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Subject: Talk me out of this?

Posted by [Bill L](#) on Thu, 27 Mar 2008 18:22:09 GMT

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I have a sweet cherry Ibanez Artist "335 style" semi hollow electric. I think this is the best electric guitar I have ever owned. But when I play R&B/funk gigs I really have to use my (also sweet) custom strat. It's no hardship, but I would always prefer to play the Ibanez if possible.

So I got this crazy idea about sticking a single coil in between the humbuckers. Anyone tried this? I've certainly played guitars with this config and from my experience, while it will not replace a Strat, it is useful for getting some lighter tones.

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Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?

Posted by [dc\[3\]](#) on Thu, 27 Mar 2008 20:32:24 GMT

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Here's what you do:

Get a set of these:

<http://www.wcrguitar.com/crossroads.html>

and order them with the 4-conductor wiring. Then, wire the guitar to split the coils on both pickups. You can use a switch to do this, or you can use pull pots in the 2 volume positions.

These are some of the best PU's out there and they split nicely. You get a big tone improvement over the stock PU's, and more of a stratty sound with them split.

Call Jim at WCR if you have any questions. He is a great guy and makes amazing pickups.

DC

Bill L <[bill@billlorentzen.com](mailto:bill@billlorentzen.com)> wrote:

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>think this is the best electric guitar I have ever owned. But when I

>play R&B/funk gigs I really have to use my (also sweet) custom strat.

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>useful for getting some lighter tones.

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Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?

Posted by [Bill L](#) on Thu, 27 Mar 2008 20:48:12 GMT

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I do worry about the pain of "router regret"...

Problem is I've tried splitting coils and it has never worked worth a damn. It gives a weak, insipid sound, IMHO.

Maybe i need a Roland VG 99.

Neil wrote:

> Bill L <[bill@billlorentzen.com](mailto:bill@billlorentzen.com)> wrote:

>

>> I think this is the best electric guitar I have ever owned.

>

> There, you just talked yourself out of it. All the more reason  
> not to mutilate something you feel so strongly about.

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> I would do what Don suggested & get some coil-split  
> humbuckers... still not gonna be exactly a Strat sound, but  
> it'll get you an approximation of it & allow you to not  
> have to experience "router regret" later.

>

> Neil

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Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?

Posted by [neil\[1\]](#) on Thu, 27 Mar 2008 21:50:50 GMT

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Bill L <[bill@billlorentzen.com](mailto:bill@billlorentzen.com)> wrote:

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have to experience "router regret" later.

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Neil

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Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?  
Posted by [dc\[3\]](#) on Thu, 27 Mar 2008 21:57:51 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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"Neil" <IOUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:  
>allow you to not  
>have to experience "router regret" later.  
>  
>Neil

Hah! I received a lifetime achievement award from the Dremel Corp. for this very thing!

DC

---

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Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?  
Posted by [dc\[3\]](#) on Thu, 27 Mar 2008 22:12:22 GMT  
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Try a WCR... Call Jim and tell him of your concerns. He'll be straight with you. He told me that these split very well.

DC

Bill L <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote:  
>I do worry about the pain of "router regret"..  
>  
>Problem is I've tried splitting coils and it has never worked worth a  
>damn. It gives a weak, insipid sound, IMHO.  
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>> Neil

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Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?  
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Thu, 27 Mar 2008 22:14:40 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Bill L wrote:

> I do worry about the pain of "router regret"...  
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> Problem is I've tried splitting coils and it has never worked worth a  
> damn. It gives a weak, insipid sound, IMHO.

You could wire 'em like a PRS for a useful range of tones that would cover your gigs.

> Maybe i need a Roland VG 99.

You know you want it. :^) Let us know what you think when you get one!

Cheers,  
-Jamie  
[www.JamieKrutz.com](http://www.JamieKrutz.com)

> Neil wrote:  
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>> Neil

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Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?

Posted by [Mark McDermott](#) on Thu, 27 Mar 2008 23:25:16 GMT

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Ever considered mounting a single coil adapter?

Here's one source: [http://www.guitarpartsresource.com/covers\\_adapters.htm](http://www.guitarpartsresource.com/covers_adapters.htm)

I bought a brand spankin' new 1973 Strat when I was 12 and proceeded to mutilate the body for many years trying various combos of humbuckers, etc. I actually split the back of the body while chiseling (at 12, I didn't realize what a bad idea it was) and had to glue and fill to get it back together. Strangely, the only original part left on that guitar today IS the body. I eventually installed the EMG David Gilmour pickup assembly and it is now one of the best sounding strats I've ever heard.

