

DiMarzio DP163 Bluesbucker™

Please Note—If you have no previous experience with wiring or feel uncertain how to proceed, we strongly recommend having a professional do the pickup installation. The expense should not be very great, and it will help ensure you have a properly functioning instrument.

IMPORTANT—Although the Bluesbucker™ is similar in appearance to other DiMarzio humbuckers, there are several important differences in wiring and mounting. Please read these instructions carefully before installing your new pickup.

General Instructions

If you have purchased our pickup to replace one that is currently in your guitar, do the following:

- Remove your old pickup carefully. Installing your new pickup will be much easier if you unsolder your original pickup cleanly, rather than cut its wires. Make a note of exactly where the old pickup was connected as, in most cases, the new one will go to the same place.
- Use a soldering iron with a fine tip (25 to 45 watts) and thin rosin core solder for all connections.
- If you intend to use a miniature switch with the pickup, try to be as clean as possible with the solder connections to avoid short circuits or damage to the switch. DiMarzio offers two Push/Pull Potentiometers, the EP1200PP (250K) and the EP1201PP (500K) with double-pole, double-throw miniature switches built in. The switches perform exactly like separate miniature switches, and we recommend them in situations where you do not want to drill extra holes in the face or pickguard of your instrument.

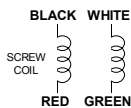
Bluesbucker™ Mounting Instructions

On most standard humbuckers, both coils are “hot”, meaning they both sense string vibrations. On the Bluesbucker™, only the coil with the six adjustable slotted polepieces is hot. Therefore, installation direction will have a noticeable effect on the tone of the pickup. Installing the Bluesbucker™ with the adjustable coil toward the neck will provide a warmer tone than installing the pickup with the adjustable coil toward the bridge. In the neck position, the volume will be the same in either direction. In the bridge position, the pickup will be a little louder with the adjustable coil toward the neck, and this is the direction we recommend starting with.

Standard Bluesbucker™ Series Wiring

IMPORTANT: Although other brands of pickups may have the same color wires as DiMarzio, the connections are not necessarily the same. For our pickup to function properly, you *must* follow these instructions.

The Bluesbucker™ has red, black, green and white wires. The screw coil is the “hot” coil with red and black wires. **Note:** This differs from other DiMarzio humbuckers. The arrangement of the coils on the Bluesbucker™ is shown in the diagram to the right.



The **BARE** wire always goes to ground. When connecting the **BARE** wire to ground, make sure it does not come in contact with any other connections.

The Bluesbucker™ is usually wired in standard series humbucking mode. Solder the **BLACK** and **WHITE** wires together. Insulate the solder connection with tape so it does not touch any other part of the circuit. Solder the **RED** wire to the hot connection in the guitar's circuit. In most cases where you are replacing a pickup, the **RED** wire will be soldered to the same place as the hot wire of the original pickup. The **GREEN** and **BARE** wires are soldered to ground. This connection is usually made to the back of a control.

PHASE: If you install this pickup in a guitar with other pickup types and find the pickups to be out of phase when they are on together (sounding hollow and thin), you should reverse the phase of the Bluesbucker™ by soldering its **WHITE** wire to ground and its **BLACK** wire to hot. Solder the **RED** and **GREEN** wires together and insulate the connection. When installing a Bluesbucker™ in a guitar with single-coil pickups (similar to Stratocasters®), it is usually necessary to reverse the phase of the Bluesbucker™ in this manner.

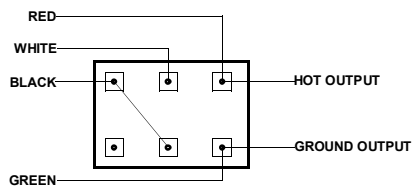
Standard Bluesbucker™ Parallel Wiring

The Bluesbucker™ can be wired in parallel humbucking mode. It will still cancel hum, but it will be slightly less powerful than in series mode, with more highs and an overall “cleaner” sound. To do this, solder the **RED** and **WHITE** wires together. This will be the hot connection. Solder the **GREEN** and **BLACK** wires together. This will be the ground connection. The bare wire will also go to ground. If you need to reverse the phase of the pickup for compatibility with other pickups, the **GREEN** and **BLACK** connection will be hot and the **RED** and **WHITE** connection will be ground. The bare wire will still be grounded.

Dual Sound

This wiring will produce two different sounds, humbucking series and humbucking parallel. A double-pole, double-throw (DPDT) miniature switch (DiMarzio catalog number EP1106) or a push-pull pot (EP1200PP or EP1201PP) is required for this option, shown here.

Be sure to make the jumper connection on the switch. The wire labeled **HOT OUTPUT** should be connected to the same place as the hot wire from your original pickup. The wire labeled **GROUND OUTPUT** is soldered to ground.



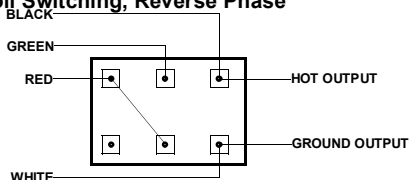
To reverse the phase of the pickup, reverse these two wires: **HOT OUTPUT** will go to ground, and **GROUND OUTPUT** to hot. The bare wire from the 4-conductor cable is always soldered to ground.

