

Module 5- Lesson 5– Active Pickups Removing Old Electronics

So what we want to do – we want to protect the guitar, so having a cloth – possibly even a couple of cloths on the guitar, so we don't want any sort of solder spilling over and landing on the body of the guitar, so what I'm going to do is I'm going to remove this neck pickup bleed wire here from the third terminal over. Again, every switch is a little bit different, and so you just have to kind of follow best you can.

Okay. So I have that lead wire off now. What I want to do is remove these ground wires. Now, sometimes when you remove the ground wires, you will remove other ground wires because they're all soldered to the same location, so that's okay. What you want to do is make sure that they do get reattached if that's the case, so I'm just kind of looking because what I can see here is this white wire here, and the pickup lead wires or grass ground wires are connected to the same location.

Okay. Now we're getting this thing to melt, and I want to remove the wires really slowly because if I pull them – I'm pulling hard on the wires as I'm melting it, then the solder can kind of flick off and fly around, and it can wind up on your guitar. It could obviously wind up in your eye if you don't have protective glasses. So we got the neck lead wires disconnected, so now what we're going to do is we're going to go to the bridge one and remove that, and this will allow us to get a little bit better view of what's happening in here as well.

Okay. Nice and easy. Now I'm going to remove the ground wires from the switch again. Pull away nice and slow. We don't want any solder kind of flicking around, and I can see that – I can see that one of the ground wires here – which is this black wire here. So this black wire is coming from the bridge, so this is real important that it gets grounded. Again, because if it's not grounded, you can get some potential some hum coming through the pickup, so we definitely want to keep that thing grounded.

Okay. So we don't have to remove this white wire right here at least the smaller white wire, and the reason why is because this is going to we're going to use the same wire to attach to the new potentiometer, and this particular terminal here is basically acting as the sum of the switch, so if you're on your neck pickup, the neck is going to be sent out to here, and if you switch over to your bridge, the bridge is going to be going out here, and if you're in the middle position, both pickups are going to be sent out of this wire right here.

So now let's take a look – I can kind of move these wires out of the way, and we can get a better look of what's going on in here, and I'm going to remove these washers here. So what we're going to do is we're going to remove a few of these wires because we're going to keep these wires, and so the first thing I'm going to do is I'm going to see if I can remove these ground wires right here on the back of the pot. I'm just going to slowly remove those ground wires. It's kind of a little bit like surgery.

So what I want to do now is remove these two wires, so it's kind of a little bit of a tricky spot here. So I'm going to do my best to – again, this is really the one challenge you're going to face. It's a very small kind of area, so just going to make sure your tip is nice and clean. That'll help transfer the heat better and nice and slowly, I remove that wire there. I'm going to do the same thing with this outer lug. There we go. What I can see here on these wires is the ground wires were twisted so they can be grounded together in one spot. Same thing with these two wires here.

What we're going to do is we're just going to start this from scratch. So let's go ahead and cut these wires. You don't have to do this, I'm just going to show you how to reconnect these, and you can see we can get rid of this little end piece here, so this wire here is coming from the switch here, and then I'm going to use the 24 gauge here, and I'm going to do the same thing and use my helping hands to tin this wire here again. I'm trying to protect the guitar. I don't want any solder dropping on the guitar.

Not everybody tins their wires. Again it's just kind of – I get in the habit of doing just because it makes things a little bit easier. So there we go. Nice. Nice. Tin wire. I'm going to leave this ground wire as is. I think it's fine because it's going to be reconnected to the switch casing. I'll re-tin this – the bridge ground wire – just to make sure that everything has a nice good connection. Always clean off your iron before you use it. That'll make the heat transfer much better. If you want to remove this blue wire because we're going to reuse this blue wire as well. This is why I like tweezers. They can really get into the small locations here, so we're going to remove from the back of the pot here – a big heat sink here even with a relatively powerful soldering iron. Again, remove it really as slowly as you can we don't want any solder getting anywhere. I'm going to do the same thing with this terminal here. This lug. There we go. We've got that wire nicely removed.

Because this wire is long enough, I can trim it and then kind of start over. You don't have to; it's just, again, it's just kind of a habit to be able to kind of start with nice fresh cut and tinned wires. So I have to do both sides of this. We're going to strip it. We're going to tin both the ground wires as well as the inner white wire, so I'm going to strip roughly about this much off. Do about the same amount on both sides. I'm going to do the same thing – just kind of twist these wires. Now I'm going to strip a little bit of this white wire here. Do that on both sides if you're having a hard time twisting. Something small like this, you could actually use a pair of needle nose pliers like this, and then kind of wrap it around. Tin these wires. So now it's a little cleaned up here.

Our bridge ground wire is tinned and ready to go. Our switch lead wires are tinned and ready to go. So now what we can do is remove the pickups on the other side.

English (auto-generated)