
michael
pope
DESIGN
FLEXCORE
INSTRUCTIONAL OVERVIEW

Shielding and grounding the preamp

Proper shielding is very important to the overall performance of the preamp. I recommend using copper foil as opposed to conductive paint. Connect all shields like bridge ground, drain wires from pickups, etc., to a common point on the copper foil and then run a single wire from that point to the Shields Ground input on the green screw terminal.

Building the Passive Section

In the following pages we'll go over how to make all the connections in the preamp except for the active EQ section Because of the many different configurations available, the assembly instructions have been separated into 2 sections.

DON'T GET FREAKED OUT BY ALL THE INFORMATION. IT'S NOT ALL FOR YOU.

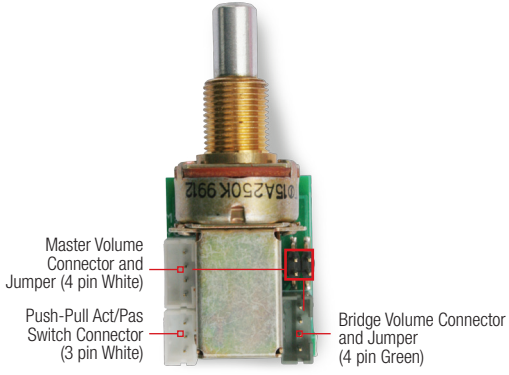
Section #1 --- Dual volume control configuration

If you have a Core 1.1 or Core 1.2 preamp, use the Section #1 instructions. Whether you plan to use the standard push/pull volume control or you have purchased the stacked volume/passive tone option with an active/passive toggle the appropriate connections will be shown. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the connections on the modules you plan to use.

Section #2 --- Balancer/Master Volume configuration

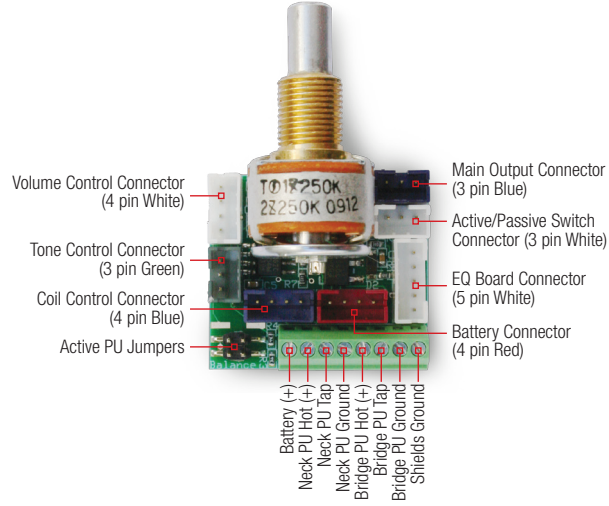
If you have a Core 2.1 or Core 2.2 preamp, use the Section #2 instructions. Whether you plan to use the standard push/pull volume control or you have purchased the stacked volume/passive tone option with an active/passive toggle the appropriate connections will be shown. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the connections on the modules you plan to use.

VOLUME BOARD

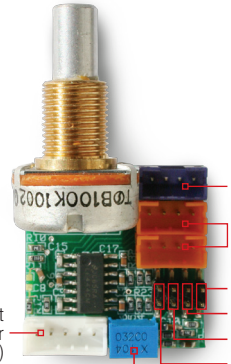


The Passive and Active Sections are assembled separately, then connected together by a single 5 Pin wire harness.

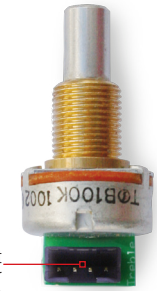
BALANCER BOARD



EQ BOARD

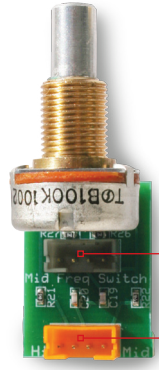


TREBLE BOARD



NOTE:
If you purchased a **Core x.1** preamp, your **EQ board** will hold a **gray and brown single bass control (like the one at left) instead of the** green **dual shaft control shown.** In this case, the Treble cut/boost control is relocated from the top shaft of the dual control to the **Treble board**.

HIGH MID BOARD



LOW MID BOARD

BALANCER BOARD

The Balancer Board is where all the signals get in and out of the preamp. Depending on the configuration of your preamp, this board may have a balancer or a single Neck Pickup Volume control on it. The pickups connect straight to the screw terminals. Simply strip the wires and insert them into the appropriate terminal. Then tighten the screw down tight. There will be more detailed instructions on connecting pickups later in this manual.

