

[How to get a a better bass response from a Strat](#)

This is an easy and cheap method to enhance the bass response from your Stratocaster. It works best with a Strat 's bridge pickup.

Guitar pickup covers are an example of a small aspect that can make an appreciable difference. The metal covers on Gibson, Fender, DeArmond, Gretsch and other pickups have more than a visual effect. Metal covers, including Telecaster bridge covers, are used as shielding against RF (radio frequency) interference, making the guitar quieter. A byproduct of having grounded conductive metal or shielding paint near a pickup's coil is a high-end attenuation (cut) caused by a capacitance effect. This is the same effect that will make your guitar set-up sound warmer—or duller, depending on your perception—when you use a longer cable between the guitar and the amp. A five-foot cable will give a slightly brighter sound than a twenty footer.

Pickup covers are typically made from nonferrous (iron-free) metals such as brass or nickel-silver, and are usually plated with nickel, chrome, gold, or black chrome finish. If a cover were to contain iron, it would alter the pickup's magnetic field, thus changing the pickup's tone and response significantly. A prime example is the copper-plated steel plate used under original '50s Tele bridge pickups to focus the magnetic field up toward the strings. This helped give those old pickups their bite and presence.

Take a piece of steel, about 1/2" x 2-1/2" x .060", and put it underneath your Strat 's bridge single-coil pickup, as shown in the photo. The magnets will hold it in place. The pickup will have a new sizzle that may give you the "edge" you're looking for. If you like it, you'll have to glue the steel in place with silicone or a glue that will isolate vibration. If you don't, she'll squeal like a pig ;-) You can try several materials and let your ears decide what you like best.

Adding this metal reflector plate to your single coil pickups (type and resistance doesn't matter) will increase punch and efficiency in the bass frequencies without altering the mids and highs. The plate acts as a reflector for the magnetic field of the pickup. The standard pickup is only 50% efficient (half its magnetic force is lost underneath the pickup). The reflector plate makes the magnetic field far more effective, plus increases the iron load of the pickup for a stronger tone.

[Available at the singlecoil-webshop \(www.singlecoil.com/shop.html\)](http://www.singlecoil.com/shop.html)

