

5d. Stratocaster TBGB Installation

Revised: February 22, 2020

Before you start, **read these instructions first** to understand what you need to do to install this product.

Assumptions

This upgrade product is designed to “drop in” and give you both Treble Bleed and Greasebucket performance from your stock instrument that does not use push-pull controls. **Note:** We do not support *Active* (uses batteries) or *Pizeo* pickups.

Tools Needed

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

- Wire cutters / Wire strippers
- Regular pliers
- Small Phillips & straight slot screwdriver (a 4-way screwdriver can be used as a deep-well socket to remove switch mounting nuts)
- Ohmmeter to measure continuity
- Optional: rotary file and electric drill
- Optional: Soldering iron (25/30 watt max.) with fine tip, rosin-core solder .022” dia.

Preamble

Before you start, completely **remove all strings** from your instrument for easy access to its parts. The strings are probably already old and replacing them will make your instrument sound even more *brilliant* after you install this product.

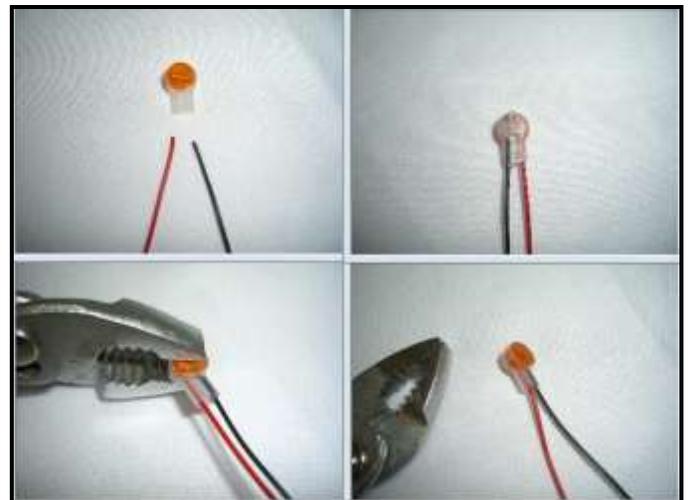
This upgrade will have you cutting existing wires on your instrument and connecting wires using our UY2 solderless connectors.

Because you will make changes to your instrument, you need to have a plan to install your product.

See the *Reference Drawing* on a later page of this document. Use a pencil to draw the original circuit of your instrument **before** proceeding. By recording where wires (and colors) were removed from your instrument, you have a way to restore it to its original condition should it become necessary. Since there is a large variation of pickup switch wiring that spans 50 years, you will need to draw your own pickup switch used in your original circuit

Making Wire Connections

Insert the **unstripped** end of each wire into the 2-wire UY2 **yellow/clear** connector so the wires are “bottomed” out in the connector.



Use pliers to squeeze the UY2 connector yellow top button so it is flush with the clear body to create a permanent electrical connection.

The 71B **grey wire nuts** are used to firmly connect this upgrade to your output jack wires.