Router bad, adapter good.

My \$ .02!

Bill L <[bill@billlorentzen.com](mailto:bill@billlorentzen.com)> wrote:

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>> Neil

---

Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?

Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Fri, 28 Mar 2008 00:10:37 GMT

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why wouldn't you just phase tap your existing pickups in the lby? If you replace the volume pot with a push/pull you can tap 'em on demand and not drill up your gtr... 100% reversible customization.

AA

"Bill L" <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote in message news:47ebe8ac\$1@linux...  
>I have a sweet cherry Ibanez Artist "335 style" semi hollow electric. I  
>think this is the best electric guitar I have ever owned. But when I play  
>R&B/funk gigs I really have to use my (also sweet) custom strat. It's no  
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> humbuckers. Anyone tried this? I've certainly played guitars with this  
> config and from my experience, while it will not replace a Strat, it is  
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---

Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?

Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Fri, 28 Mar 2008 00:26:22 GMT

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You might be able to get the strat thing by installing a phase wire switch (again, use a push/pull pot here) and then blend the 2 pickups together, assuming they each have a volume knob. If not, you could rewire/tap/switch in some manor, or if you're really feeling industrious you could even buy/build some electronic circuits to do what you need, on demand. I'm not sure I'm being clear enough due to text limitations, let me know if that's the case.

AA

"Bill L" <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote in message news:47ec0ae2@linux...  
>I do worry about the pain of "router regret"...  
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>> Neil

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Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?  
Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Fri, 28 Mar 2008 01:05:16 GMT  
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I have a PRS for which I came up with a trick circuit for pickups with all four conductors available - mine are made by Tom Holmes. I have a regular 3 position PU selector and a 4 pole/double throw mini switch. W/ the mini switch in one position I have a normal 2 humbucking guitar. Flip the switch and the treble position becomes the outside coils in series, the bass position becomes the inside coils in parallel (PRS calls this "Parallel Strat") and the middle position combines those two hybrid pickups. The series outside sound is my all time favorite - it has the power of a humbucking PU w/ the bright, round sound of both pickups. If you're interested I'll find my scan of the schematic and post it. I'd probably suggest having an experienced guitar tech do the wiring because it can be a pain getting the wires straight so it works as I described.

Gantt

Jamie K <[Meta@Dimensional.com](mailto:Meta@Dimensional.com)> wrote:

>You could wire 'em like a PRS for a useful range of tones that would  
>cover your gigs.

>Cheers,  
> -Jamie  
> [www.JamieKruz.com](http://www.JamieKruz.com)

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Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?  
Posted by [Neil](#) on Fri, 28 Mar 2008 02:14:57 GMT  
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Or, just buy one of these...

<http://www.guitarcenter.com/Gibson-Custom-Shop-Alvin-Lee--Bi-g-Red--ES-335-Electric-Guitar-517310-i1149282.gc>

LOL! Strat p'up built right in, baby! :D

Neil

"Aaron Allen" <know-spam@not\_here.dude> wrote:

>You might be able to get the strat thing by installing a phase wire switch

>(again, use a push/pull pot here) and then blend the 2 pickups together,

>assuming they each have a volume knob. If not, you could rewire/tap/switch

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>"Bill L" <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote in message news:47ec0ae2@linux...

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>>>> humbuckers... still not gonna be exactly a Strat sound, but

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>>>> have to experience "router regret" later.

>>>>

>>>> Neil

>



>

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Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?  
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Fri, 28 Mar 2008 05:33:10 GMT  
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Heck yeah Gantt, post your pickup schematic!

Thanks,  
-Jamie  
[www.JamieKruz.com](http://www.JamieKruz.com)

Gantt Kushner wrote:

> I have a PRS for which I came up with a trick circuit for pickups with all  
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> of the schematic and post it. I'd probably suggest having an experienced  
> guitar tech do the wiring because it can be a pain getting the wires straight  
> so it works as I described.

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> Gantt

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> Jamie K <[Meta@Dimensional.com](mailto:Meta@Dimensional.com)> wrote:

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>> [www.JamieKruz.com](http://www.JamieKruz.com)

>

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Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?  
Posted by [TCB](#) on Fri, 28 Mar 2008 16:45:31 GMT  
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Carry two guitars, Bill. I always do. It's easy to switch between songs for the right sound and as a bonus you'll have backup if you break a string.