If you are using active pickups like EMG's, you MUST run the preamp on 18Volts. You must also install the provided jumper shunts on the Active PU Jumpers.

White Volume Control Connector – Connect this, through one of the supplied 4 pin wire harnesses, to the appropriate connector on the Volume Board (see next page)

Green Tone Control Connector – Connect this , throug h one of the supplied 3 pin wire harnesses, to the optional passive tone control module.
NOTE NOT FOR PREAMPS EQUIPPED WITH STACKED VOLUME/TONE MODULE

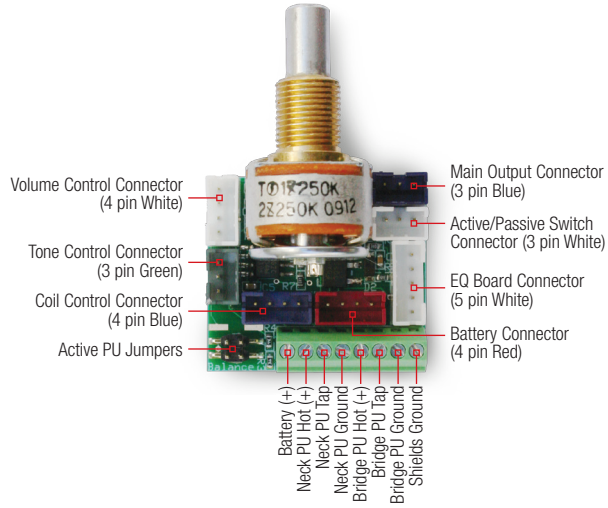
Blue Coil Tap Connector – Connect this , through one of the supplied 4 pin wire harnesses, to the optional Coil Tap Switch Module

Singe Pickup Jumper – Install a black jumper shunt on this jumper for single pickup configurations.

Active Pickup Jumpers – Install black jumper shunts on both of these jumpers when using active pickups like EMG's.

Pickup Connection Terminal – Connect your pickup(s) here. Detailed instructions will follow the preamp assembly procedure.

Red Battery Harness Connector – Connect the supplied 2-battery harness here. If you intend to operate the preamp on 9 volts, simply cut off one of the battery clips, strip the wires, twist them together, solder and insulate them with heat shrink tubing.



EQ Board Connector – Connect this , through the supplied 5 pin wire harness, to the White 5 pin connector on the EQ Board.

White Active/Passive Switch Connector - Connect this , through one of the supplied 3 pin wire harnesses, to either the 3 pin connector on the Volume Board, or to the 3 pin connector on the optional Active/Passive Switch Module.

Blue Main Output Connector – Connect the supplied, pre-wired output jack here. If using the optional standby (kill) switch, connect this , through one of the supplied 3 pin wire harnesses, to the blue 3 pin connector on the optional standby switch module. Then connect the output jack to the remaining Green 3 pin connector.

VOLUME BOARD

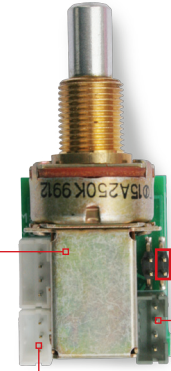
The Volume Board can serve 2 functions depending on the Core unit you've purchased. It can be used as a Bridge Volume control or a Master Volume control. If you have a Core 3.x (single Pickup model), this is your only volume control.

VOLUME / BALANCER

For **Core 2.x and 3.x** preamps, configure the Volume Board as a **Master Volume Control** by plugging the 4 Pin harness from the White Volume Control connector on the Balancer Board to the White Connector on the Volume Board.

Place a Jumper shunt across the **highlighted pins** on the Gold and Black jumper block.

NOTE: For **Core 3.x** preamps, be sure to place a jumper across the **Single Pickup Jumper** on the **Balancer Board**, too.



VOLUME / VOLUME

For **Core 1.x** preamps, configure the Volume Board as a **Bridge Pickup Volume Control** by plugging the 4 Pin harness from the White Volume Control connector on the Balancer Board to the Green Connector on the Volume Board.

Place a Black Jumper shunt across the **highlighted pins** on the Gold and Black jumper block.

Finally, to access the **push-pull function** of the Volume control, connect a 3 pin wire harness from the White, 3 Pin Active/Passive Connector on the Balancer Board to the White 3 Pin Connector on the Volume Control Board.

Congrats! You now have the front end of your preamp finished. On to the EQ section.

ACTIVE EQ BOARD

This board handles all of the active EQ function. All four bands of EQ are created by this board and the modules plugged into the Blue and Orange connectors on it.

The White 5 pin connector - This is the only connection back to the passive part of the preamp. It carries the input and output of the preamp, as well as the power supply and ground signals.

