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# FAQ

## GENERAL QUESTIONS SUMMARY

- What's an active pickup, and why would I use one?
- What are the advantages of an EMG pickup?
- Why an internal pre-amp?
- Which way does the connector on my pickup go?
- My Active EQ Accessory has two black wires.  
What's the other black wire for?
- Can I split the coils in my EMG-85?
- Do you make a direct replacement set for my 5 string Jazz bass?
- Do you make a 7 string single coil guitar pickup?
- Can I change the covers on my EMG pickups?
- Can I use the stock 5 way switch with my Zakk Wylde Set?
- My switch terminals are all on the same side.  
Do you have a diagram for that kind of switch?
- My pickups do not work unless the cord is plugged halfway in.  
Did I wire them wrong?
- What kind of preamp should I order for my Bass?
- Which pickup goes where in the Zakk Wylde Set?
- Can I use my Afterburner as a volume pot?
- Can I buy direct from you?





## ANSWERS

### **What's an active pickup, and why would I use one?**

An active pickup is one that uses electronics to improve the sound and enhance its operation. There are a variety of ways to "Activate" a pickup. A simple "buffer" pre-amp will do the trick, but it will also amplify the hum and buzz the pickup produces. Just because a pickup is "active" doesn't guarantee you'll get great results. EMG pickups utilize an internal pre-amp (inside the pickup), which not only makes the pickup louder, it also reduces the noise!

### **What are the advantages of an EMG pickup?**

The greatest is reduction in noise. No longer will the dimming of the house lighting system cause your guitar to buzz incessantly. You can use an extra long cable, or a wireless, and you'll get the same great tone every time.

### **Why an internal pre-amp?**

It's the most efficient way to create an active pickup. All the coil connections are shielded, the pre-amp is shielded, and the output of the pickup cable is low-impedance, which makes it less susceptible to noise. Also, it avoids a spider web of wires and possible loose connections in your guitar and the installation is simple. All the benefits with none of the hassle.

### **Which way does the connector on my pickup go?**

We're using a new style of connector now for all EMG products. With the connector installed on the product, you should see the small arrow facing you.

### **My Active EQ Accessory has two black wires. What's the other black wire for?**

The additional black wire is a ground. We decided to use the same cable harness for all of our active accessories, so as to make the manufacturing process smoother and quicker.

### **Can I split the coils in my EMG-85?**

No. The EMG-89 or 89R are the split coil versions of the EMG-85.





**Do you make a direct replacement set for my 5 string Jazz bass?**

No. The only 5 string bass pickups that we make are the 40 Extended series soap bars. The 40's measure 1.5 by 4.0 inches, so extensive modifications would have to be made to your instrument.

**Do you make a 7 string single coil guitar pickup?**

No, we do not. We do offer the coil tapping 707TW which will give you a single coil for 7 string. The only 7 string pickups made at this time are humbuckers; the EMG-707, 707TW, 81-7 and the 60-7 are NOT direct replacement pickups, as they utilize a 35 Extended Series cover cap. You may have to modify your instrument to be able to use them.

**Can I change the covers on my EMG pickups?**

No. Once the epoxy is cured, the pickup covers cannot be removed without damaging the pickup.

**Can I use the stock 5 way switch with my Zakk Wylde Set?**

No. Using a 5 way switch with two EMG active pickups results in dead spots in positions 2 and 4. This can result in damage occurring to the speaker cones, especially at high gain levels. You'll have to replace the 5 way switch with a 3 way blade switch instead, like the one shown in our diagrams.

**My switch terminals are all on the same side. Do you have a diagram for that kind of switch?**

No. We do not have wiring information for inline switches, as we do not use them here at EMG.

**My pickups do not work unless the cord is plugged halfway in. Did I wire them wrong?**

Probably not, but you should check the orientation on the Quick-Connect cables. You may have the connectors on upside down.

**What kind of preamp should I order for my Bass?**

We do not make stand alone preamps for Bass guitars. We make active EQ accessories. Our Systems need to see a low impedance input, so they can only be used with EMG active pickups.





**Which pickup goes where in the Zakk Wylde Set?**

The 85 with the Gold logo goes in the neck position, and the 81 with the Silver logo goes in the bridge.

**Can I use my Afterburner as a volume pot?**

No. The AB was designed to be an active EQ accessory, not a volume pot. It performs the same function as the EMG-PA2.

**Can I buy direct from you?**

No. We do not sell direct, but if you go back to your site, you can find an EMG Dealer in your area, as well as approved online Dealers.

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