

Option B: Replace “post-volume” tone pot with “pre-volume” Stellartone ToneStyler DUO SIX Gretsch_Option_B_pg1_pg2.pdf



Guitar Wiring Schematic #5 (Composite)
June 2015

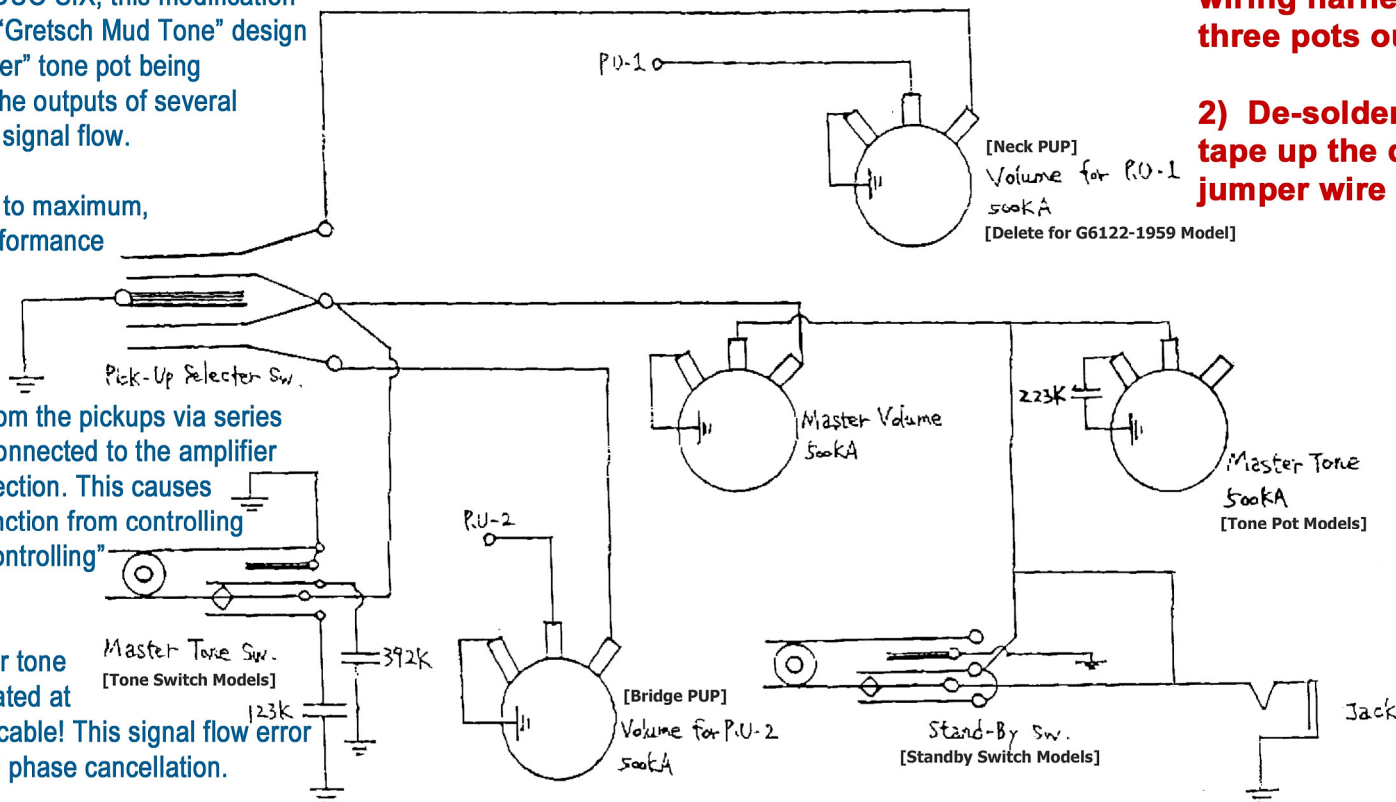
Description and purpose:

In addition to replacing the guitar’s basic tone pot with a Stellartone ToneStyler DUO SIX, this modification also corrects the original “Gretsch Mud Tone” design flaw, caused by the “master” tone pot being improperly-connected to the outputs of several volume pot outputs in the signal flow.

When all volumes are set to maximum, the original tone pot’s performance is normal.

However, when volumes are reduced, the original tone pot is “decoupled” from the pickups via series resistance, but remains connected to the amplifier input at a zero-ohm connection. This causes the tone pot to shift its function from controlling the pickups, to “remote-controlling” the amplifier.

Remote-mounted amplifier tone controls work poorly, situated at the end of a 20’ shielded cable! This signal flow error causes comb-filtering and phase cancellation.



1) Remove tone pot and both PUP volume pots through an empty pickup mounting hole. You may have to temporarily remove other parts to allow sufficient slack in the wiring harness to access these three pots outside the body.

2) De-solder tone pot, and tape up the disconnected jumper wire to prevent shorting.

