

Strings

The strings are D'Addario EXL110 (.010-.046). To change them, feed the string through the string ferrule on the back of the instrument, over the saddle, and to the tuner post. Make sure to leave enough slack in the string to get two or three good wraps around the post. More wraps than this will cause tuning problems later. Tune the string to pitch, then stretch the string at the 12th fret. Repeat these steps until the wraps are tight and the string stays in tune.

After playing it's always a good idea to completely wipe down the body, fretboard, strings, and hardware prior to putting your guitar away. The natural oils from your fingers can, over time, damage the finish and hardware of your instrument.

Any quality guitar polish/cleaner can be used on your Michael Kelly instrument if it has a gloss finish. We recommend not using furniture polish because it will leave a filmy residue that will build up over time.

Cleaning & Maintenance

Fretboard Maintenance

You should only deep clean your fretboard once or twice a year so you don't disturb the natural moisture of the wood. Cleaning too much could dry out the fretboard and create cracks in the wood. It's also important to oil the board twice a year. We recommend bore or mineral oil for this. Just remove the strings, apply a small amount of your preferred oil to the fretboard and let it sit for a while to soak in. After about 30 minutes wipe off any residual oil and restring.

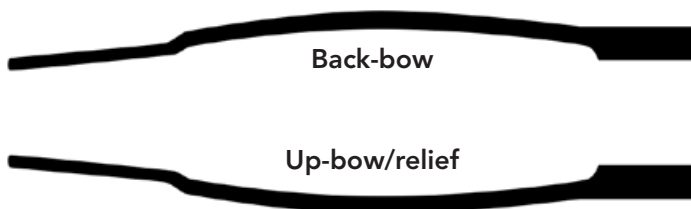


Truss Rod Adjustment

The first step is to "eyeball" the neck by turning the guitar on its side and looking down the fretboard. You will be checking to see if the neck is straight, has a back-bow, or too much relief. Make sure your guitar is tuned to pitch before checking the neck. Some players like a perfectly straight neck and some like to keep a bit of relief in their necks. A perfectly straight neck might not work if you pick hard and still like very low action. If that's the case a small amount of relief will be better for you. Sight down the neck from the headstock to see how much of a bow or back-bow the neck has. To do this hold the neck up to eye level and sight along the edge of the fretboard on both treble and bass sides. If the neck is bowed, you will have to tighten the truss rod. If the neck has a back-bow you will have to loosen the truss rod.

Place the 4 mm allen wrench supplied with your guitar on the adjustment nut of the truss rod and turn gently in small increments. Turn the allen wrench towards the treble side to loosen and towards the bass side to tighten. Keep checking the neck with each small turn until the neck has the desired straightness.

Make sure to not tighten the rod too much (when it becomes hard to turn) because it could result in stripping the threads or perhaps even breaking the rod itself. Once you have made your adjustments to the neck you might have to adjust the action of the strings to prevent fret buzz.



String Action

Each individual string can be adjusted to the proper height by turning the two small allen screws on each saddle. The 1.5 mm allen wrench supplied with your guitar will be needed to make this adjustment. When making adjustments make sure the saddle height follows the radius of the fretboard. CAUTION - When changing your string action be very carefull not to damage the individual piezo transducer crystals on each saddle.

