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› ESP LTD James Hetfield Signature Snakebyte Electric Guitar User Manual

ESP GUITARS LSNAKEBYTEBLKS

ESP LTD James Hetfield Signature Snakebyte Electric Guitar User Manual

Model: LSNAKEBYTEBLKS

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the setup, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of your ESP LTD James Hetfield Signature Snakebyte electric guitar. Please read this guide thoroughly to ensure optimal performance and longevity of your instrument.



Image: James Hetfield performing with an ESP LTD Snakebyte electric guitar.

The ESP LTD James Hetfield Signature Snakebyte is a distinctive electric guitar featuring a modified EX body, all-mahogany body and neck construction, and an ebony fretboard with 22 extra-jumbo frets. It is equipped with EMG active humbuckers for powerful tone. Key features include ESP locking tuners, ESP strap locks, and a Tonepros locking bridge/tailpiece.

SETUP

Unpacking and Initial Inspection

Carefully remove the guitar from its packaging. Inspect the instrument for any signs of damage that may have occurred during shipping. Ensure all included accessories are present.

- **Included:** Electric guitar

Battery Installation (for Active Pickups)

The EMG JH Het Set active pickups require a 9V battery for operation. The battery compartment is located on the back of the guitar body.

1. Locate the battery compartment cover on the back of the guitar.
2. Carefully remove the cover.
3. Insert a fresh 9V alkaline battery, observing the correct polarity.
4. Replace the battery compartment cover securely.



Image: Rear view of the ESP LTD Snakebyte, highlighting the battery compartment for active pickups.

Tuning

Tune the guitar using a reliable electronic tuner. The ESP LTD Snakebyte is equipped with ESP locking tuners for stable tuning.

Strap Installation

Attach your guitar strap using the integrated ESP strap locks. Ensure the strap is securely fastened before playing.

OPERATING YOUR GUITAR

Controls Overview

The ESP LTD Snakebyte features a straightforward control layout for its active pickups.

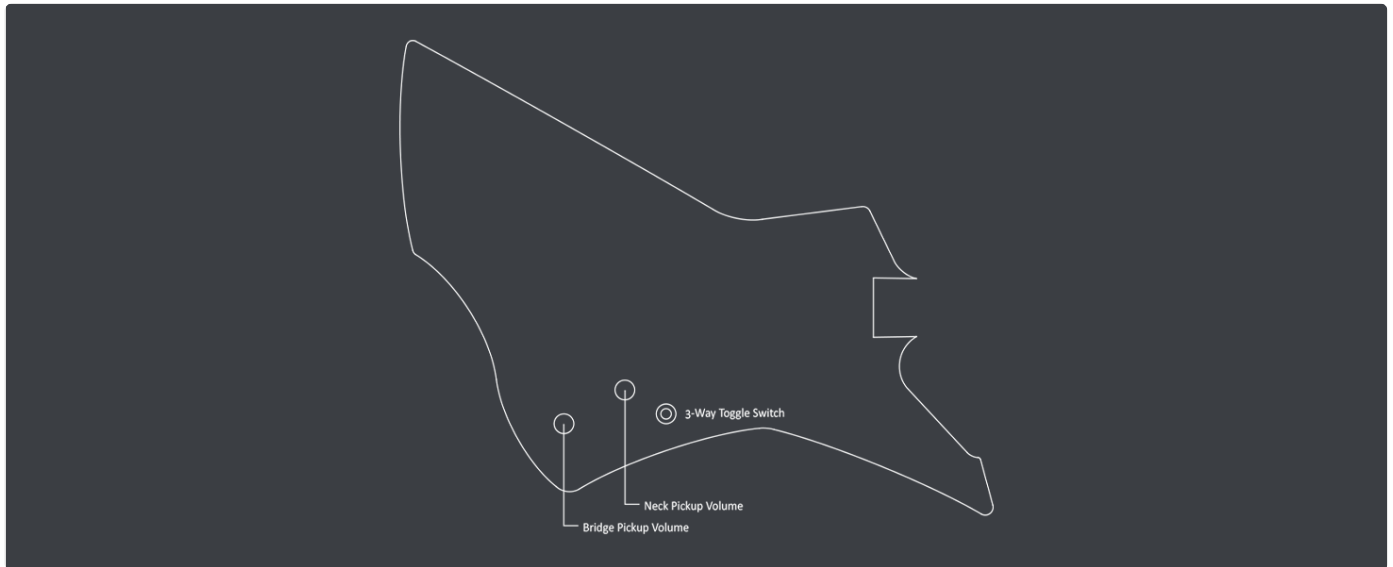


Image: Diagram illustrating the control layout of the ESP LTD Snakebyte guitar, including volume knobs for neck and bridge pickups, and a 3-way toggle switch.