Dual Sound with Single-Coil Switching

Follow the same diagram as for Dual Sound above, but use a three-position (on-on-on) DPDT mini switch (DiMarzio catalog number EP1108.) The two outside positions will be series and parallel humbucking; the center position will be single-coil (non-humbucking).

Dual Sound with Single-Coil Switching, Reverse Phase

To reverse the phase of a Bluesbucker™ wired to an on-on-on switch, do **not** reverse **HOT** and **GROUND** as on other humbuckers. Instead, you must wire the switch as shown to the right.

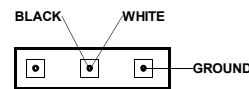


Single-Coil Switching (Coil Splitting)

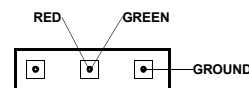
Single-coil switching will produce a bright, clean sound. Unlike most standard humbuckers, there will not be a very noticeable decrease in volume compared to series wiring. **Note:** As with conventional humbuckers, turning off a coil means the pickup is no longer humbucking, and does not cancel 60-cycle hum.

Important: Because of the Bluesbucker's unique design, the adjustable-polepiece coil **must** be the coil that stays on. The green/white coil has very little output, and is barely audible by itself.

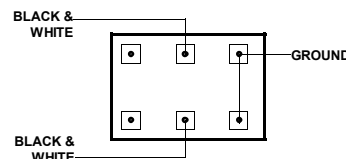
To turn off one coil, you can use the same type DPDT as is used for phase switching, or a simpler SPDT switch, or a push-pull pot. This diagram to the right shows the SPDT type. The **RED** wire is the hot output, wired the same as described in the Standard Humbucking Series Wiring section. The **GREEN** and **BARE** wires are soldered to ground.



If the Bluesbucker™ is to be wired in reverse phase, it should be wired as shown to the right. The **BLACK** wire is the hot output. The **WHITE** and **BARE** wires are soldered to ground.



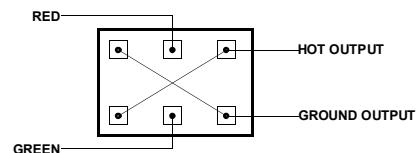
You may choose to have two pickups go from humbucking to single-coil on one DPDT switch, as shown in this diagram to the right. The **GREEN** and **BARE** wires from both pickups go to ground. The **RED** wires are the hot outputs.



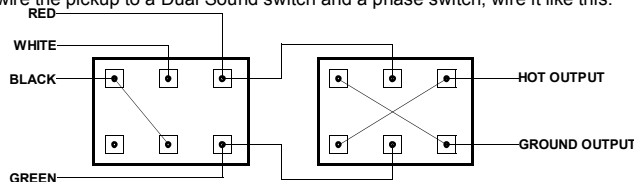
Phase Switch

Phase switching will only function in an instrument with two or more pickups. The effect will only occur when both pickups are on, and will be most obvious when the pickups are at approximately the same volume. Only one of the pickups should be wired to the phase switch, shown here, and it makes no audible difference which pickup you choose.

The switch is the same type as for Dual Sound switching, DPDT (DiMarzio catalog number EP1106) or push-pull pot (EP1200PP or EP1201PP).



To wire the pickup to a Dual Sound switch and a phase switch, wire it like this:

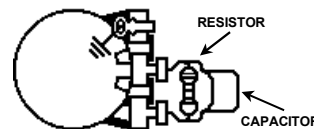


The wire labeled **HOT OUTPUT** is connected to the same spot as the original pickup. The wire labeled **GROUND OUTPUT** is soldered to a ground connection, such as the back of a control. The bare wire from the 4-conductor cable should also be soldered to ground.

Note: We do **not** recommend wiring the Bluesbucker™ to both a phase switch and a single-coil switch. When the Bluesbucker™ is in single-coil mode, reversing the phase will also result in the green/white coil being on instead of the red/black, and the sound will be barely audible.

Treble Compensation

Many players notice a loss of high frequencies when the volume control is turned down. To avoid this, install a 560pF capacitor alone or with a 300K ohm resistor in parallel (270K or 330K will also work) across the two “hot” legs of the volume control, as shown in this drawing:



Try to solder these components cleanly to the legs of the volume control, without breaking the solder connections that are already present.

Component Values

500K is the most common resistance value for humbuckers for both volume and tone controls. Using 250K controls will result in a slightly warmer sound and a slight drop in power. DiMarzio also offers a 1 Meg tone control (DiMarzio part number EP1202), which slightly increases treble response and power. This control can be combined with either 250K or 500K volume controls. A capacitor of .022µfd is the recommended value for the tone control.

Additional Notes

All DiMarzio pickups have been potted in an exclusive penetrating formula to eliminate squeal and subdue extraneous noise. For further noise reduction, we recommend shielding the entire guitar internally with DiMarzio Shielding Tape (EP1000). This will eliminate stray hum fields from the circuitry of your guitar.

If you have any problems or questions, please call our tech line, (718) 816-8112 between 12:00 PM and 5:00 PM Eastern Time or email tech@dimarzio.com.

Stratocaster® is a registered trademark of Fender Musical Instrument Corp., with which DiMarzio, Inc. is not affiliated.

Wiring diagrams and technical information

may be found on our website

<http://www.dimarzio.com>



1388 Richmond Terrace
P.O. Box 100387
Staten Island, NY 10310 USA
Tel (718) 981-9286 Tech (718) 816-8112
Fax (718) 720-5296
Email: tech@dimarzio.com