• LA JOLLA •

Passive Model 3105

Stereo Soundhole & Transducer Pickup System

Magnetic & Piezo Pickups • Wired For Stereo Output
Easy Installation • Solderless Connections

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Dean Markley's La Jolla™ Passive™ is a true stereo pickup system. It includes both the Dean Markley Tahoe™ sound hole pickup and the Dean Markley Barstow™ Gold-Plated Under-The-Bridge-Saddle™ transducer pickup. This dual system allows tone benefits from each style of pickup. In this stereo arrangement, each pickup may be equalized separately for a fat, rich tone. The Tahoe™ sound hole magnetic pickup will produce excellent bass and mid-range response, while the transducer will provide you with more transparent mid-range and glassy highs. In the past, guitarists have "improvised" similar systems, but the La Jolla™ Passive™ is truly the first complete stereo unit with "voiced" and matched components.

Outstanding Features of La Jolla™ Passive™

- Tahoe™ magnetic sound hole pickup features individual string balance adjustment screws
- Qwik-Knx™ connector allows easy installation and removal of your Tahoe™
- Barstow™ Under-The-Bridge-Saddle™ transducer with mini-plug connector
- 24-K Gold-Plated End-Pin Jack™
- 6 Individual string sensors for independent string response
- Sensors mounted in 24-K Gold-plated steel casing, providing a level surface for balanced string volume
- Quick & easy, solderless, mini-plug connectors

Parts Enclosed

(1) Tahoe™ magnetic sound hole pickup with male Qwik-Knx™ connector
(1) Gold-Plated Barstow™ Under-The-Bridge-Saddle™ transducer with solderless mini-jack connection
(1) 24-K Gold-plated End-Pin Jack™ with female Qwik-Knx™ connector
(4) Stick-on flexible metal, cable ties with adhesive backing

Tools Needed

1/8" (3.175 mm) drill bit
3/16" (4.763 mm) tapered step bit
9/16" (14.288 mm) open-end wrench
#1 Phillips head screwdriver
3/32" (2.381 mm) Allen wrench
Piece of string – 16" (40.64 cm) length
15/32" (11.906 mm) tapered reamer (optional)
1/8" (3.175 mm) drill bit
Fine Tooth Metal File
Sandpaper, 120 grit

Installation Instructions

Most guitar players realize that the investment in their prized guitar deserves a professional installation of the La Jolla™ Passive™. Your full investment will be only a fraction more if you have your La Jolla™ Passive™ installed by someone who is experienced in pickup installation.

You can install the La Jolla™ Passive™ yourself if you have patience, care, and some knowledge of basic guitar mechanics. The La Jolla™ Passive™ has been uniquely designed for simple installation and requires no soldering for ordinary applications.

NOTICE: Installer assumes all responsibility for damage to the La Jolla™ or guitar components. Be certain you read and fully understand all instructions. Have a clear, clean workspace to do the installation. Use tools in strict accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and warnings. When in doubt, seek the advice of a qualified guitar specialist.

Read ALL directions thoroughly BEFORE starting installation!

Part I – Installing the Barstow™ Under-The-Bridge-Saddle™ Transducer

Before you get started, it is imperative that the bottom of your saddle slot is flat and uniform. If it is cut unevenly or warped, this may cause a string volume balance problem. It is recommended that if your slot is uneven, you take it to a professional technician to address the problem.

Start by removing all of the strings, one at a time. **Don't cut your strings off unless you loosen them first.** The resulting jolt that the neck takes if the strings are cut before loosening is not good for the neck.

Before removing the bridge saddle, take a sharp pencil and make a mark on the saddle all along where the saddle meets the bridge. Now remove the bridge saddle.

1. Correctly installed, each string should pass over the center of a string transducer. Keeping that in mind, correctly position the transducer by lining up the transducer with the string peg holes. On the bass side of the bridge saddle slot, a 1/8" hole must be drilled for the transducer wire to go through. Mark the spot in the saddle slot for the transducer wire's hole. Drill with 1/8" drill bit, using care to maintain a 90-degree angle from the top of the guitar. It is important that you drill straight so as to not widen the existing slot on either side. Remove any wood chips and foreign material from the saddle slot.

