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Subject: OT - EMG 89 pickup report  
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Wed, 10 Dec 2008 15:49:56 GMT  
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A few months ago I posted asking my friends to talk me out of adding a single coil pickup to my Ibanez Artist semi-hollow electric (335-style). I withdrew from that path of no return and installed EMG 89s. They are a humbucker case with both a complete humbucker and a complete single coil inside, side by side.

While I lost the predominance of gritty high mids that worked for some sounds, but were a problem with others (and which I can get back easily with tone controls), I have gained a lot of new sounds which are hugely advantageous and make the guitar a true Gigmaster. I can use it for jazz, rock and spanking R&B and everything in between.

It does not sound like a Strat, mind you; it doesn't have the je ne sais quoi - dare I call it "deadness" - of a real Strat but it does give sweet single coil sounds that fit really well in music on which I would normally use my strat. An interesting unexpected benefit is how I love the single coil neck position for straight ahead jazz tone.

Check 'em out!

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Subject: Re: OT - EMG 89 pickup report  
Posted by [lance](#) on Wed, 10 Dec 2008 18:34:35 GMT  
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Hi Bill,

I had a Gibson 1964 ES-330 with P90s given to me about a year and a half ago.

I love the single coil sound on this guitar.

I can't believe how good it sounds direct and with the Mike Audit's Paris Amp plug.

Rock on,

Lance Reichert

"Bill L" <[bill@billlorentzen.com](mailto:bill@billlorentzen.com)> wrote in message [news:493fe8f0\\$1@linux...](news:493fe8f0$1@linux...)

>A few months ago I posted asking my friends to talk me out of adding a  
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Subject: Re: OT - EMG 89 pickup report  
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 11:51:14 GMT  
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P90s do sound really nice. I used to have a Les Paul Junior(?), AKA "TV model", back in the '70s. A little fatter than Strats, IIRC.

lance wrote:

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Subject: Re: OT - EMG 89 pickup report  
Posted by [xpam\\_mark](#) on Fri, 12 Dec 2008 22:11:32 GMT  
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Bill,

EYE----LLLLLLOOOOOVVVVVVEEEEEEE EMG's. There are only a few passives that I wish for and I do have them (the Bill Lawrence L500 being 3 of them). I've got a set of original SA's in a strat I built 22 years ago. Rod Lincoln will probably remember seeing this guitar as I had just finished it when he and I did a little touring together. I haven't touched the guitar since the day I put it together. These SA's have seen action every day with rare exception for 22 years and they still blow me and everybody else away.

W. Mark Wilson

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Subject: Re: OT - EMG 89 pickup report  
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Sat, 13 Dec 2008 01:03:59 GMT  
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Hey Bill,

Thanks for the update, those look like cool pups. It's nice to be able to take a favorite axe and make it more versatile.

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

Bill L wrote:

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Subject: Re: OT - EMG 89 pickup report  
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Sat, 13 Dec 2008 17:28:40 GMT  
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Subject: Re: OT - EMG 89 pickup report

Posted by [xpam\\_mark](#) on Tue, 16 Dec 2008 04:16:56 GMT

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I have that same pot on mine Bill... "RPC" as I recall (sooooo long ago

now) and it does throw a rise on output that really drives any amp nicely, clean or dirty. Here's a tip on those SA's.... run them on 9V and they remain kinda compressed sounding. Put them on 18V and they thrash nicely. I simply cut my strat for 2 9V batts and added a series/parallel switch for 9V/18V. I also elected to have an on off for every pickup output as opposed to a 5-way switch. It gives me three extra positions: all on / all off / 1 & 3 only. The 1 and 3 only position with the RPC up full makes for some great pedal steel tones if you can vol-pedal and whammy emulate pedal steel vibrato.

Mark

"Bill L" <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote in message news:4943f487\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: OT - EMG 89 pickup report

Posted by [Bill L](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 2008 12:47:03 GMT

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What do you mean "thrash"? Is that more clean gain? I do like the idea of the 3 individual switches.

Actually I am running into a small problem with the 89s that they overdrive the compressor in the Tonelab. Even at the lowest setting, there is too much click on the attack. I'm finding I get the best tone with the volume knobs down to 3 or 4, which bugs me because all my life I have just put vols at 10. I guess I can learn some new tricks if I have to.

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Subject: Re: OT - EMG 89 pickup report

Posted by [xpam\\_mark](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 2008 17:41:12 GMT

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By thrash, I mean, dynamic range. On a 9V supply (the minimum op voltage) they tend to output a narrower dynamic range (eg, compression). On 18V, the range opens.

WMW

"Bill L" <[bill@billlorentzen.com](mailto:bill@billlorentzen.com)> wrote in message [news:4948f883\\$1@linux...](#)

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Subject: Re: OT - EMG 89 pickup report  
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Thu, 18 Dec 2008 23:48:55 GMT  
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Subject: Re: OT - EMG 89 pickup report  
Posted by [xpam\\_mark](#) on Fri, 19 Dec 2008 01:52:24 GMT  
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This information came straight from Overlend Corp techs (who at that time was EMG).

WMW

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Subject: Re: OT - EMG 89 pickup report  
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Sat, 20 Dec 2008 19:14:43 GMT  
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Subject: Re: OT - EMG 89 pickup report  
Posted by [kerryg](#) on Sun, 21 Dec 2008 00:20:08 GMT  
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Huh. That's Rick Turner's thing too - he runs his piezo systems at 18v because he says transients can take the full 9v and then some. Seems this confirms that.

- K

On 12/20/08 11:14 AM, in article 494d47d1\$1@linux, "Bill L" <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: OT - EMG 89 pickup report  
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Sun, 21 Dec 2008 14:41:03 GMT  
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AA

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Subject: Re: OT - EMG 89 pickup report  
Posted by [xpam\\_mark](#) on Mon, 22 Dec 2008 10:59:05 GMT  
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I think EMG prolly doesn't push the 2-batt thing because most guits aren't gonna be prep'd for two or have room for two even if prep'd for one battery. And they still work and sound good on 9V. Keep in mind and consider that even at 9V supply, even a single coil S or SA will output 3v pk to pk. I have mine setup to feed all 3 coils at once... voooom baby... lotsa meaty whumpass and the voltage to prove it. That's relatively freakin amazing consider how quiet they stay (single coils are notoriously noisy) even under dimmers and in front of CRT's.

Give a try Bill.... that 89 will kick ass on 9V and reak gorgeous havoc on 18V. Please note however, you wanna be careful about plugging in your guitar last when you cable's output end is already feeding something because there will be a moment during guitar plugin that your receiving device will see that 18v and the device may not hold up too many times under that transient.

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news:494e5922\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: OT - EMG 89 pickup report  
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Tue, 23 Dec 2008 21:52:34 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Subject: Re: OT - EMG 89 pickup report  
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Wed, 24 Dec 2008 00:03:38 GMT  
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Nah, skip the hammer. Stack these in a small tube (@ 3v each, that's 6 of them) until you get the 18v. spring load tube, connect to 9V socket, voila'. Someone probably already makes a socket/tube for them out there....

<http://www.atbatt.com/product/19926.asp>

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