



## PRODUCT MANUAL

# BASS MASTER ROCKABILLY

The Bass Master Rockabilly is a double bass transducer system designed specifically for Rockabilly and Slap Bass. It combines two transducers (the Bass Max and a fingerboard pickup) to create an integrated double bass pickup system that brings out the percussive and subtle fingerboard sounds, as well as strong and warm bass tones. Each Bass Master Rockabilly can be fine-tuned via the separate bass and treble controls within the dual channel preamp, providing an infinite range of combinations for every player and any style of play.

The first component, the popular Bass Max, is positioned in the bridge wing. To make the Bass Max, we combine two transducers into a "sandwich" in order to maximize and enhance vibrations captured from the entire bridge. Only one Bass Max is necessary to provide an even signal from all four (or five) of the double bass' strings. Its strong midrange signal is ideal for cutting through the mix in loud Rockabilly situations, or providing a warm and supportive line for country bluegrass.

The fingerboard transducer's unique size and shape allows it to be precisely placed on your instrument. The preamp lets the player blend in just the right amount of slap, growl, and other fingerboard sounds to reach their audience. This allows the player to achieve the exact sound they desire.

The dual-channel preamp has internal gain, bass, and treble trim pots for each pickup, allowing impressive +/- 20dB tonal adjustments. External volume controls let you balance the volumes of the bridge and fingerboard transducers on the fly. A convenient belt clip is included with this compact preamplifier, which weighs a mere ten ounces with the battery installed. A six foot, high quality three conductor (1/4 inch stereo) cable is included to complete the package.

The **Bass Master RB Upgrade System** includes a fingerboard pickup and preamp to upgrade from an existing wing transducer (or other compatible pickup). Please skip this section (**Installation and Setup: Wing Transducer**) for the Upgrade System.

## INSTALLATION AND SETUP

### WING TRANSDUCER

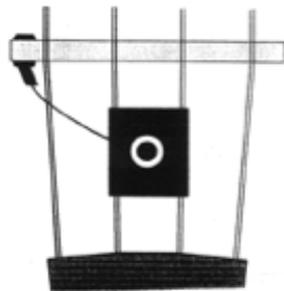
You can attach the wing transducer on either side of the bridge. We recommend trying the low string (E string) side first. If the slot is too narrow, **DO NOT FORCE THE PICKUP INTO THE SLOT! YOU WILL BREAK THE PIEZO CERAMIC ELEMENT AND VOID THE WARRANTY!**

For the right fit, you may have to remove some material from the lower part of the bridge. You'll achieve best results with a snug fit. If the slot is too big, please insert some cardboard or veneer to build it up.



### FINGERBOARD PICKUP

We suggest you place the fingerboard pickup near the top of your fingerboard, on the reverse side. The wire should travel behind your fingerboard, through the bridge center "heart" (or the unused wing slot, if the heart is too small).



Before you proceed to attaching the fingerboard transducer, thread the transducer and wire through the heart. A small piece of foam is supplied to isolate the wire from bridge vibrations; wedge it into the bridge "heart" and cut a small slit in it. If the foam block is too large, trim it, but allow enough excess material so it stays in place when compressed, isolating the wire.

### PICKUP INSTALLATION

1. Cut a small piece from the double-sided tape, wide enough for the pickup, and peel the off the wax paper. Press the tape (on the brown backing) in place behind the fingerboard. See the next section, **Placement of the Fingerboard Pickup**, for more detailed placement instructions.
2. Peel off the brown paper to leave the thin adhesive layer on the wood. Press the pickup onto the adhesive. (**Note:** Never remove the pickup by pulling on the wire. Carefully use a thin blade to pry it off.)
3. You may want to use masking tape to secure the wire along the back of the fingerboard while you're settling into the final position for the pickup.
4. Once you're ready for permanent installation, tack the wire to the remaining double-sided tape, taking care that it is firmly adhered and there is no possibility of it vibrating or buzzing against the fingerboard.

### PLACEMENT OF THE FINGERBOARD PICKUP

The fingerboard transducer delivers a very different tonal character and resonant depth depending on its placement. Fingerboard backside construction varies, but most are squared off at the neck joint, and then scooped out as the fingerboard continues. The sound changes character as you move from the solid section of the fingerboard towards the thinner, hollowed out areas. The pickup's edges are cut to allow flat placement in any location as the fingerboard profile changes.

You are strongly encouraged to experiment with placement at various thickness near the top of the fingerboard, in order to produce the type of tonal response that you desire. Sufficient double-sided tape is included so that you can move the transducer to a different location, listen, and move it again.

## SOUND ADJUSTMENT AND FINAL SETUP

You will find that the wing transducer has a higher output than the fingerboard transducer, so we recommend that you begin by reducing the internal gain trimpot for the wing transducer (Channel 2) to minimum, and adjust the fingerboard transducer (Channel 1) gain trimpot to maximum; this can be fine-tuned later.

We also suggest that you begin with your amplification system set flat, and proceed by adjusting the internal bass and treble controls one channel at a time, with the external volume for the other completely off. Since each channel has a +/- 20dB range, minor adjustments have a great effect on the sound. Make changes very gradually.

Once each channel has been individually adjusted to your preference, they can be blended using the external volume controls. You may wish to leave the preamp open to continue making adjustments, to fine tune each channel's bass, treble, and gain controls, as well as your amplification system, to achieve the response you prefer.



Channel 1: Wing Transducer  
Channel 2: Fingerboard Transducer

**Unplug the output cable at the preamp when not in use to conserve battery power.**

### TECHNICAL DATA

Wing: 22 mm diameter, 4 mm thick  
 Fingerboard: 12.5 (two edges trimmed), 0.7 mm thick  
 Preamp: 3" x 3.5" x 1 "  
 Input Impedance: 1 Mega Ohm (each channel)  
 Output Impedance: 10 Kilo Ohms  
 Input: Stereo 1/4" - Output: Mono 1/4"  
 Cable: 6 foot, 1/4" stereo plugs  
 Power: 9-volt battery (not included)