal wire to the upgrade marked red wire. Twist these wires in a clockwise direction to be tightly bound.

Attach an included grey wire nut to these two wires by pressing it onto the wires and twisting it in a clockwise direction until the grey wire nut is firmly on and securing the wires.

A6. T3Plus-Switch Identification and Use

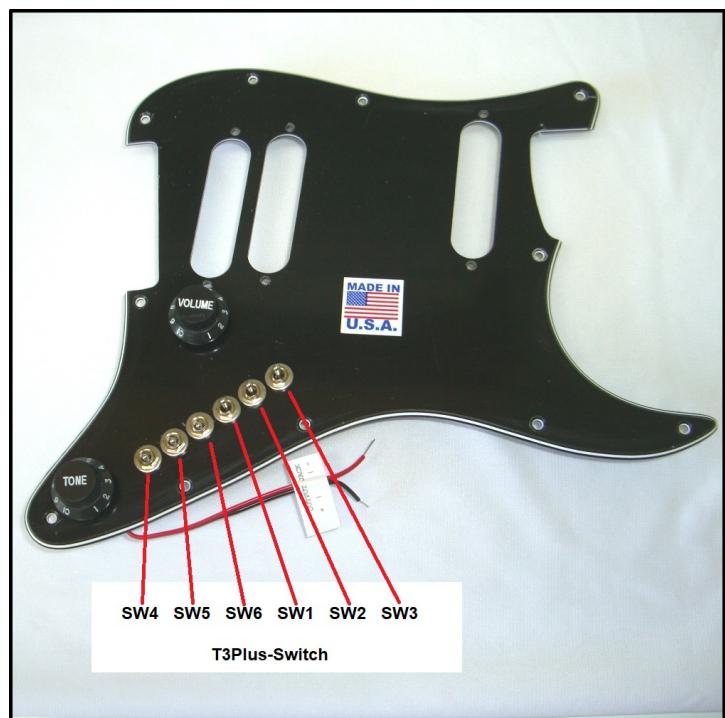
The T3Plus-Switch contains six mini-toggle switches (*from rear-to-front*): (SW4, SW5, SW6, SW1, SW2, SW3).

You get 35 pickup tones with this upgrade.

The *T3Plus Switch* document will let you “map” the pickup tones you get from the T3Plus-Switch and identify what each tone sounds like to you. You can download this worksheet from our website Document Library.

A7. Validating

Before installing the pickguard mounting screws, connect your instrument to an amplified source with the volume set to low. Turn the switches on and off as described below while gently tapping the magnet of the pickup coil that should be “on” with a small screwdriver to confirm pickup response. Also confirm the correct operation of the Volume and Tone controls.



If you receive the stated results, button everything up. This product will produce a wide spectrum of unique pickup sounds that you cannot get from your stock instrument.

A8. T3Plus-Switch Product Identification and Use Summary

Here is a summary of switch use for this product.

SW1, SW2 and SW3 are ON-OFF-ON switches that turn On individual pickups in normal or reverse phase
SW4, SW5 and SW6 are ON-ON switches that change select pickups from Parallel to Series connectivity

SW1 turns on the bridge pickup, either in normal phase (down), or reverse phase (up). Center is off.
SW2 turns on the middle pickup, either in normal phase (down), or reverse phase (up). Center is off.
SW3 turns on the neck pickup, either in normal phase (down), or reverse phase (up). Center is off.

When all of the following switches are down, the pickups will be in a Parallel circuit.

SW4 when this switch is up it puts the bridge and middle pickups in Series. Both pickups must be on.(1)
SW5 when this switch is up it puts the bridge and neck pickups in Series. Both pickups must be on.(1)
SW6 when this switch is up it puts the neck and middle pickups in Series. Both pickups must be on.(1)
SW4+SW6 when these switches are up, all three pickups are in Series. All three pickups must be on. In this instance, SW5 has no effect.

(1) The remaining non-series pickup may be either off -or-on (either in regular or reverse phase).

A9. T3Plus-Switch Positions For Original / Stock Pickup Tones

Your stock instrument's 5-way switch provided unique pickup combinations which are different than the standard 5-way switch. Here are the T3Plus-Switch combinations to get these "stock" tones.

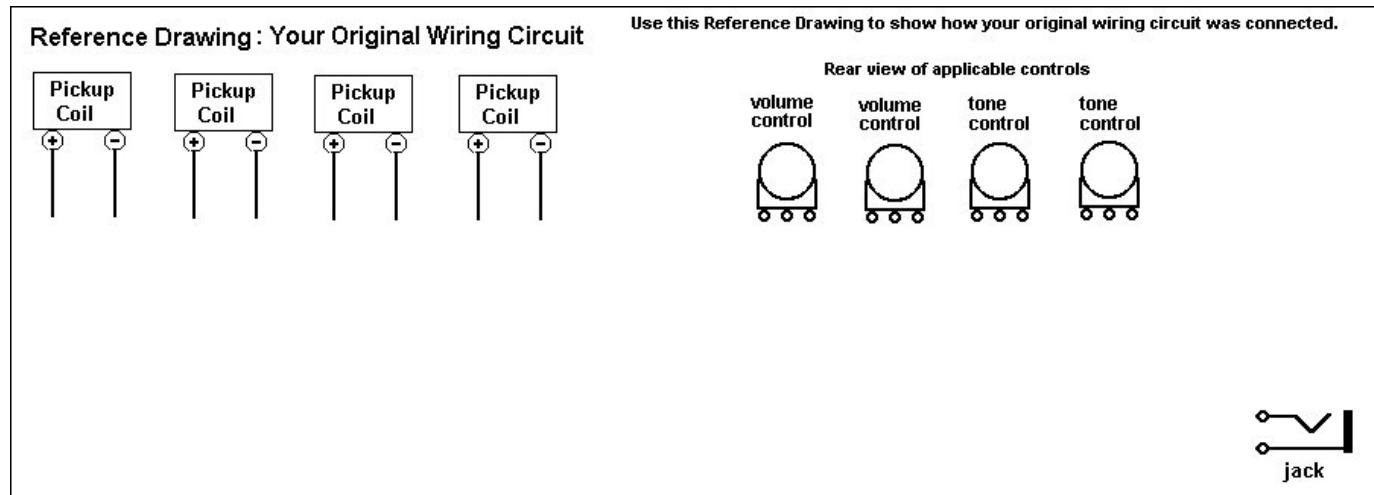
5-way switch

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Position 1: | SW4 up, SW1 down, SW2 down (Bridge and Middle in Series, hum cancelling) |
| Position 2: | SW2 down (Middle pickup on) |
| Position 3: | SW2 down, SW3 down (Middle and Neck in parallel) |
| Position 4: | SW1 down, SW2 down, SW3 down (Bridge, Middle and Neck) |
| Position 5: | SW3 down (Neck) |

T3Plus-Switch

B. ADDITIONAL SUPPORT ITEMS

B1. Reference Drawing



Use this drawing to document your instrument's original wiring. Add components as needed.