

EMG TBHZ

EMG TBHZ Thunderbird Passive Bass Pickup Instruction Manual

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides detailed instructions for the installation, operation, and maintenance of your EMG TBHZ Thunderbird Passive Bass Pickup. Designed as a direct replacement for Thunderbird-style basses, the TBHZ offers authentic passive touch sensitivity and feel, combined with EMG's renowned quality and tone. Featuring two ceramic and steel bars, this pickup delivers a full, rich sound with significant punch and output.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The EMG TBHZ is a passive bass pickup designed for the Thunderbird bass guitar. It provides a powerful and clear tone without requiring a battery, offering a traditional passive feel.



Image 1: Top view of the EMG TBHZ Thunderbird Passive Bass Pickup, showcasing its sleek black casing and EMG logo.



Image 2: Bottom view of the EMG TBHZ pickup, showing the wiring connectors and product label.



Image 3: All included components for the EMG TBHZ pickup installation, including pots, output jack, and wiring harnesses.

INSTALLATION AND SETUP

Proper installation is crucial for optimal performance. If you are not experienced with guitar electronics, it is recommended to seek assistance from a qualified guitar technician.

Required Tools:

- Soldering iron and solder (if not using solderless connections)
- Wire cutters/strippers
- Screwdrivers (Phillips and flathead)
- Multimeter (for testing connections)
- Masking tape (to protect finish)

Installation Steps:

1. **Prepare the Instrument:** Disconnect the bass from any amplifier. Loosen and remove the strings. Carefully remove the old pickup(s) and any associated wiring from the bass body.
2. **Install the Pickup:** Place the EMG TBHZ pickup into the pickup cavity. Ensure it fits snugly. Secure it with the

provided mounting screws.

3. **Wiring Connections:** Refer to the wiring diagram included with your pickup for specific connections. The TBHZ typically uses a standard passive wiring scheme. Connect the hot wire to the volume pot, and the ground wire to the common ground point (e.g., back of a pot, output jack sleeve). If using the included pots and jack, follow the provided instructions for solderless installation where applicable.
4. **Grounding and Shielding:** Ensure all components are properly grounded to minimize hum and noise. The pickup cavity should ideally be shielded.
5. **Test the Connections:** Before reassembling, temporarily connect the bass to an amplifier and gently tap the pickup with a non-metallic object (like a screwdriver handle) to confirm sound output. Check the functionality of volume and tone controls.
6. **Reassemble:** Once confirmed working, carefully reassemble the bass, re-install the strings, and set up the instrument.

OPERATION

The EMG TBHZ is a passive pickup, meaning it does not require a battery for operation. Its output is directly influenced by your playing dynamics and the natural resonance of your bass.

- **Volume Control:** Adjust the volume knob on your bass to control the overall output level.
- **Tone Control:** Utilize the tone knob to shape the frequency response, from bright and articulate to warm and mellow.
- **Playing Dynamics:** The passive nature of the TBHZ allows for a highly responsive feel. Experiment with different picking or plucking techniques to explore the full range of its tonal capabilities, from subtle nuances to powerful, punchy attacks.

MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your EMG TBHZ pickup, follow these simple maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Wipe the pickup cover regularly with a soft, dry, lint-free cloth to remove dust and grime. Avoid using abrasive cleaners or solvents, as these can damage the finish.
- **Inspection:** Periodically inspect the wiring connections to ensure they are secure. Loose connections can lead to intermittent sound or noise.
- **Avoid Extreme Conditions:** Protect your bass and pickup from extreme temperatures, humidity, and direct sunlight, which can affect electronic components and materials.
- **Professional Check-ups:** Consider having your bass and electronics inspected by a professional technician annually, especially if you notice any performance issues.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your EMG TBHZ pickup, consult the following troubleshooting tips:

- **No Sound:**
 - Check all wiring connections for proper contact.
 - Ensure your instrument cable is functional and securely plugged into both the bass and amplifier.
 - Verify that your amplifier is powered on and its settings are appropriate.
 - Confirm that the volume knob on your bass is turned up.
- **Weak or Intermittent Sound:**

- Inspect wiring for any loose or corroded connections.
 - Test with a different instrument cable and amplifier to rule out external equipment issues.
 - Ensure the pickup height is correctly adjusted relative to the strings.
- **Excessive Hum or Noise:**
 - Verify proper grounding throughout the bass's electronics.
 - Check for adequate shielding in the pickup and control cavities.
 - Move away from sources of electromagnetic interference (e.g., fluorescent lights, computer monitors).
 - Ensure all connections are tight and properly insulated.

If these steps do not resolve the issue, it is advisable to consult a qualified guitar technician for further diagnosis and repair.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model	TBHZ
Type	Passive Bass Pickup
Magnet Type	Ceramic and Steel Bars
Weight	9.5 ounces
Material	Steel (internal components)
Compatibility	Thunderbird-style bass guitars
UPC	654330110702

WARRANTY INFORMATION

EMG products are manufactured to high standards and are covered by a manufacturer's warranty against defects in materials and workmanship. The specific terms and duration of the warranty may vary by region and product. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

For detailed warranty information, please visit the official EMG website or contact their customer support directly.

CUSTOMER SUPPORT

If you have any questions, require technical assistance, or need to report an issue with your EMG TBHZ pickup, please contact EMG customer support. They can provide expert guidance and support for all your product-related inquiries.

Please visit the official EMG website for contact details, including phone numbers, email addresses, and support resources.