2. Insert pickup by pushing the male mini-jack down through the hole in the bridge saddle slot. The pickup should sit comfortably in the slot without binding on the sides or the ends of the pickup.

3. It will be necessary to "shave down" your saddle to compensate for the height of your new transducer pickup (approximately 1/16"). (Make sure the bottom of your saddle is completely flat to ensure maximum contact between saddle and pickup for even string volume.) A good method for shaving the bottom of the bridge saddle is to tape #120 grit sandpaper to a piece of glass. Lay the glass flat on the table, sandpaper side up. Place the base of the saddle straight up and down on the sandpaper and with side to side motion, lightly sand off the excess material that needs to be removed. Remove only a small amount. Then place the saddle into the bridge saddle slot, on top of the pickup. Push down and see how much material still needs to be removed from the bottom of the bridge saddle. Repeat this procedure a little at a time until the line you marked on the saddle evenly touches all along the bridge as it was before you installed the pickup. Take your time. Don't rush this.

4. Tape the bridge saddle to the bridge to hold the saddle and pickup in place.

Part II – Installing the Gold-Plated Stereo End-Pin Jack™

Important Note: If your guitar presently has a typical electrical End-Pin Jack™ in the end block, you may remove it and proceed to step 4 in Method Two.

Method One: [Preferred method] Done by hand; accurate but time consuming.

1. Remove the currently installed strap End-Pin.
2. With a 15/32" (11.906 mm) reamer, widen the hole size to 15/32" (11.906 mm). (Available from Stewart McDonald, 1-800-848-2273, part #4323.)
3. Proceed with Step 4 in Method Two.

Method Two: This method is much quicker and also works acceptably, but is not recommended for instruments with abalone or decorative veneers at the end block.

1. Remove the currently installed strap End-Pin.

2. Apply masking tape around exposed hole to protect the instrument's finish.

3. Using a sharp 3/16" (4.763 mm) tapered step bit, line up the End-Pin hole and begin drilling, keeping the step bit at a 90-degree angle to the guitar bottom. Use steady, even pressure. Allow the step bit to go all the way through the End-Pin block of the instrument, **ensuring the drill's chuck does not come in contact with the outside of the body of the guitar,** so that the diameter of the hole is a continuous 15/32"—all the way through. **Allow the drill bit to come to a complete stop before removing from guitar.** Remove any particles of wood that are left over.

4. Now the Gold-Plated End-Pin Jack™ is ready to be installed:

4A. Remove the strap holder, smaller hex nut, and small inner-diameter, flat, silver washer from the end of the jack.

4B. Move the larger (9/16" / 14.288 mm) hex nut, lock washer, and flat silver washer on the End-Pin Jack™ assembly as far as it will go towards the wired end of the jack.

4C. Insert the male mini-jack on the end of the Barstow™ transducer into the female connector in the Gold River™ Accelerator Jack™.

4D. Place the End-Pin Jack™ assembly inside the guitar and push through the end-pin hole. If this hole is difficult to reach, use a string threaded from the outside of the guitar and tie it to the End-Pin Jack™. Pull the string and jack through the hole.

4E. Screw the small inner-diameter, flat, silver washer and smaller hex-nut onto the smaller (in diameter) threads of the jack and tighten it firmly.

4F. Now is the time to tighten the nut on the inside of the guitar so the jack sets firmly in the end-pin hole. Hold the jack in place with the Allen wrench in the small hole at the outside end of the input jack. Tighten the nut with the (9/16" / 14.288 mm) open-end wrench (a little more than hand-tight - so it holds in place).

4G. Place strap holder over Gold River™ Accelerator Jack™ and tighten hand-tight.

