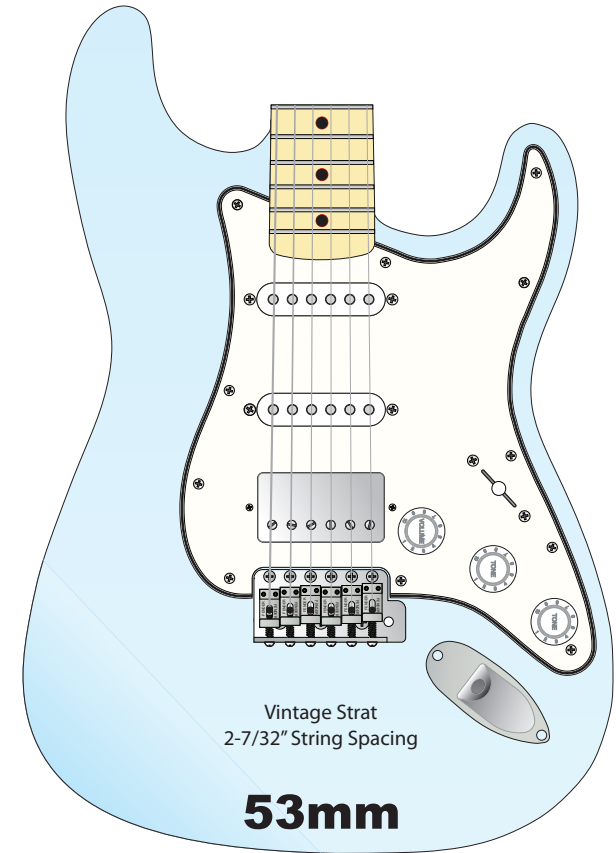
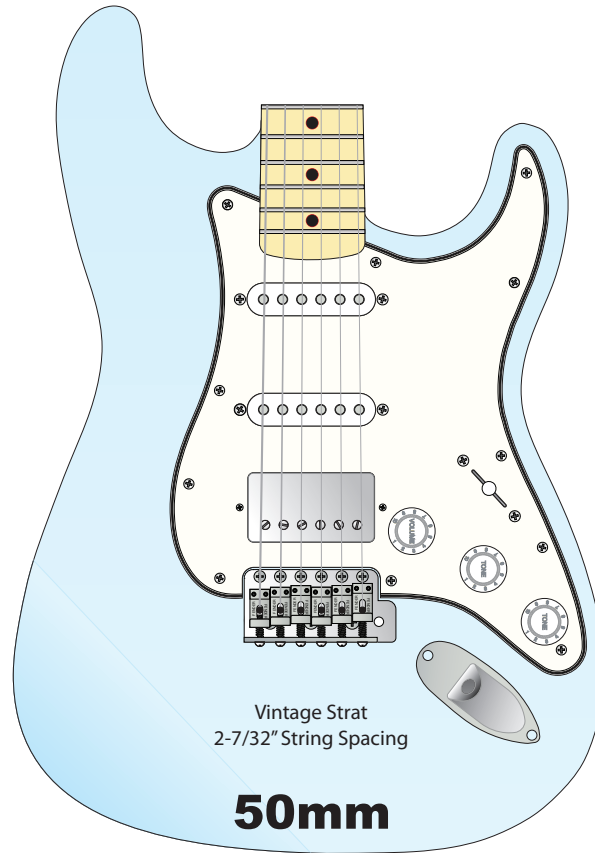


Humbucking pickups...

were designed in the 1950s by Gibson. The pole spacing of the pickups used in most Gibson models was 1-15/16" (1.9375"), which is pretty close to 50mm (1.9685" - a difference of .031"). Therefore, a lot of pickup manufacturers (Suhr, Lollar, Fralin) use 50mm to indicate a spacing essentially identical to the original Gibson pickups [see Les Paul illustration above].

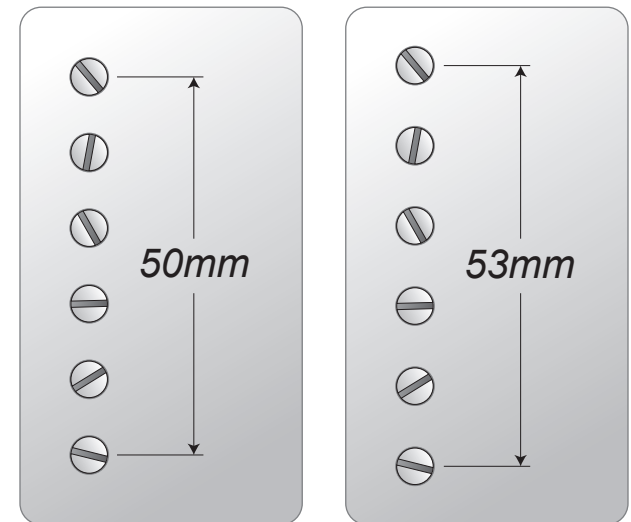
By the 1980s, two things had happened: 1) It became commonplace to put humbuckers in the bridge position of Stratocasters and Strat-like guitars; and 2) The Floyd Rose bridge system gained




wide acceptance, and most of the guitars it was used on had a humbucker in the bridge.

The Gibson humbuckers and their clones had a pole spacing that was too narrow for the wider Fender and Floyd Rose bridges, so the strings didn't line up over the pickup's pole pieces [see middle Strat illustration above]. So DiMarzio introduced a humbucker with wider pole spacing that they called *F-Spaced*. Whether the F stood for Fender or Floyd, we don't know. Maybe it stood for either. Importantly, at this time all Strats used the wider 2-7/32" string spacing; subsequently, the release of Strats with 2-1/16" spacing further confused the issue.

In any case, most pickup makers now make narrower and wider versions of their humbuckers. Suhr for instance makes 50mm and 53mm versions of their bridge humbuckers (their neck humbuckers are all 50mm). Generally, Gibson-style guitars and Strats with 2-1/16" string spacing (Standard, American Standard) will use a 50mm humbucker in the bridge position, while Strats with 2-7/32" string spacing (Vintage, Reissues) will use a 53mm humbucker in the bridge [see Strat illustration above right]. If you're unsure which would be best for your guitar, just measure the string spacing at the point where the poles will lie. The strings don't need to line up exactly, but close is good.



both pickups have the same outside dimensions

		
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