

EMG SA/SA/81 Set

EMG SA/SA/81 Active Strat Guitar Pickup Set

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

1. Introduction

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the installation, operation, and maintenance of your EMG SA/SA/81 Active Strat Guitar Pickup Set. This set combines the classic EMG 81 humbucker with two Alnico V loaded single-coil pickups, designed to deliver a versatile range of tones from aggressive to smooth and articulate.



Image 1.1: The EMG SA/SA/81 Active Strat Guitar Pickup Set, featuring two single-coil pickups and one humbucker pickup.

2. Key Features

- **Pickup Configuration:** Combines one EMG 81 humbucker (bridge position) with two Alnico V loaded single-coil pickups (middle and neck positions).
- **Tone Versatility:** Delivers aggressive tones in the bridge position and smooth, articulate tones in the middle and neck positions.
- **Solderless Wiring System:** Facilitates easy installation and pickup changes without the need for soldering.
- **Active Electronics:** Provides high output, low noise, and consistent tone.

3. Package Contents

Your EMG SA/SA/81 Active Strat Guitar Pickup Set typically includes:

- 1x EMG 81 Humbucker Pickup
- 2x EMG SA Single-Coil Pickups
- Solderless Wiring Harness (potentiometers, output jack, battery clip)
- Mounting Screws and Springs
- 9V Battery (may be included or required separately)

4. Installation Guide

The EMG SA/SA/81 set features a solderless wiring system for simplified installation. It is recommended to consult the detailed wiring diagrams available on the official EMG website for your specific guitar model and desired configuration. If you are unfamiliar with guitar electronics, professional installation is advised.

4.1. Tools Required

- Screwdrivers (Phillips and flathead)
- Wire cutters/strippers (if modifying existing wiring)
- Multimeter (for testing connections)
- 9V Battery

4.2. General Installation Steps

1. **Prepare Your Guitar:** Carefully remove the strings and the existing pickguard or control cavity cover. Disconnect the old pickups and electronics.
2. **Mount Pickups:** Install the EMG SA/SA/81 pickups into their respective positions (EMG 81 in bridge, SA in middle and neck) using the provided screws and springs. Adjust pickup height as needed.
3. **Install Electronics:** Mount the new potentiometers and output jack into the pickguard or control cavity.
4. **Connect Wiring:** Utilize the solderless connectors to link the pickups to the potentiometers, switch, and output jack according to the provided EMG wiring diagram. Ensure all connections are secure.
5. **Battery Installation:** Connect the 9V battery to the battery clip in the wiring harness. Secure the battery within the guitar's cavity, ensuring it does not interfere with other components or create rattles.
6. **Test Connections:** Before reassembling, temporarily plug your guitar into an amplifier and test all pickup positions and controls to ensure proper functionality.
7. **Reassemble:** Carefully reattach the pickguard or control cavity cover, restring your guitar, and perform final setup adjustments (e.g., pickup height, intonation).

For detailed wiring diagrams and specific instructions for various guitar configurations, please visit the official EMG website.

5. Operation and Tone Characteristics

The EMG SA/SA/81 set offers distinct tonal characteristics across its three pickups:

- **Bridge (EMG 81):** Known for its high output and aggressive tone, ideal for heavy rock and metal. It provides excellent sustain and clarity, even with high gain.
- **Middle (EMG SA):** Delivers a classic single-coil sound with Alnico V magnets, offering smooth, articulate, and bell-like tones. It maintains clarity and warmth.

- **Neck (EMG SA):** Similar to the middle SA, providing warm, clear, and articulate single-coil tones, suitable for clean passages, blues, and lead playing.

Experiment with your amplifier settings and guitar's tone and volume controls to explore the full range of sounds available from this versatile pickup set.

6. Maintenance

- **Cleaning:** Wipe the pickup covers with a soft, dry cloth to remove dust and grime. Avoid using abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Battery Replacement:** Active pickups require a 9V battery for operation. Replace the battery when you notice a drop in output or a change in tone quality. A fresh battery typically lasts for hundreds of hours of playing time.
- **Connection Check:** Periodically inspect the solderless connections to ensure they remain secure. Loose connections can lead to signal loss or intermittent sound.
- **Pickup Height Adjustment:** Adjust the pickup height to fine-tune your tone and output. Raising pickups increases output and bass response, while lowering them reduces output and can provide a clearer, more articulate sound.

7. Troubleshooting

- **No Sound/Weak Signal:**
 - Check the 9V battery. Replace it if it's old or depleted.
 - Verify all solderless connections are firmly seated.
 - Ensure the output jack is properly wired and functioning.
- **Excessive Hum/Noise:**
 - Active pickups are designed to be low noise. If hum occurs, check for proper grounding of all components.
 - Ensure all wiring is correctly routed and not picking up interference from other electronic devices.
- **Intermittent Sound:**
 - Inspect the output jack for loose connections or damage.
 - Check the pickup selector switch for proper operation and clean contacts.

If issues persist after basic troubleshooting, contact EMG customer support or a qualified guitar technician.

8. Specifications

Attribute	Detail
Brand	EMG
Model Number	EM924220 (SA/SA/81 Set)
Pickup Configuration	Humbucker (Bridge) / Single-Coil (Middle) / Single-Coil (Neck)
Magnet Type	Ceramic (EMG 81), Alnico V (EMG SA)

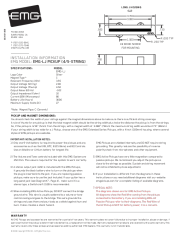
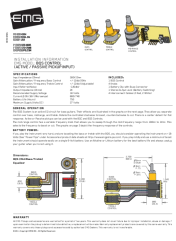
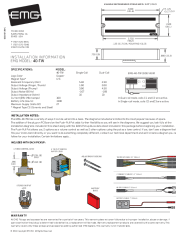
Active/Passive	Active
Power Requirement	One 9V Battery
Item Weight	1 pound (approximate)
Product Dimensions	7 x 5 x 3 inches (packaging approximate)
Date First Available	January 10, 2012

9. Warranty and Support

EMG products are covered by a manufacturer's warranty against defects in materials and workmanship. For specific warranty terms, registration, and technical support, please refer to the official EMG website or contact their customer service department directly. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

EMG Official Website: www.emgpickups.com

Related Documents - SA/SA/81 Set

	<p>EMG-LJ Pickup Installation and Specifications</p> <p>Comprehensive guide for installing the EMG-LJ pickup for 4/5-string basses, covering specifications, wiring diagrams, and warranty information.</p>
	<p>EMG BQS Control Active Bass Preamp Installation and Operation Guide</p> <p>Comprehensive guide to installing and operating the EMG BQS Control active EQ preamp for bass guitars, including specifications, included components, general operation, battery power, dimensions, warranty, and detailed wiring diagrams for various configurations.</p>
	<p>EMG 40-TW Active Bass Pickup Installation Guide and Specifications</p> <p>Comprehensive installation guide and technical specifications for the EMG 40-TW active bass pickup. This document details wiring diagrams, component descriptions, and warranty information, enabling users to install and configure the pickup for various tonal options.</p>



Documents - EMG – SA/SA/81 Set

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