I carry two guitars and two small amps to every gig for just this reason, I'd have to have more than one amp and one guitar blow up for there to be a problem. My back is a little more sore but I don't worry about hardware failures.

Interestingly I only carry one computer go a gig. Guess that shows what I'm confident I can keep running, eh?

TCB

Bill L <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote:

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>think this is the best electric guitar I have ever owned. But when I

>play R&B/funk gigs I really have to use my (also sweet) custom strat.

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>useful for getting some lighter tones.

---

Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?

Posted by [Bill L](#) on Fri, 28 Mar 2008 20:17:41 GMT

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How does the PRS wiring work?

Jamie K wrote:

> Bill L wrote:

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> cover your gigs.

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>> Maybe i need a Roland VG 99.

>

> You know you want it. :^) Let us know what you think when you get one!

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>>> Neil

---

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Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?  
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Fri, 28 Mar 2008 20:20:26 GMT  
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---

I'm very interested. Do you know if the PRS pickups have any unique characteristics that make this system work?

Gantt Kushner wrote:

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>

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Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?  
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Fri, 28 Mar 2008 20:25:45 GMT  
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Is there a way I could do that? Or do I need a tech to open them up?

Aaron Allen wrote:

> why wouldn't you just phase tap your existing pickups in the lby? If you  
> replace the volume pot with a push/pull you can tap 'em on demand and not  
> drill up your grt... 100% reversible customization.

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> AA

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>

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Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?  
Posted by [TCB](#) on Fri, 28 Mar 2008 22:29:24 GMT  
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It's still going to sound like a split coil humbucker on a carved top solid maple/mahogany body with a shorter scale set neck, which is closer to a strat but it's still not a strat. I like technology as much as the next guy but either you use it like Leo made it or you don't get the sound. You can get closer, but if you put a big fat 'bucker on the neck pickup of your Tele will it sound like a Les Paul?

It might be good enough for government work but there's a lot more to making a strat sound like a strat than the pickup wiring.

TCB

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>>> www.JamieKruz.com

>>

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Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?

Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Fri, 28 Mar 2008 22:37:42 GMT

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Bill L wrote:

> How does the PRS wiring work?

Googling...

[http://www.stewmac.com/freeinfo/Electronics/Wiring\\_diagrams/i-0207.html](http://www.stewmac.com/freeinfo/Electronics/Wiring_diagrams/i-0207.html)

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>>>> Neil

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Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?

Posted by [Bill L](#) on Fri, 28 Mar 2008 22:44:59 GMT

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Thad, I couldn't agree more with your points, but in the real world I just don't want to bring 2 guitars AND i want to comp with a lighter sound, and then have my big fat neck position tone for soloing. Plus the 335 plays so nice and comfortably nothing else compares. I'm looking for some kind of compromise.

I was looking at some EMGs that "are both single coil and dual coil pickups".

<http://www.emginc.com/displayproducts.asp?section=Guitar& ;categoryid=6&catalogid=6>

I wonder how they work? I would think active electronics would be a good way to accomplish a dual sound, if there is a way at all. I use EMGs on my strat and I'm satisfied with them.

TCB wrote:

> It's still going to sound like a split coil humbucker on a carved top solid  
> maple/mahogany body with a shorter scale set neck, which is closer to a strat  
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>>>> www.JamieKruz.com  
>

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Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?  
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Sat, 29 Mar 2008 00:17:09 GMT  
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---

depends on the pickup and how it's built but yes you can do that. Most the  
double coil types fall under the following categories that I've seen:

Wax wrapped with tape.

Potted

Encased in a metal closure

If you can open it w/o destroying the pickup, your chances are pretty good  
IMO. Most the time a humbucker is nothing more than 2 single coils mounted  
either side by side or on top of each other. All you need to do to tap them  
is put a on/off switch on the wire from coil to coil that shunts to ground.  
Typically, I've seen manu's use a post on the plate of the pickup to join  
the 2 coils. Just tap a solder point to the switch/ground mech and you're  
there.

AA

"Bill L" <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote in message news:47ed5720\$1@linux...

> Is there a way I could do that? Or do I need a tech to open them up?