Part III - Installing the Tahoe™ Sound hole Pickup

1. The Tahoe™ is now ready to be installed in the sound hole. Loosen the pickup clamps using #1 Phillips screwdriver. Attach the Qwik-Knx™ connector cable, which is attached to the End-Pin Jack, to the Tahoe™. **Make sure the green dot is facing you and the red dot faces the pickup. This will assure correct polarity.**

2. Place the pickup in the sound hole, moving it as close to the neck as possible and make sure that the pickup adjustment screws are centered with your strings.

3. Tighten screws until clamps start to grab. Be certain the pickup is secure so a jolt to the guitar or a bump to the case will not dislodge pickup. (This could easily scratch guitar if the assembly became loose.) So, during the life of the pickup, periodically check to make sure it is not loose in the sound hole due to vibration or weather changes.

4. Now is the time to determine if you need to install any of the flexible metal clips to keep any wires from rattling around in your guitar. If you find that the wire is rattling, put a clip on the wire. Then position a clip inside the guitar on the top or top corners where the wire will not rattle. Remover the protective adhesive backing from the clip and press into place.

5. Replace your strings with a new set and tune up. You're ready to go!!

Using Your La Jolla™ Passive™ Pickup System

To optimize the benefits of your La Jolla™ Passive™ two-way system, a stereo output cable must be utilized (available from your friends at Dean Markley). This Y-shaped cable has a 3-conductor, stereo 1/4" phono plug, which plugs into the guitar, and on the opposite end are two mono 1/4" phono plugs. These 1/4" phono plugs are usually color coded. One is black and the other is red. Learn which one is for each pickup, as it will save you time in the future. These mono connectors now may be plugged into two separate amplifier/PA channels. For each pickup, this will allow independent equalization or effects.

Once you're "all plugged in", you may now adjust each individual pickup's tone and volume. Start with the Barstow™ pickup volume set at zero, turn up the Tahoe™ magnetic pickup's volume so you can hear it. Then adjust the tone for room acoustics. Remember, the Tahoe™ pickup has a very fat mid-range and bass response; so adjust accordingly.

Now with the Tahoe™ pickup volume at zero, set the Barstow™ transducer's volume so you can hear it. Adjust the Barstow™ tone controls to what you like. The transducer's response provides greater treble and upper mid-range response.

Next turn both volumes to zero, then slowly bring up one of the pickup's volume to where you want it. Now, by adjusting the other pickup's volume, combine both pickup volumes for optimized tone to suit your guitar style and room acoustics.

Using this stereo system will allow infinite combinations of tones and sonic textures. For example, try a bit of chorus/delay on the Tahoe™ pickup and a hall reverb on the Barstow™. This is one of the most desired sounds sought after by solo acoustic guitarists. Let your imagination be your guide as the possibilities are endless.

Spectacular Sounds

The La Jolla™ Passive™ pickup system is one of the finest pickup systems in the world. You have a myriad of tonal variations at your fingertips.

Think of the possibilities:

Run a phase shifter on one pickup and chorus/delay on the other.
Hook up a stereo box that will sweep each channel back and forth across the stage.
Put a delay on one pickup and an octave box on the other. Pretty Wild!!

Try all the effects you can and all the speaker systems and amps you can. You're going to find some REALLY interesting sounds and effects. Oh yeah, get some sleep once in a while too!

Enjoy your new La Jolla! If you feel like it, drop us an email (Sharing@DeanMarkley.com) and share some of your setups that you have come across. We'll share them with other players.

Important Note

The La Jolla™ Passive™ pickup system may also be used with a normal, mono, guitar cable. In this mode, only the Tahoe™ pickup will be active. So always bring one or two stereo cables. (Just in case one goes bad, you've got another.)

See the complete line of pickups and accessories of the Dean Markley West Coast Series™ Acoustic Gear™ at your local Authorized Dealer, or on the **www.DeanMarkley.com** web site.

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The La Jolla™ Passive™ was designed and engineered by Dean Markley.