STRATOCASTER TBGB UPGRADE

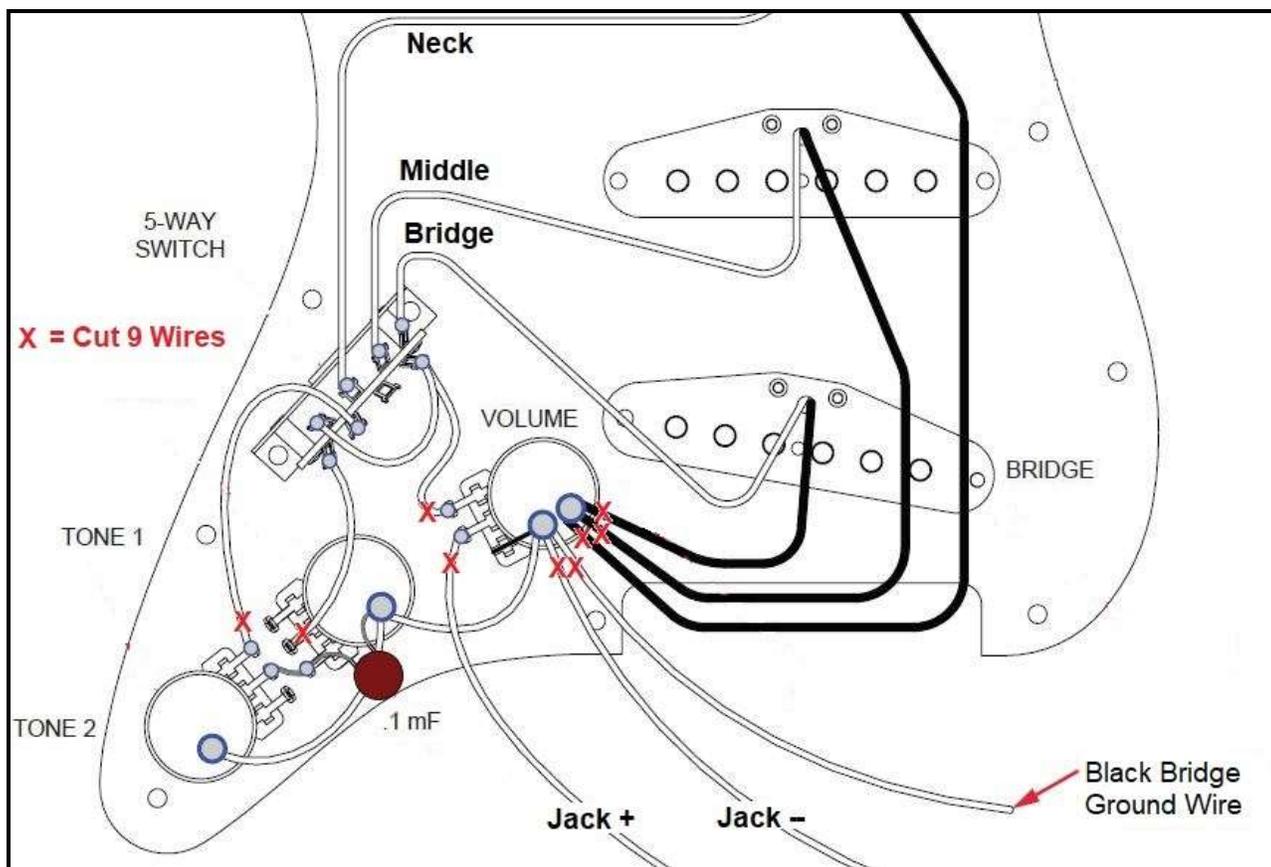
You have received an assembled and tested Stratocaster-TBGB Upgrade that is designed to install into a standard American Stratocaster pickguard. No soldering is needed to install this product. The following items are included in a Parts Bag.

- An AweSome Musical Instruments headstock decal to apply to your instrument
- Several business cards to pass out to friends
- 8 yellow/clear connectors (UY2) to make wire connections without soldering
- 2 grey wire nuts (71B) to connect this upgrade to your output jack wires

1. Removing Your Stock Volume-Tone Controls

1. Remove your strings. Remove your existing pickguard attaching screws and store them safely in a container or ziplock bag. Document your existing wiring (see *Preamble* on page 1) *before* you start.

The following illustration shows a typical stock Stratocaster wiring. It shows that there are 9 wires that you need to cut at the locations marked with an “X”.



2. Cut the **output jack** wires from your stock Volume-Tone controls (*i.e.*, *Jack + and Jack -*) at the locations marked with an “X”. The wires stay connected to the output jack.
3. Cut the three wires that come from 5-way pickup switch (at the location marked with an “X”) where they are connected to your stock Volume-Tone controls.

4. Cut the bridge ground wire at the location marked with an “X”.
5. Cut the three black pickup ground wires at the location marked with an “X”.
6. Remove your stock Volume-Tone control knobs. Remove the three mounting nuts and washers of the Volume-Tone controls, then completely remove your stock Volume-Tone controls. Store it and the attaching hardware in a ziplock bag.

