



TRANCE AUDIO ACOUSTIC LENS

NEW INSTALLATION OPTIONS!

Enclosed you will find samples of a new adhesive material we are using at Trance to speed up and simplify the installation process for your Acoustic Lens Transducers. You will find that this adhesive has already been applied to the pickups.

You may want to clean and prepare the bridgeplate first by sanding it lightly with a small piece of #100 grit sandpaper wrapped around a small sanding block (a 9-volt battery works well for this). Blow out any sawdust from the inside with compressed air, or turn the instrument upside down and shake it out. Wipe the bridgeplate clean with a very lightly moistened clean cloth, and allow it to dry. We recommend that you still use one of the methods described in the installation instructions to mark the position of the saddle line on the bridgeplate, and mount a mirror inside the guitar along with some sort of lighting to make the placement process easier. With the mirror mounted underneath the bridgeplate, you can place your eye up close to one of the unused bridgepin holes and see exactly where you are placing the Lens as you move it around.

After you have installed the endpin and the internal preamp, you can begin to evaluate mounting positions for the Lens. It often helps to use a good pair of enclosed headphones for the initial evaluation, because this will help to isolate you from the acoustic sound of the instrument, and let you concentrate more on the sound coming from the transducer. To mount the pickup, simply remove the protective paper covering from the Lens and apply it to the spot that we have designated in the installation instructions. Once the pickup is placed in the desired position, press firmly over the entire area to adhere it securely. If you work with one pickup at a time, and string up just the top three or bottom three strings, there will be enough room for you to place your arm into the soundhole and move the pickup while you strum the strings and listen to the results.

Placement determines the tone and string balance of the pickup. The tone is brightest and loudest when the transducer is located directly on the saddle line. Moving it towards the sound hole will mellow the tone, adding more body resonance, and less direct string sound. Moving the pickup along the saddle line will determine the string balance. Moving towards a weak string will increase its volume; find a position where the two outside strings of each three-string group are balanced in volume. The installation instructions show the preferred mounting locations; use these as a starting point, and make small adjustments as necessary. Your ideal location for the Lens should be very close to these positions.

The pickup may be removed and relocated several times before the adhesive will start to “lose its grip”. When it does, you can simply peel it off of the transducer, and replace it with one of the extra pieces enclosed. Peel off the paper from one side of the material, and apply it to the Lens, first making sure that the surface of the pickup is clean and free of any old adhesive. Rub it firmly with your thumb to make sure that it is evenly adhered along the entire length of the pickup, and trim off the excess with a pair of scissors.

Once you have found an appropriate mounting spot, you can mark it with a small pencil and firmly reapply the pickup with a fresh adhesive strip for a semi-permanent installation, or you can use the Barge[®] contact cement included to make a final installation, as detailed in the installation instructions. This cement provides a bit more volume and richness of tone, and provides the most durable installation for demanding applications, but is by no means necessary to obtain a satisfying sound with the Lens.

We still strongly recommend seeking an experienced repairperson or luthier to install the endpin jack if your instrument is not already equipped with one or prepared to receive one. Trying to drill the proper size hole without the proper tools will cause extreme damage to your instrument! Some instruments, like newer Taylors and Lowdens, have a plug assembly that can be removed to reveal the proper size hole (15/32”).

