

# NO BULL•et•in

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## Special Points of Interest:

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## Picking Pickups

If you think a hot pickup is that chick or dude you met at the bar, you're not a guitar player. In the rock world, a pickup converts the vibration of a string into an electric signal. OK, so it's not as exciting as the bar scene, but it makes a major impact on your guitar sound — with no STD risk!

The sound you get from your choice of pickups depends on 2 things: the characteristics of the pickups themselves, plus the pickup's position on your guitar.

Up to the 70s, most electric guitars used the same pickups in all positions, so it was position alone that created different sounds. Nowadays, it's more common to combine different pickup types, using hotter pickups in the bridge position.

Your choice of pickups can be

confusing, starting with the difference between a single coil and a humbucking pickup. The basic design of a pickup is a magnet wrapped with wire in a coil configuration. The metal strings interact with the magnetic field to produce a voltage in the coil. A humbucker is not, as some believe, a gay rodeo cowboy, but simply two single coils placed side by side. The humbucker "reads" a much larger section of the string than a single coil. The sound produced by a humbucker is typically "fatter" with less "hum".

Pickup factors affecting the tone include the number of windings, how close to the strings they're placed and the magnetic material used. Popular opinion says that the Alnico II magnet produces a sweet, vintage sound, while Alnico V is a little stronger and gives a brighter, more attacking tone, ideal for rock.

Your guitar's character is determined greatly by the type of woods

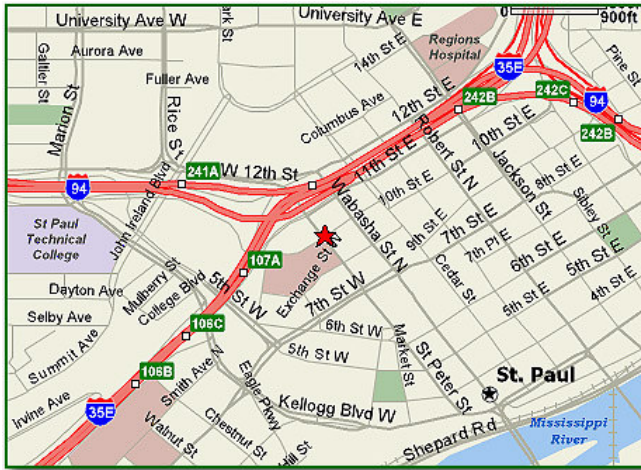
used in its construction, construction methods, string gauges, effects, amps, overdrive level and speakers.

Cheap pickups are often microphonic (subject to feedback) and have poor clarity. If you have a cheaper guitar, replacing the pickups with professional units can make a big difference.

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“Dude! This St. Paul guitar store **rocks!**”

*Minneapolis Star Tribune* article about Capitol Guitars, March 19, 2007

## ATTENTION LOCAL BANDS!!!

**Bring Us Your CDs or DVDs!!!**

If your band has a CD or DVD, we'll help you sell it. Just bring in a few copies to Capitol Guitars. We'll take them on consignment, display them and pay you for the copies we sell.

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**PICKUPS:** Seymour Duncan, DiMarzio, EMG, B-Band



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**NORTH STAR  
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SEASON SCHEDULE  
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**MINNEAPOLIS  
CONVENTION CENTER**

*April 26th  
May 17th*

## **EXCHANGE YOUR USED STUFF FOR USED CASH!**

Capitol Guitars knows the importance of used gear. We know that as your talent and experience grows, so does your need to upgrade your equipment. We also understand that sometimes your financial situation sometimes dictates that your need for some immediate ka-ching might mean you need to swap your expensive gear for some ready cash. Or maybe, as your significant other might put it, you've just got Too. Much. Goddam. Stuff.

You're in luck! Capitol Guitars is always in the market for Used Stuff. Guitars, basses, amps, pedals — we pay cash for gear that we can sell. It's a win-win-win deal. You get the \$\$\$ you need, we make a little profit (hopefully), and someone out there who needs what you don't gets a good deal.

Give us a call (651-225-8888) or bring in your stuff today. We'll tell you what it's worth. You'll have your choice of selling it outright to us or trading it in on something on your wish list (we can be even more generous on trade-ins).

### **USED GEAR JUST IN!**

**USA JACKSON RR1** Black with Ghost Flames. EMG 81/85 pickups. Capitol Price just \$1699 (with hardshell case).

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THIS MONTH'S *NEW PRODUCT SPECIAL*

## SEYMOUR DUNCAN P-RAILS

Until now, if you wanted a humbucker, P-90, and vintage Strat tones, you'd have to haul three guitars to the gig.

Enter P-Rails! It's a full-size humbucker that slips to either a full-size P-90 OR a special Alnico-powered single coil rail pickup. The humbucker sound is full and expansive, owing to the mismatched coil configuration. The P-90 is super fit. And the rail coils, when used together, sound like the "2" and "4" positions in a great Strat.



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***CAPITOL GUITARS!***

### WHO (WHAT?) IS A SEYMOUR DUNCAN?

“Seymour” is an unlikely name for a rock and roll legend. But in the case of Seymour Duncan, it's the name behind some of the world's most identifiable guitar tones.

Seymour W. Duncan started out as a guitarist and guitar repairman, growing up in the fifties and sixties — right at the time when the electric guitar was growing up. Like Les Paul, he was as fascinated by the mechanics behind the electric guitar as he was with performing.

Early on in his playing career, he spent time with musicians like

Les Paul and Roy Buchanan and soon realized that greatness depended on *both* his talent and the guitar itself.

At Les Paul's suggestion, he went to England in the late sixties where he worked in the Repair and R&D Departments at the Fender Soundhouse in London. There he worked with guys like Jimmy Page, George Harrison, Eric Clapton, Pete Townshend, Jimi Hendrix, Peter Frampton, and his own particular Guitar Hero, Jeff Beck.

His work with Beck in particular

helped him hone his pickup winding skills. You can hear some of his signature pickup tones on Jeff's early solo albums.

Seymour came back to the States, settled in California, and, in 1978, started his own company, Seymour Duncan Pickups. Their products are used by most of today's most discerning and diverse players, from Aerosmith to ZZ Top.

Seymour Duncan's latest venture is the Antiquity and Antiquity II Series, which produce the genuine sound and vibe of pickups made in the 50s and 60s.