2. Installing Your Strat-TBGB Upgrade

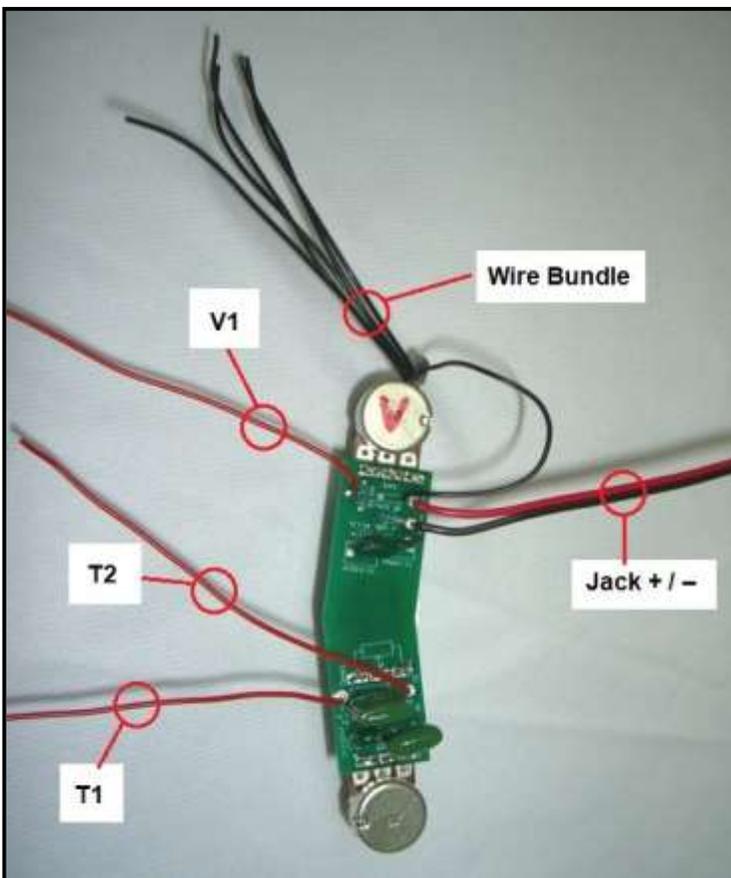
Insert the upgrade into the holes on the back side of your pickguard. The pot marked “Vol1” goes into the volume control hole. The upgrade pots have nuts that are pre-installed and adjusted at our production center for correct height. It should just “drop in” to the three holes.

While holding the upgrade to keep it from falling out of the holes, in turn - install a flat washer over each pot on the top side of the pickguard, followed by a mounting nut. Snugly tighten the three mounting nuts.

After rotating each pot’s shaft completely clockwise, re-attach the three control knobs noting the location of #10 mark on each control knob is in the correct position.

3. Connecting Your Wires

Use the following illustration to identify the wires that need to be connected using the UY2 connectors.



1. Insert the unstripped cut wire that was connected to your stock Volume control into a UY2 connector. Insert the V1 wire into the same UY2 connector. Connect the wires (see figure shown on page 1 under *Making Wire Connections*.)
2. Insert the wire that was connected to your Tone 1 control into a UY2 connector. Insert the T1 wire into the same UY2 connector. Connect the wires.
3. Insert the wire that was connected to your Tone 2 control into a UY2 connector. Insert the T2 wire into the same UY2 connector. Connect the wires.
4. Insert your neck pickup ground wire into a UY2 connector. Insert a black wire from the Wire Bundle into the same UY2 connector. Connect the wires.
5. Insert your middle pickup ground wire into a UY2 connector. Insert a black wire from the Wire Bundle into the same UY2 connector. Connect the wires.

6. Insert your bridge pickup ground wire into a UY2 connector. Insert a black wire from the Wire Bundle into the same UY2 connector. Connect the wires.
7. Insert your bridge ground wire into a UY2 connector. Insert a black wire from the Wire Bundle into the same UY2 connector. Connect the wires.
8. Strip ½” insulation from your output jack wires. Twist the wires in a clockwise direction onto the upgrade wires labeled “OUTPUT JACK”. The red wire goes to the hot lead (normally red) on the output jack and the black wire goes to the ground lead on the output jack. Use the two gray wire nuts (71B) to connect the wires labeled “OUTPUT JACK” your instrument **output jack**. You “screw on” the gray wire nuts by twisting them in a clockwise direction onto the wire pairs.

Your installation is now complete and gives you both Treble Bleed and Greasebucket functionality on your upgraded guitar.