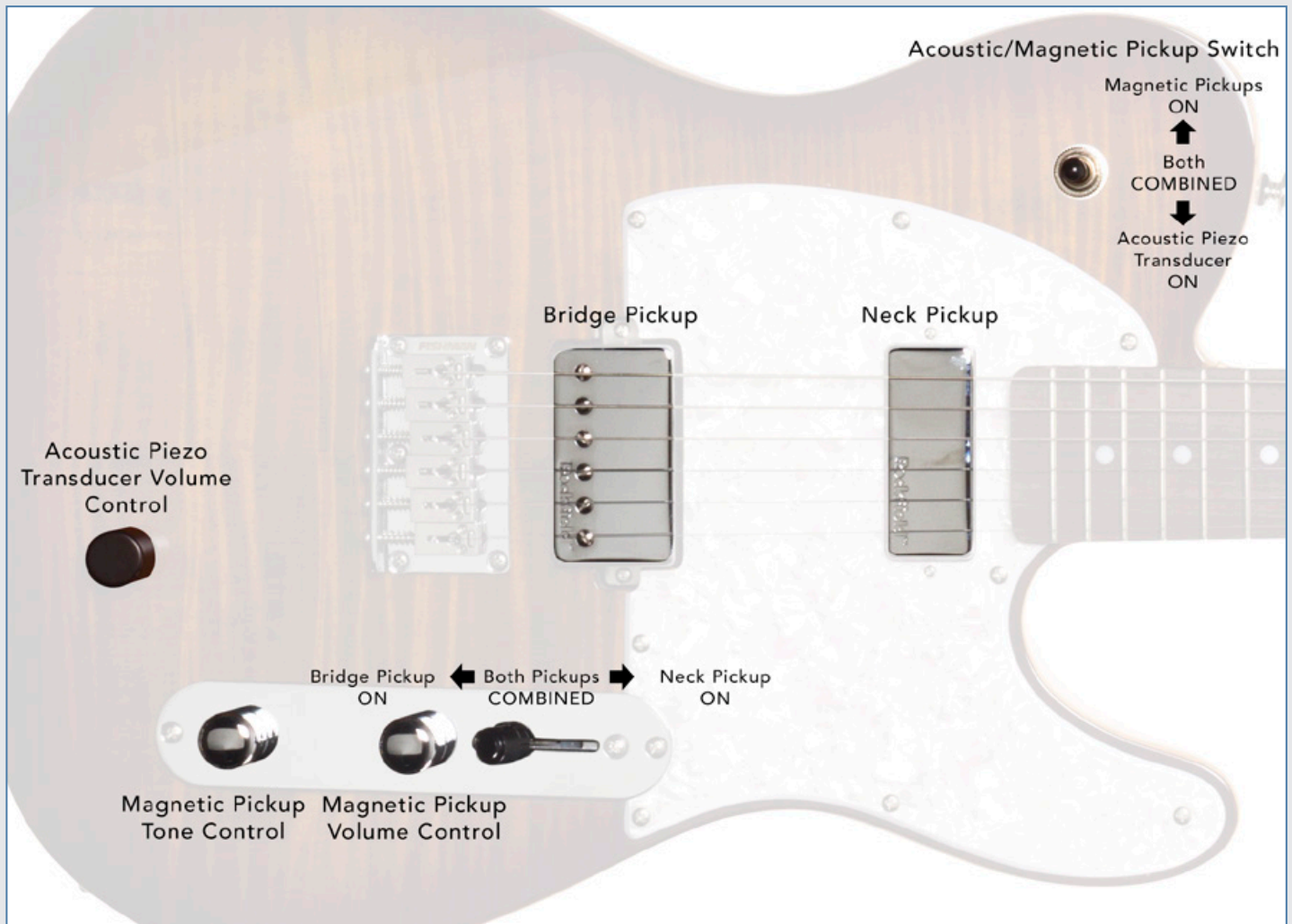
Controls

Magnetic Pickup/Acoustic Piezo Transducer Selection

The 3-way toggle located on the upper bout of the 55 Hybrid is for selecting the magnetic pickup, acoustic piezo transducers, or blending the two together. When the switch is up the magnetic pickups are engaged. When the switch is in the middle position both the magnetic and piezo acoustic transducers are engaged. When the switch is in the down position the acousitic piezo transducers alone are engaged.

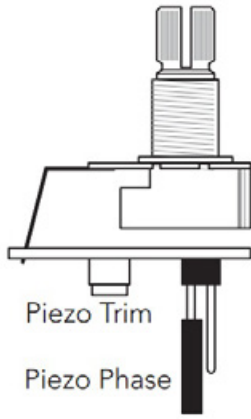
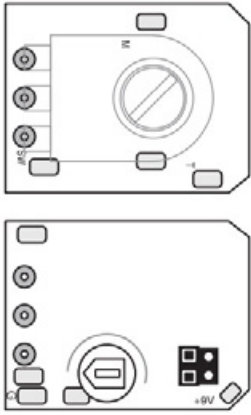
Volume, Magnetic Pickup Selection, and Tone Controls

The 3-way blade switch on the chrome control plate is used for selecting which magnetic pickup will be used. Position one engages the bridge pickup. Position two engages the neck and bridge pickup together. Position three engages the neck pickup alone. The next control is the volume control for the magnetic pickups. The last control on the plate is the tone control for the magnetic pickups. The wooden knob on the body of the guitar is the volume control for the acoustic piezo transducer.



