

## General tricks to make any guitar sound better

There are some things that will work with any guitar to make them sound better. All operations are easy to do and really worth the time.

- 1.** If your guitar has a rear-routed tremolo cavity (eg. Stratocaster) that is covered with a plastic cover and some screws, take it away. It´s amazing how the overall sound of a guitar can change by simply taking away this cover.
- 2.** Take care of all screws on your guitar, they should be fasten VERY tight and strong for a better sound. Critical locations are the screws for the neck, the bridge and the tuners. Check them regularly.
- 3.** If your guitar has a tremolo (eg. Stratocaster) and you don´t use it, get it blocked with a piece of wood. This will increase sustain and response drastically.
- 4.** Shield your guitar (see corresponding project for this)
- 5.** Let your guitar breath: for this you should take away the paint at any location that can´t be seen, a critical location is the surface underneath the bridge of a Tele or a Strat. Eric Johnson knows why he is doing that to all of his guitars. You can also take away the complete paint of the inside of the pickup cavities and the complete surface that is covered with the pickguard.
- 6.** Let your guitar breath: check the wiring of your guitar, you will often find a lot of crappy cables in there. Get a high-quality cable and rewire the complete electronics. It´s nearly unbelievable what this can do to your tone.
- 7.** Let your guitar breath: check the routing for the neck on your guitar´s body. Remove any paint, dirt etc. you find there and sand it until you have an absolutely plain and clean surface. Do the same with the corresponding location of the neck - sand away the paint and bolt on the screws very tight.
- 8.** Restring your guitar with pure-nickel strings and hear details you never heard before from your guitar. Replace your cheap plastic nut with a good bone nut to hear even more subtle details.
- 9.** Change your cable with a very high quality cable (eg. George L´s) and hear details you never heard before from your guitar.
- 10.** Have fun :-)