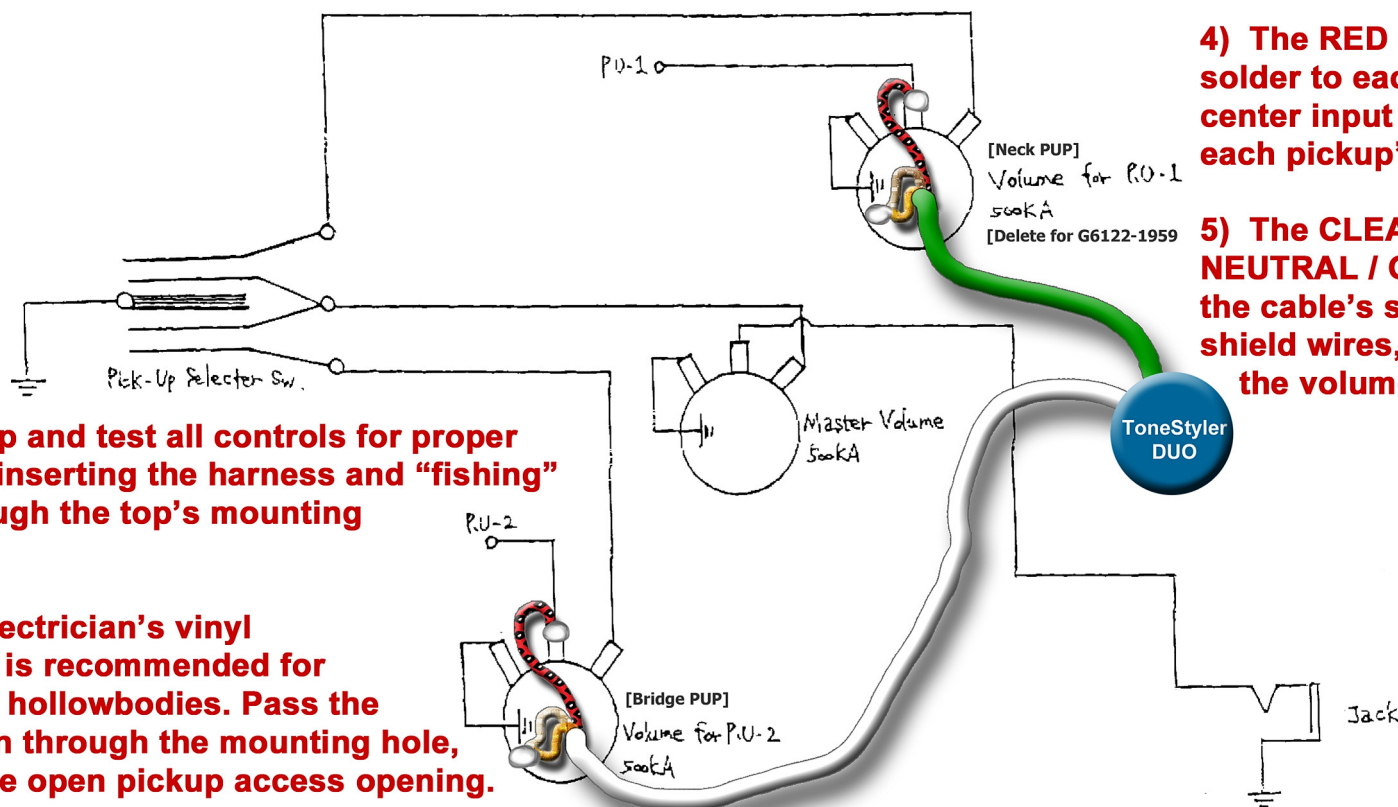
This upgrade removes the original single-deck “post-volume” tone pot, and replaces it with a dual-channel “pre-volume” Stellartone ToneStyler DUO SIX.

Now, volume reductions have zero effect upon the pre-set tone of either pickup, at any volume, blend, or selector switch settings. As a bonus, two contrasting tone adjustment ranges are now provided for each pickup; the neck PUP has a wider & darker range, while the bridge PUP has a narrower & brighter range.

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3) Solder each of the color-coded ToneStyler DUO SIX shielded cables to the corresponding PUP's volume pot:
bridge PUP= white cable jacket;
neck PUP = color cable jacket.

4) The RED inner wire is HOT; solder to each volume pot's center input terminal, along with each pickup's HOT wire.

5) The CLEAR inner wire is NEUTRAL / GROUND; solder to the cable's stranded copper shield wires, then solder both to the volume pot's metal cases.

6) Plug into an amp and test all controls for proper function before re-inserting the harness and “fishing” the pots back through the top's mounting holes.

7) 1/4" diameter electrician's vinyl “SHRINK TUBING” is recommended for reinstalling pots in hollowbodies. Pass the 3' tube length down through the mounting hole, then back out of the open pickup access opening.

8) Shrink the tube to the control's tip with a lighter or match, then pull the other end of the tube as you direct the control back through the body and out of its mounting hole. Install the flat washer & hex nut over the tube before cutting it off.

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9) Advanced option: a tone switch can be removed and replaced with a ToneStyler & Gretsch arrow knob. Add a spacer bushing to the smaller 3/8" OD ToneStyler bushing, to fill the surrounding gap of the larger 15/32" ID toggle mounting hole.