

Fishman PRO-MAT-EL2

Fishman Ellipse Matrix Blend Acoustic Guitar Pickup/Preamp System (Wide Format) - User Manual

Model: PRO-MAT-EL2 | Brand: Fishman

1. INTRODUCTION

The Fishman Ellipse Matrix Blend is an advanced acoustic guitar pickup and preamp system designed to provide exceptional amplified sound. It integrates Fishman's renowned Acoustic Matrix undersaddle pickup with a flexible gooseneck condenser microphone, offering a versatile blend of direct and ambient guitar tones. This system is engineered for musicians seeking high-quality, natural acoustic sound reproduction in amplified settings.

2. KEY FEATURES

- **Unobtrusive Onboard Blender System:** Designed for minimal visual impact within the guitar's soundhole.
- **Acoustic Matrix Undersaddle Pickup:** High-quality piezo pickup in a Wide 1/8" (3.2mm) format for clear string-to-string balance.
- **Custom-Designed Cardioid Condenser Mini-Mic:** Features a flexible gooseneck for optimal placement within the guitar's "sweet spot" to capture natural resonance.
- **Ergonomic Slider Controls:** Conveniently located Volume, Blend, and Phase controls for easy adjustment during performance.
- **Super Low-Noise Onboard Preamp System:** Ensures a clean signal with minimal interference.
- **Solder-Free Connections:** Facilitates easier and quicker installation.
- **Switchable Low-Frequency Tone-Shaping:** Allows for adjustment of the pickup's bass response to suit different guitars and playing styles.
- **Neodymium Magnetic Mounting System:** Provides a secure and innovative method for mounting the preamp unit.

3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

The Fishman Ellipse Matrix Blend system typically includes the following components:

- Ellipse Matrix Blend Preamp Unit with integrated Gooseneck Microphone
- Acoustic Matrix Undersaddle Pickup (Wide Format)
- Endpin Jack Assembly

- 9V Battery Bag with hook-and-loop fastener
- Cable Management Clips
- Mounting Hardware

4. INSTALLATION GUIDE

Installation of the Fishman Ellipse Matrix Blend system requires careful attention to detail and may involve minor modifications to your instrument. For optimal performance and to prevent damage, professional installation by a qualified guitar technician is highly recommended.

4.1. Overview of Components



Image 1: The Fishman Ellipse Matrix Blend system, showing the main preamp circuit board with controls, the flexible gooseneck

microphone, and the endpin jack assembly. This image illustrates the primary components before installation into an acoustic guitar.

4.2. General Installation Steps (Consult a Professional)

1. **Prepare the Saddle Slot:** Ensure the guitar's saddle slot is clean and flat for proper contact with the undersaddle pickup. The pickup should fit snugly without excessive force.
2. **Install the Undersaddle Pickup:** Carefully place the Acoustic Matrix pickup into the saddle slot. Ensure the pickup is centered and makes full contact with the saddle and bridge.
3. **Install the Endpin Jack:** The existing endpin may need to be removed and the hole enlarged to accommodate the new endpin jack assembly. Secure the jack firmly.
4. **Mount the Preamp Unit:** The Ellipse Matrix Blend preamp unit mounts inside the soundhole using its neodymium magnetic mounting system. Position it ergonomically for easy access to controls.
5. **Connect Components:** Utilize the solder-free connections to link the undersaddle pickup and microphone to the preamp unit, and the preamp unit to the endpin jack.
6. **Install Battery:** Place a fresh 9V battery into the provided battery bag and secure it inside the guitar body, away from vibrating surfaces.
7. **Position the Microphone:** Adjust the flexible gooseneck microphone to point towards the guitar's soundboard, typically between the bridge and soundhole, to capture the desired acoustic resonance. Experiment with placement for optimal sound.
8. **Secure Cabling:** Use the provided cable management clips to neatly route and secure all internal wiring, preventing rattles or interference.

Important: Incorrect installation can damage your instrument or the pickup system. If you are not confident in performing the installation, please seek assistance from a professional guitar technician.

5. OPERATION

Once installed, the Ellipse Matrix Blend system offers intuitive controls for shaping your amplified acoustic sound.

- **Volume Control:** Adjusts the overall output level of the system.
- **Blend Control:** This slider allows you to mix between the undersaddle pickup (for direct, percussive sound) and the internal microphone (for air and natural acoustic resonance). Experiment to find your preferred balance.
- **Phase Switch:** Toggles the phase of the signal. This can be used to reduce feedback, especially in live performance settings, or to achieve a fuller sound when blended with other pickups or external microphones.
- **Low-Frequency Tone-Shaping Switch:** Located on the preamp unit, this switch allows you to tailor the bass response of the pickup. Consult the detailed product manual for specific settings and their effects.

Always start with the volume low and gradually increase it to avoid sudden loud noises. Adjust the blend and phase controls in your performance environment to optimize sound and minimize feedback.

6. MAINTENANCE

6.1. Battery Replacement

The Ellipse Matrix Blend system is powered by a 9V battery. Replace the battery when the sound becomes weak or distorted, or if the system fails to power on. To replace:

1. Carefully reach into the soundhole to access the battery bag.
2. Unfasten the hook-and-loop closure and remove the old 9V battery.

3. Insert a fresh 9V alkaline battery, ensuring correct polarity.
4. Secure the battery bag back in its position.

It is advisable to remove the battery if the instrument will not be used for an extended period to prevent leakage.

6.2. Cleaning

Wipe the external controls and visible parts of the preamp unit with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid using liquid cleaners or solvents, as these can damage the electronics.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No Sound Output	Dead or low battery; loose connections; faulty cable.	Replace 9V battery; check all internal connections; test with a different instrument cable.
Excessive Feedback	Microphone too sensitive or poorly positioned; phase issue; high volume.	Reduce blend towards pickup; adjust microphone position; toggle phase switch; lower volume.
Uneven String Balance	Improper undersaddle pickup seating; uneven saddle bottom.	Re-seat pickup; ensure saddle bottom is perfectly flat (professional adjustment recommended).
Distorted Sound	Low battery; input overload; faulty amplifier/PA.	Replace battery; reduce guitar volume; test with another amplifier/PA system.

If problems persist after attempting these solutions, please contact Fishman customer support or a qualified technician.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

- Model:** PRO-MAT-EL2
- Pickup Type:** Acoustic Matrix Undersaddle Pickup (Wide Format: 1/8" / 3.2mm)
- Microphone:** Custom Cardioid Condenser with Flexible Gooseneck
- Controls:** Volume, Blend (Pickup/Mic), Phase Switch, Low-Frequency Tone-Shaping Switch
- Power:** 9V Battery (required, not included)
- Battery Life:** Approximately 100 hours (with alkaline battery)
- Output Jack:** Standard 1/4-inch instrument jack
- Dimensions (Preamp Unit):** The product dimensions listed (2.25 x 6.75 x 4.75 inches) are typically for packaging. Actual unit dimensions are smaller.
- Weight:** 9.9 ounces (0.62 lbs)
- Compatible Devices:** Acoustic Guitars

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Fishman products are manufactured to high standards and are typically covered by a limited warranty against defects in materials and workmanship. For specific warranty terms, registration, and technical support, please refer to the official Fishman website or contact their customer service department directly.

[Visit Fishman Support Website](#)

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