Japanese Fender Jaguar Retrofit

The guitar was a 2002 “Crafted in Japan” Fender Jaguar. I successfully retrofit the guitar with the Jaguar Wiring Kit provided by Acme Guitar Works, and additional items (knobs, brackets, etc.) purchased from Acme Guitar Works. There were a few things that had to be slightly modified to fit the USA components into the Japanese Fender Jaguar.

The hole for the Japanese 1/4” jack fit the Switchcraft 1/4” jack without issue.

The holes for the Tone and Volume Pots for Lead Channel had to be drilled out to 3/8” to fit full-sized CTS pots. Knobs to fit the CTS pots’ shafts were also purchased from Acme Guitar Works.

The holes for the four two-position slide switches (used for both circuit selection and pickup selection/cut switches on lead channel) lined up fine with Switchcraft slide switches. The screws provided with the rewire kit were countersink screws. The holes in the chromed steel mounting plates that the switches mount to on the Jaguar are not countersunk, so the heads sat up too high. The round head screws that were provided by ACME as a substitute were too small in diameter and went through the holes in the chrome plates. The solution was to tap the holes on the slide switches to the same metric threading that the original screws that came with the Japanese components on the guitar used. I found that the proper tap to use was M3x0.5. The original screws then fit perfectly.

The USA rhythm circuit mini-pot mounting bracket had to be purchased from Acme to be able to use the CTS mini-pots on the guitar. The bracket required the same tapping of the holes as the slide switches did, in order to use the original mounting screws for mounting it to the chrome plate. The holes lined up fine, they just needed to be re-tapped (as described above) to have the best fitting screws.

The rhythm circuit adjustment wheels were also purchased from Acme to fit the CTS mini-pots described above. With the USA bracket, CTS mini-pots and USA adjustment wheels in the Japanese guitar, slight shimming was required on the potentiometer body side (not the shaft side) of the mounting bracket to be able to have them centered in the adjustment wheel slots of the Japanese chrome plate. I found that about 1/32” of cardboard did the trick to put them in the proper position.

The American Vintage Reissue pickups fit perfectly and lined up with the Japanese pickup mounting holes without issue.

These were the only mods that I found necessary to entirely rewire the Japanese Jaguar with the exact USA components and cloth wire found in the American Vintage Reissue Jaguar available from Fender USA. The guitar sounds A LOT better and has much more reliable components in there now. Additionally, the pots feel better when turned and the switches are more solid feeling.

Japanese Fender Jazzmaster Retrofit

The guitar was a 2008 “Made in Japan” Fender Jazzmaster. I successfully retrofit the guitar with the components provided by Acme Guitar Works. There were a few things that had to be slightly modified to fit the USA components into the Japanese Fender Jazzmaster.

The hole for the Japanese 1/4” jack fit the Switchcraft 1/4” jack without issue.

The holes for the Tone and Volume Pots for the Lead Channel had to be drilled out to 3/8” to fit full-sized CTS pots. Jazzmaster knob set to fit the CTS pots’ shafts were also purchased from Acme Guitar Works.

The holes for the two-position slide switches (used for circuit selection) lined up fine with Switchcraft slide switches. The screws provided with the Switchcraft switch fit the holes in the Japanese Jazzmaster pickguard. However, the original Japanese metric screws had larger diameter heads, and I preferred the way they looked to the smaller headed screws that came with the Switchcraft switch. Accordingly, I tapped the holes on the slide switch to the same metric threading that the original screws that came with the Japanese switch on the guitar used. I found that the proper tap to use was M3x0.5. The original screws then fit perfectly.

The USA rhythm circuit mini-pot mounting bracket had to be purchased from Acme to be able to use the CTS mini-pots on the guitar. The bracket required the same tapping of the holes as the slide switches did, in order to use the original larger headed mounting screws. The holes lined up fine, they just needed to be re-tapped (as described above).

The rhythm circuit adjustment wheels were also purchased from Acme to fit the CTS mini-pots described above. With the USA bracket, CTS mini-pots and USA adjustment wheels in the Japanese guitar, shimming was required on the potentiometer body side (not the shaft side) of the mounting bracket to be able to have them centered in the adjustment wheel slots of the Japanese Jazzmaster pickguard. I found that a thin washer (about 1/32”) and a star washer together did the trick to put them in the proper position.

The American Vintage Reissue pickups fit perfectly and lined up with the Japanese pickup mounting holes without issue.

The American 3 way pickup selector switch had a smaller diameter collar than the Japanese one, but only slightly. To make it fit without being loose in the pickguard hole, I wrapped a few turns of [PTFE] plumbing tape around it. This made it fit snugly.

These were the only mods that I found necessary to entirely rewire the Japanese Jazzmaster with the exact USA components and cloth wire found in the American Vintage Reissue Jazzmaster available from Fender USA. The guitar sounds A LOT better and has much more reliable components in there now. Additionally, the pots feel better when turned and the switches are more solid feeling.

Note From ToneShapers

Acme Guitar Works is no longer in business, but the kits that are referred to by Jason in this document can be purchased from ToneShapers. They are identical to the ones referenced above.