>

> Aaron Allen wrote:

>> why wouldn't you just phase tap your existing pickups in the lby? If you

>> replace the volume pot with a push/pull you can tap 'em on demand and not



>> drill up your gtr... 100% reversible customization.  
>>  
>> AA  
>>  
>>  
>> "Bill L" <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote in message  
>> news:47ebe8ac\$1@linux...  
>>> I have a sweet cherry Ibanez Artist "335 style" semi hollow electric. I  
>>> think this is the best electric guitar I have ever owned. But when I  
>>> play R&B/funk gigs I really have to use my (also sweet) custom strat.  
>>> It's no hardship, but I would always prefer to play the Ibanez if  
>>> possible.  
>>>  
>>> So I got this crazy idea about sticking a single coil in between the  
>>> humbuckers. Anyone tried this? I've certainly played guitars with this  
>>> config and from my experience, while it will not replace a Strat, it is  
>>> useful for getting some lighter tones.  
>>

---

---

Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?  
Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Sat, 29 Mar 2008 00:51:29 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

My circuit doesn't use any single coil split. It has a couple of humbucking combinations of coils that standard 2 PU wiring doesn't get.

Gantt

"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

>  
>It's still going to sound like a split coil humbucker on a carved top solid  
>maple/mahogany body with a shorter scale set neck, which is closer to a  
>strat  
>but it's still not a strat. I like technology as much as the next guy but  
>either you use it like Leo made it or you don't get the sound. You can get  
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>will it sound like a Les Paul?  
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>It might be good enough for government work but there's a lot more to making  
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>Bill L <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote:  
>>I'm very interested. Do you know if the PRS pickups have any unique  
>>characteristics that make this system work?  
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>>Gantt Kushner wrote:  
>>> I have a PRS for which I came up with a trick circuit for pickups with  
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>>> four conductors available - mine are made by Tom Holmes. I have a regular  
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>>> switch in one position I have a normal 2 humbucking guitar. Flip the  
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>>> and the treble position becomes the outside coils in series, the bass  
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>>> bright, round sound of both pickups. If you're interested I'll find  
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>>> Jamie K <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote:  
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>>>> You could wire 'em like a PRS for a useful range of tones that would  
>  
>>>> cover your gigs.  
>>>  
>>>> Cheers,  
>>>> -Jamie  
>>>> www.JamieKruz.com  
>>>  
>

---

Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?  
Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Sat, 29 Mar 2008 01:04:03 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

It's too big to attach. Here's a link:

[http://i271.photobucket.com/albums/jj139/ganttmann/GanttsGui tar1.jpg](http://i271.photobucket.com/albums/jj139/ganttmann/GanttsGui%20tar1.jpg)

I hope this works!

Jamie K <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote:

>

>Heck yeah Gantt, post your pickup schematic!

>

>Thanks,

> -Jamie

> www.JamieKruz.com

>

>

>Gantt Kushner wrote:

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>> four conductors available - mine are made by Tom Holmes. I have a regular

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---

Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?

Posted by [Bill L](#) on Sat, 29 Mar 2008 13:24:15 GMT

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---

Thanks, Gantt.

It's been years since played a PRS .I will go into a store and play one to get an idea of what the extra sounds are like.

Gantt Kushner wrote:

> It's too big to attach. Here's a link:

>

> [http://i271.photobucket.com/albums/jj139/ganttmann/GanttsGui tar1 .jpg](http://i271.photobucket.com/albums/jj139/ganttmann/GanttsGui%20tar1.jpg)

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>> [www.JamieKruz.com](http://www.JamieKruz.com)

>>

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>

---

---

Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?  
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Sat, 29 Mar 2008 13:26:02 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Nice! Thanks!

Jamie K wrote:

> Bill L wrote:

>> How does the PRS wiring work?

>

> Googling...

>

> [http://www.stewmac.com/freeinfo/Electronics/Wiring\\_diagrams/i-0207.html](http://www.stewmac.com/freeinfo/Electronics/Wiring_diagrams/i-0207.html)

>

> Cheers,

> -Jamie

> www.JamieKrutz.com

>

>

>

>> Jamie K wrote:

>>> Bill L wrote:

>>>> I do worry about the pain of "router regret"...

>>>>

>>>> Problem is I've tried splitting coils and it has never worked worth

>>>> a damn. It gives a weak, insipid sound, IMHO.

>>>

>>> You could wire 'em like a PRS for a useful range of tones that would

>>> cover your gigs.

>>>

>>>

>>>> Maybe i need a Roland VG 99.