- **Neck Pickup Volume:** Controls the output level of the neck pickup.
- **Bridge Pickup Volume:** Controls the output level of the bridge pickup.
- **3-Way Toggle Switch:**
 - **Up Position:** Activates the neck pickup.
 - **Middle Position:** Activates both neck and bridge pickups.
 - **Down Position:** Activates the bridge pickup.

Connecting to an Amplifier

Use a standard 1/4-inch instrument cable to connect the guitar's output jack to your amplifier's input. Ensure your amplifier is set to an appropriate volume level before playing.

MAINTENANCE

Cleaning

Regularly wipe down your guitar with a soft, lint-free cloth to remove dust and fingerprints. For the Black Satin finish, use a cleaner specifically designed for matte finishes to avoid creating shiny spots. Avoid abrasive cleaners.

String Replacement

Replace strings regularly to maintain optimal tone and playability. When replacing strings, change them one at a time to maintain neck tension. The ESP locking tuners simplify string changes.

Fretboard Care

The ebony fretboard benefits from occasional conditioning to prevent drying and cracking. Use a fretboard conditioner suitable for ebony. Clean the fretboard before conditioning.

Battery Replacement

Replace the 9V battery for the active pickups when the sound becomes weak or distorted. Always use a fresh alkaline battery.

Storage

Store your guitar in its case when not in use to protect it from dust, humidity changes, and physical damage. Avoid extreme temperatures and direct sunlight.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound or weak sound	Dead battery for active pickups; faulty cable; amplifier off/incorrect settings; pickup selector switch in wrong position.	Replace 9V battery; try a different instrument cable; check amplifier power and settings; ensure pickup selector is engaged.
Buzzing or humming noise	Grounding issue; faulty cable; interference from other electronics; loose wiring.	Check cable connections; try a different power outlet for amplifier; move away from electronic devices; consult a qualified technician for internal wiring issues.
Guitar won't stay in tune	Old strings; improper string winding on tuners; environmental changes; faulty tuners.	Replace strings; ensure strings are properly seated and wound on ESP locking tuners; allow guitar to acclimate to environment; if problem persists, consult a technician.
Fret buzz	Low action; uneven frets; neck relief issues.	Adjust bridge saddle height; check neck relief; for severe issues, professional setup is recommended.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Name	ESP LTD James Hetfield Signature Snakebyte
Model Number	LSNAKEBYTEBLKS
Body Material	Mahogany
Neck Material	3-Piece Mahogany
Construction	Set-Neck
Scale Length	24.75 inches
Fretboard Material	Ebony

Feature	Detail
Number of Frets	22 Extra-Jumbo
Fretboard Inlay	Snake inlay at 12th fret
Nut Type	Molded
Tuners	ESP Locking Tuners
Bridge	TonePros Locking TOM & Tailpiece
Neck Pickup	EMG JH Het Set (Active)
Bridge Pickup	EMG JH Het Set (Active)
Controls	Bridge Volume, Neck Volume, 3-Way Toggle Switch
Hardware Color	Black
Color Finish	Black Satin
Strings	Nickel Steel
Item Weight	25 pounds
Product Dimensions	53 x 23 x 6 inches



Image: The ESP LTD James Hetfield Signature Snakebyte electric guitar in Black Satin finish.

WARRANTY INFORMATION

The ESP LTD James Hetfield Signature Snakebyte guitar typically comes with a manufacturer's warranty. For specific details regarding the warranty period, coverage, and claims process, please refer to the warranty card included with your purchase or visit the official ESP GUITARS website. Please note that "B-Stock" or "Factory 2nd" instruments may have a modified warranty, such as a 90-Day ESP Warranty, as indicated by some retailers.

SUPPORT

For further assistance, technical support, or service inquiries regarding your ESP LTD James Hetfield Signature Snakebyte electric guitar, please contact ESP GUITARS directly through their official website or authorized service centers.

Official Website: www.espguitars.com

You can also visit the [ESP GUITARS Store on Amazon](#) for additional product information and resources.

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