



Pickguard Assembly Installation Instructions

1. Remove the strings from your Strat.
2. Remove the two mounting screws from your output jack plate.
3. Turn the jack plate over to expose the output jacks connection terminals and wires attached. There should be two wires connected to the output jack, 1 black and 1 white. Make a note to where each colored wire is connected on the output jack before unsoldering.
4. Unsolder the two wires from the output jack and set the jack plate assembly aside.
5. Turn your Strat over and remove the 6 screws that fasten the back plate to the body, remove the back plate and set it aside.
6. Unsolder the ground wire from the tremolo claw. You will need a larger wattage soldering iron such as a 100 watt with a chisel tip to effectively unsolder this tremolo claw ground connection.
7. Turn your Strat back over to remove the pickguard assemblies mounting screws to gently lift up the pickguard assembly, if you have a body ground connection wire you will need to unscrew its fastening screw from the body and then remove the pickguard assembly and set it aside. You will need the original body ground solder lug to transfer it over to your new pickguard assembly, so unsolder it from the wire for use later.
8. Get your new pickguard assembly, place it upside down on your work area on a soft surface such as a towel. You will see a small coil of wires, unwrap these wires, you will see 1 white wire (some models will have 1 red wire instead of a white) and you will also see 2 or 3 black (ground) wires, you will have 3 if you selected YES for the Body Ground option. Each of these wires are provided in lengths of 15" which is more than what you'll need, so adjust (cut) each wire length to what you feel comfortable working with.
9. To protect your Strat's painted finish place a soft towel on its surface and then place your new pickguard assembly upside down on your body to position its connection wires close to where the wires will pass through the small pass-through holes to the jack plate routing. Take the white wire (red if you have red) and 1 black wire and insert them both through the small hole that goes from the control cavity into the jack plate routing and pull through to expose them both up through the jack plate body routing.
10. You can trim the two output jack wires to a length you feel comfortable working with but making sure you have enough length to work with for connecting to the output jack. Strip back about ¼" of insulation from each of these wires and twist firm each stripped section. Get your jack plate assembly and place it upside down near the jack plate routing on the body in order to solder the two wires to the output jack. Reference your notes taken previously as to where each wire connects, but below we'll provide an illustration of an output jack showing which connector is ground and which is the audio.
11. Now that you have your output jack soldered in place, carefully position it over the bodies jack plate routing gently sliding any excess wires back through the pass-through hole into the control cavity to prevent any excess wire from bunching up in the jack plate routing or causing conflict with the jack and cord/plug when inserted. Now that your jack plate is sitting down in the body install its two mounting screws.
12. If you selected YES for the body ground connection locate your original body ground lug and solder it to the end of one of your new pickguard assemblies black ground wires, you can cut this ground wire to a length you feel comfortable with, there is no need to have a lot of it bunched up under the pickguard assembly, go ahead and screw it down in place where it was originally fastened.
13. With your last black ground wire, push it through the bodies pass-through hole that is located in the control cavity next to the bridge pickup routing, this will feed the tremolo claw ground wire through to the back side of the Strat, pull this ground wire through to the back.
14. Flip your pickguard assembly right side up and position it in place ready for mounting. Make sure all of your connection wires are tucked well inside the control cavity and are not caught underneath the pickguard and sandwiched in-between the pickguard and body preventing the pickguard from sitting down flush with the body, make sure it sits flat before proceeding. You can now install the pickguard mounting screws.
15. Once you have the pickguard assembly fastened in place, turn your Strat over to expose the tremolo spring cavity and the black ground wire you pushed through earlier. You should have more than enough length of this ground wire, trim to a length you feel is good to make the connection but not pulling it tight, it is a good idea to push a small amount of this wire back through the pass-through hole to allow some slack if you need to remove the pickguard assembly and flip it over for any work in the future.
16. Take this black tremolo claw ground wire and cut to length and strip about ¼" of bare wire on the end, twist the exposed bare wire tight and pre-tin with solder. To make this tremolo claw ground connection you will need a good hot soldering iron such as a 100 watt chisel tipped iron. **This is a Very Important and REQUIRED ground connection for your Strat** and if you don't achieve a solid connection here you will greatly increase your chances of a poor ground and increased hum, so make sure you get an excellent solder connection to this ground wire to the tremolo claw. Once soldered in place adjust and position the wire to make sure it does not bind or interfere with the springs or movement of the bridge.
17. Reinstall your tremolo cover plate and your installation is complete.

