

EMG BQS HZ

EMG BQS HZ 3-Band EQ Active Bass Tone Control System

Model: BQS HZ | Brand: EMG

INTRODUCTION

The EMG BQS HZ is a comprehensive control system designed for bass guitars utilizing passive pickups or EMG HZ pickups. This system integrates active balance, master volume, and advanced EQ circuits to provide extensive tone-shaping capabilities.

The equalization section features separate controls for bass, midrange, and treble frequencies. These are managed via two concentric (stacked) potentiometers, allowing for precise adjustments. Rotating a control clockwise boosts the corresponding frequency, while rotating it counterclockwise cuts it. Each EQ control includes a center detent for a flat, neutral response.

A key feature is the variable frequency knob for the mid-range control, which enables sweeping through the mid-frequency range from 100Hz to 1KHz. This allows users to select the exact frequency point to boost or cut, offering unparalleled control over the bass guitar's tonal character.

SETUP AND INSTALLATION

The BQS HZ system is intended for installation within a bass guitar's electronics cavity. Due to the nature of active electronics and wiring, professional installation by a qualified guitar technician is highly recommended to ensure proper function and avoid damage to the unit or instrument.

Compatibility: This system is compatible with passive bass pickups or EMG HZ series pickups.

Components: The system includes the main control board, potentiometers (Master Volume, Active Balance, stacked Bass/Treble EQ, stacked Midrange EQ with variable frequency), and associated wiring. Power is supplied by a 9V battery (not included), which is essential for the active circuitry.

General Installation Steps (Consult a professional for detailed wiring diagrams specific to your bass):

1. Ensure the instrument is disconnected from any amplifier and the battery is removed if present.
2. Carefully remove the existing electronics from the bass guitar's control cavity.

3. Mount the BQS HZ potentiometers into the designated holes on the bass guitar's control plate or body.
4. Connect the output wires from your passive or EMG HZ pickups to the input terminals of the BQS HZ system.
5. Connect the system's output to the bass guitar's output jack.
6. Connect the 9V battery clip to a fresh 9V battery and secure it within the cavity.
7. Carefully route all wiring to prevent pinching or short circuits when the cavity cover is reinstalled.
8. Test the system thoroughly before reassembling the instrument.



This image displays the EMG BQS HZ 3-Band EQ Active Bass Tone Control System, showing its compact design and the various potentiometers for tone shaping.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Once installed and powered, the EMG BQS HZ system provides intuitive control over your bass guitar's tone.

- **Master Volume:** This potentiometer controls the overall output level of your bass. Rotate clockwise to increase volume, counterclockwise to decrease.
- **Active Balance:** If your bass has multiple pickups, this control allows you to blend between them. The center

position typically provides an equal blend.

- **Bass EQ (Stacked Potentiometer - Lower Knob):** Controls the low-frequency response. Rotate clockwise from the center detent to boost bass frequencies, and counterclockwise to cut them.
- **Treble EQ (Stacked Potentiometer - Upper Knob):** Controls the high-frequency response. Rotate clockwise from the center detent to boost treble frequencies, and counterclockwise to cut them.
- **Midrange EQ (Stacked Potentiometer - Lower Knob):** Controls the mid-frequency response. Rotate clockwise from the center detent to boost midrange frequencies, and counterclockwise to cut them.
- **Mid-Range Variable Frequency (Stacked Potentiometer - Upper Knob):** This knob works in conjunction with the Midrange EQ. Rotate this control to sweep through the mid-frequency range from 100Hz to 1KHz. This selects the specific frequency point that the Midrange EQ knob will boost or cut. Experiment with this control to find the sweet spot for your desired tone.

MAINTENANCE

The EMG BQS HZ system is designed for reliability and requires minimal maintenance. However, following these guidelines can help ensure its longevity:

- **Battery Replacement:** As an active system, the BQS HZ requires a 9V battery. Replace the battery when the sound becomes weak or distorted, or if the system fails to power on. Always use a fresh, high-quality alkaline 9V battery.
- **Cleaning:** Keep the control knobs and the surrounding area clean. Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe away dust and grime. Avoid using liquid cleaners directly on the electronics.
- **Connections:** Periodically check all wiring connections to ensure they are secure. Loose connections can lead to intermittent sound or signal loss.
- **Environmental Conditions:** Avoid exposing the instrument and its electronics to extreme temperatures, high humidity, or direct moisture, as these can damage the components.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your EMG BQS HZ system, consider the following troubleshooting steps:

- **No Sound or Weak Output:**
 - Check the 9V battery. A dead or weak battery is the most common cause of these issues. Replace it with a fresh one.
 - Ensure all cables (instrument cable, amplifier cable) are securely connected.
 - Verify that the Master Volume control is turned up.
- **Intermittent Sound or Crackling:**
 - Inspect all internal wiring connections for looseness or damage.
 - Check the instrument cable for faults.
 - Ensure the output jack is clean and free of debris.
- **Unusual Noise or Hum:**
 - Verify proper grounding within the instrument.
 - Ensure all shielding is intact within the control cavity.
 - Test in a different environment to rule out external electrical interference.

If these steps do not resolve the issue, it is recommended to consult a qualified guitar technician or contact EMG customer support for further assistance.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Name	HZ
Number of Bands	3 (Bass, Midrange, Treble)
Compatible Devices	Bass Guitar
Signal Format	Analog
Power Source	9V Battery (AC adapter not applicable for internal guitar electronics)
Color	Black
Item Weight	6.4 ounces
Product Dimensions	5 x 4 x 3 inches
ASIN	B00JRDEJO4
Date First Available	April 17, 2014

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For information regarding the warranty of your EMG BQS HZ system, please refer to the documentation included with your purchase or visit the official EMG website. Warranty terms and conditions may vary by region and retailer.

For technical support, detailed wiring diagrams, or service inquiries, please contact EMG directly through their official website or customer service channels. You can often find additional resources and FAQs on the [EMG Store on Amazon](#) or their main corporate site.

ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THIS MANUAL

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page’s manual context to help answer it.

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Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question