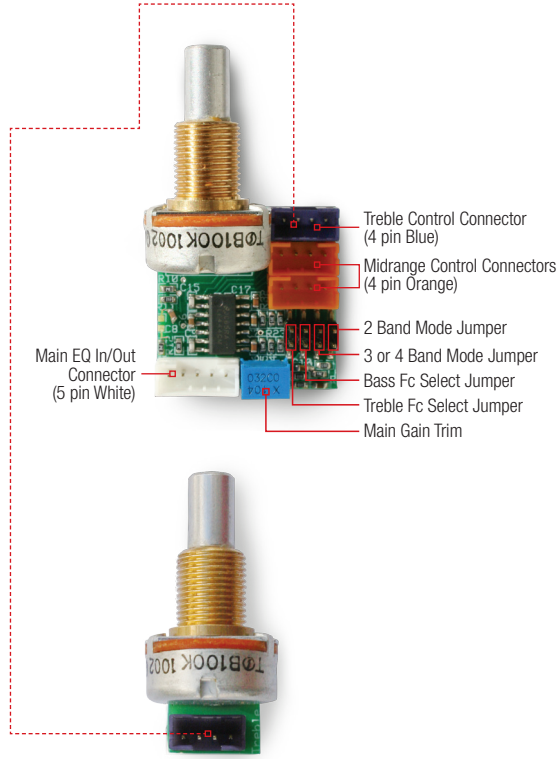
Main Gain Trim – controls the amount of overall gain the preamp has with EQ controls set to flat.

Treble and Bass Fc Select Jumpers – Place a jumper shunt on either or both of these to lower the frequency of either control. You can select a deep (lower) or thick bass, and an airy or crunchy (lower) treble.

2 Band and 3/4 Band Mode Jumpers - If you plan to only use the Bass and Treble Bands then place a jumper shunt on the 2 Band Mode jumper. If you plan to use one or both of the midrange controls, place one on the 3 or 4 Band Mode jumper.

Orange Midrange Control Connectors – Plug your midrange boards into these. They are identical. In 3/4 band mode they are both on and interchangeable. If you plan you use only one midrange, you may choose either the high midrange, or the low midrange. And you may freely swap them at a later date if you wish to experiment.

Blue Treble Control Connector – If your EQ board has a single gang control on it, you must plug the Treble board into this connector if want the treble boost/cut function. You are not required to use the treble control if you so desire.



TREBLE BOARD

The Midrange Boards are functionally identical except for the parts that determine the frequencies they control. You can use either one or both interchangeably.

There is also a Dual Midrange Module available which makes both midrange controls available on one concentric pot, reducing the number of holes needed in your bass. It can be purchased directly from Michael Pope Design or from any dealer.

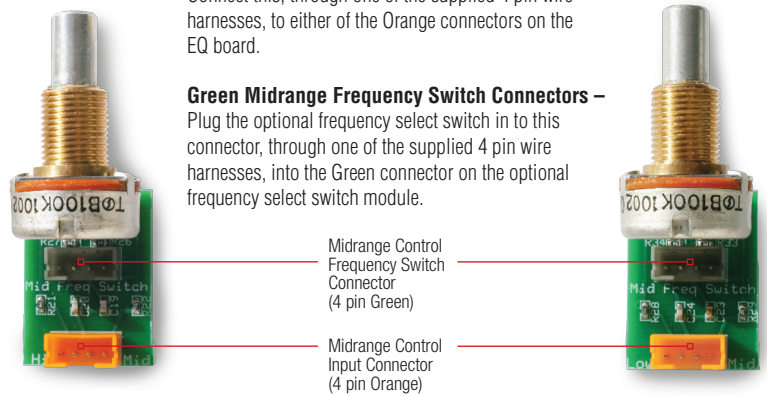
NOTE: In lieu of the switch, you may also choose place jumper shunts across the pins of the green connector to lower the frequency of the control.

The High Mid can be either a very high, snappy frequency or an edgy finger tone "bite" frequency with the jumpers on.

The Low Mid can be either a punchy "middle" mid or a round low/wide mid (jumpers on) that will fatten up your bridge pickup sound a lot. Works great with the lower (deep) bass control frequency setting.

Orange Midrange Control Input Connectors –
Connect this, through one of the supplied 4 pin wire harnesses, to either of the Orange connectors on the EQ board.

Green Midrange Frequency Switch Connectors –
Plug the optional frequency select switch in to this connector, through one of the supplied 4 pin wire harnesses, into the Green connector on the optional frequency select switch module.



GREAT! Your preamp should be assembled now. Time to hook up the pickups and install it.