

How to get a Tele style tone out of any Strat

This is an easy and cheap method to get a Tele style tone out of a Stratocaster. It works best with a Strat's bridge pickup. It will NOT turn your Strat into a Telecaster but it sounds similar. As you may know, the Telecaster bridge pickup is based on a massive metal plate and this plate is part of it's magic tone. If you have a look at the Strat's pickups you will notice that they don't have such a plate I think you got it yourself now what to do ;-)

The original plate of the vintage Telecaster bridge pickup was made out of copper or zinc plated steel and was named "shielding plate" in the old Fender catalogues. 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 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 "Tele 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, closest to an old Tele vintage pickup will be zinc or copper plated steel.

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