>>>

>>> You know you want it. :^) Let us know what you think when you get one!

>>>

>>> Cheers,

>>> -Jamie

>>> www.JamieKrutz.com

>>>

>>>

>>>

>>>> Neil wrote:

>>>> Bill L <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote:  
>>>>  
>>>>> I think this is the best electric guitar I have ever owned.  
>>>>  
>>>>> There, you just talked yourself out of it. All the more reason  
>>>>> not to mutilate something you feel so strongly about.  
>>>>  
>>>>> I would do what Don suggested & get some coil-split  
>>>>> humbuckers... still not gonna be exactly a Strat sound, but  
>>>>> it'll get you an approximation of it & allow you to not  
>>>>> have to experience "router regret" later.  
>>>>  
>>>>> Neil

---

---

Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?

Posted by [Bill L](#) on Sat, 29 Mar 2008 13:41:13 GMT

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---

I just reread your original post and I have a couple more questions:

1. Do you have the 5 position rotary switch on your PRS, or are you using a 3 position toggle?
2. Can you describe the sounds you get with this rig, and what the advantages are over the regular PRS 5 position switching?

This looks like a pretty cool option, and I could do it without any drilling or routing, just using the bridge pickup tone control hole for the mini toggle. I never use that one anyway.

Gantt Kushner wrote:

> I have a PRS for which I came up with a trick circuit for pickups with all  
> four conductors available - mine are made by Tom Holmes. I have a regular  
> 3 position PU selector and a 4 pole/double throw mini switch. W/ the mini  
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>> www.JamieKruz.com  
>

---

---

Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?  
Posted by [TCB](#) on Sun, 30 Mar 2008 16:16:12 GMT  
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---

I'm also not a big fan of EMGs, but they do have some options for more strat-like sounds.

I agree it's annoying to carry two guitars but I'm happy to deal with it for the reasons I mentioned.

One of the reasons I'm such a luddite re: guitars is that I think Leo Fender was a stone cold genius. How many other pieces of electric music technology remain essentially unimproved after 50 years? The only thing about my '62 reissue strat that is different than the original is that I put super jumbo fretwire on it and bent the trem bar. It has slightly overwound pickups. I remember Lindy Fralin once in an interview talking about overwinding and he said something like, 'You don't want to do it too much, Leo got it pretty much right the first time.'

Anywho, good luck, and I'd certainly do the split buckers over cutting a hole in the top of the 335.

TCB

Bill L <[bill@billlorentzen.com](mailto:bill@billlorentzen.com)> wrote:

>Thad, I couldn't agree more with your points, but in the real world I  
>just don't want to bring 2 guitars AND i want to comp with a lighter  
>sound, and then have my big fat neck position tone for soloing. Plus the

>335 plays so nice and comfortably nothing else compares. I'm looking for

>some kind of compromise.

>

>I was looking at some EMGs that "are both single coil and dual coil  
>pickups".

>

> <http://www.emginc.com/displayproducts.asp?section=Guitar& ;categoryid=6&catalogid=6>

>

>I wonder how they work? I would think active electronics would be a good

>way to accomplish a dual sound, if there is a way at all. I use EMGs on  
>my strat and I'm satisfied with them.  
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>TCB wrote:  
>> It's still going to sound like a split coil humbucker on a carved top  
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>>>>> www.JamieKruz.com

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---

Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?

Posted by [Bill L](#) on Mon, 31 Mar 2008 04:15:40 GMT

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---

Yeah, Les Paul was no slouch either!

I went and played a PRS today to get a feel for what their system does, and it actually sounds pretty good. I think they use some pretty hot pickups (this was one of their original style guitars), so the split prolly works better than it would on a weaker pup. Anyway someone posted a link to a store that sells the PRS wiring harness. That's the way I'm going.

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>>>>> www.JamieKruz.com  
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---

---

Subject: Re: Talk me out of this?  
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Mon, 31 Mar 2008 06:01:06 GMT  
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---

Bill L wrote:

> Yeah, Les Paul was no slouch either!  
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> I went and played a PRS today to get a feel for what their system does,  
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> proly works better than it would on a weaker pup. Anyway someone posted  
> a link to a store that sells the PRS wiring harness. That's the way I'm  
> going.

Glad you found it useful Bill, let us know how it works out on your axe.

Cheers,  
-Jamie  
www.JamieKruz.com

> TCB wrote:  
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