Output Jack

The output jack is a special 9 pin stereo jack that turns the battery on when plugged in and also acts to split the electric and acoustic signal to two separate sources when using a stereo Y-cable (not included).



The Fishman Powerchip can be found by opening the round control cover on the lower back of the Hybrid 55. Adjust the small rotary trim pot on the backside of the Powerchip to match piezo and magnetic pickup levels. Move the Phase jumper on the backside of the Powerchip to eliminate phase cancellation between the piezo and magnetic pickups.

Piezo Trim and Phase

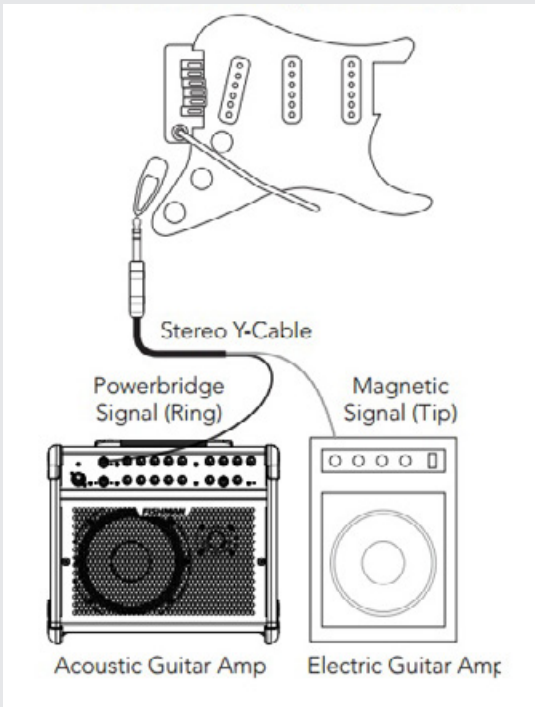
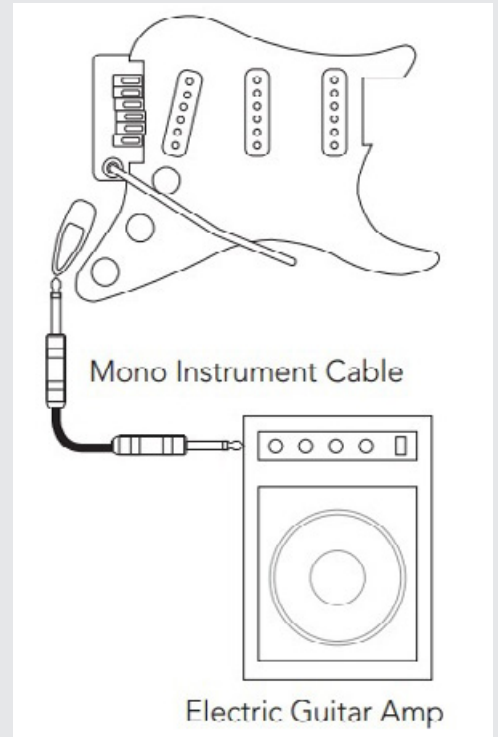
Battery Replacement

The Fishman powerchip requires a 9-volt battery for operation. The battery compartment is the rectangle door on the back of the 55 Hybrid just below the lower cutaway. For optimum performance always use a 9-volt alkaline battery. The average life of an alkaline 9-volt in this model is 200 hours.



Mono Operation

Plug a standard mono instrument cable into the output of the 55 Hybrid and combine the magnetic and piezo signals into a single buffered composite, suitable for any available instrument level audio input.



Plug a stereo "Y" cable into the output of the Hybrid and split the magnetic and piezo pickup signals to separate destinations. You will need a stereo "Y" cable that has one stereo male 1/4" plug to two mono 1/4" plugs. Send the piezo signal (Ring) to any instrument level audio input, such as an acoustic instrument amplifier or PA system. Send the magnetic pickup signal (Tip) to a traditional electric guitar amplifier.

Stereo Operation