

OVERVIEW

Thanks for buying our ToneShapers Wiring Kit! With this kit you can wire your Les Paul with push/pull pots, and this will provide additional tonal flexibility compared to using standard pots.

There are many ways to configure switches, and no one document can hope to address them all. You'll find many wiring diagrams on the Internet, but there are many "gotchas" out there: You'll find incomplete pieces of information that don't consider your specific situation, and so you may find that what you initially thought was doable is in fact not doable.

So our goal here is to provide several real-world wiring schemes in their entirety, that actually work. The color-code used here is Duncan's; you may need to adjust if you're using another brand.

TWO COIL-SPLIT CONTROLS

This scheme uses each push/pull pot to split one pickup. So pulling up the neck pickup's tone pot splits the neck pickup, and pulling the bridge pickup's tone pot splits the bridge pickup. This gives you granular control over the coil splitting, so you can have the bridge pickup as a humbucker and the neck as a single-coil (for instance), and then toggle between these settings using the pickup selector.

TWO SERIES/PARALLEL CONTROLS

This is similar to the wiring above, but rather than actually split the pickups into single-coils, this wiring allows you to selectively combine the coils of a single humbucker in either series or parallel. Series is the default wiring for almost all humbuckers (there are exceptions), and this is part of what gives them that characteristic powerful, midrange tone that Gibsons are famous for.

But combine the two coils in parallel instead (like Fender does with Strats and Teles), and you get a more open, chimey sound, that still retains hum-cancelling. Pretty neat. It's not quite the same as having true single coils, but the *hum-cancelling* benefit will be enough to seal the deal for many players.

DUAL COIL-SPLIT + PHASE REVERSE

This scheme uses one of the push/pulls to simultaneously split both pickups, and the other to put the two pickups out-of-phase with each other in the middle (combined) switch position. That is, the phase reversal will have no tonal consequence when using only the neck or only the bridge pickup. But when both pickups are on - whether in humbucking mode or coil-split mode - their phase will be reversed relative to each other. This will result in a hollow, scooped-mid tone that can be very useful, especially when you manipulate one of the volume controls a little.

The downside of this wiring is that you cannot selectively split the humbuckers. They're either both humbuckers, or both split.



