

STETSBAR FAQ

How much pitch range does the Stetsbar have?

Different string gauges will have an effect on the amount of up and down pitch that can be achieved. On a .009 to .042 gauge the open low E will have over an octave drop and perhaps more depending how it is set up. You should achieve about a third up on the up side. Please keep in mind that heavier gauge strings will work the unit harder and less range will be achieved. It is recommended that .011 thru .048 gauge are the heaviest gauge used. Generally speaking we would rate the Stetsbar pitch change capability as similar to that of a well set up USA Fender Stratocaster style tremolo.

My Stetsbar just been installed and some strings do not return to tune!

Mounting and intonating the Stetsbar on your guitar doesn't always mean that the installation process is complete. Once you have fitted the Stetsbar - and your new strings have stretched in - any return to tune issues will almost always involve the nut. When a tremolo operates, it stretches the string from the tuner all the way to the string anchor - over the entire length of the guitar. Each point the string passes over has the potential to cause problems. The Stetsbar is a linear tremolo with the bridge and string anchor moving together so the nut is the only area where string friction or string catching in the nut slots may be an issue. At its simplest this may be cured by using a guitar lubricant and we recommend Big Bends Nut Sauce. If this does not help it is most likely that the nut needs attention to set it correctly for working with a tremolo. The nut may need some of its slots widening or shaping - normally a skilled job requiring a good eye and a set of nut files. Any weaknesses in the nut can also be exposed when first used with a tremolo and the nut may sometimes best be replaced by graphite or other specialised replacement. It is because of these issues that we generally recommend a guitar tech does the Stetsbar installation. How your guitar reacts with the Stetsbar (or any other tremolo for that matter) will determine what other work is needed to complete the installation. Finally, you may also want to experiment with all nickel strings - these are generally more stable than other compositions.

What adjustments will I have to make after the Stetsbar has been installed?

Occasionally you may experience some play in the tremolo arm. If play does develop, then slightly adjusting one tension screw will remove it. Refer to the Stetsbar installation instructions.

I have a "string through body" guitar. Will a Stetsbar fit?

These types of guitar don't normally have any direct fastening points for the Stetsbar Stop Tail version. In the past, customers have had bushings inserted in the body placed where a stop tail - similar to the Gibson stop tail - would normally be. These bushings are the fastening points for the Stetsbar tremolo. The other option is to use our OEM model. This has a smaller "foot print", preferably requiring a shallow pocket for the base plate which is then fastened by the four number 8 wood screws which are supplied with the unit. So, if you are looking for a direct mount tremolo without putting any holes in the guitar then we can't offer anything. But if you don't mind the modifications above then the Stetsbar will perform perfectly.

Obviously, the above work is not for the inexperienced - a qualified guitar tech must install it. This will ensure that the correct installation job is done, that you are happy and that we know that the job was done professionally and accurately. This means that if you purchase a Stetsbar for this type of guitar it is a "one way street". If the job is too much for you a return is really not an option unless the Stetsbar is faulty in any way. So, if you are considering having this sort of job done, then do get your guitar tech to confirm that it can be done and to contact us if there are any questions.

Can the Stetsbar replace my Strat tremolo?

No - not without some modification. The Strat tremolo is a fulcrum tremolo. The Stetsbar is a linear tremolo. As we remarked, bushings for the stop bar style would need inserting or a pocket and screws for the OEM used. The neck will also need a shim installing (like the Tele style Stetsbar). If you want to replace your Stratocaster trem we recommend the Super-Vee double locking tremolo for Stratocaster. See www.super-vee.com

Can the Stetsbar replace my Kahler Tremolo?

In many cases it will - and at least it will cover the nasty hole it made in your guitar. The model with the bushing setup should be a direct swap for the Stop Tail Stetsbar. The Kahler unit that screws down can be replaced by the Stop Tail or OEM version with the guitar modifications we describe above.

Can the Stetsbar replace my Bigsby Tremolo?

In some cases it can. If your guitar is a hollow body then we don't have a Stetsbar version that will suit. For solid body or semi solids it is best to get your guitar tech to clarify which Stetsbar model will work best for you.

I have a wrap around bridge - how will the Stetsbar mount to it?

Until now there has been no direct mount for a "wrap around" bridge of the type often used on a PRS guitar. We are presently working on a great design that will perform to the usual high Stetsbar standards and mount to the original holes with no modifications to the guitar.

I have a unique guitar and I would like to know if a Stetsbar will fit

The Stetsbar was first designed as an "after market" tremolo for stop tail or Tele style guitars. We now have an OEM model designed for guitar builders. Any one of these may work for you but you will need to have the suitability of these assessed by looking at the following measurements:

- String to body height at the bridge must be a minimum of 5/8 inch (in the Tele style this is achieved with a neck shim provided).
- The stop bar bushing location must be 1 and 5/8 inch back from the bridge. (Tip - Measure this from the nut to the centre of the bushings and then subtract the scale length. Measuring from the bridge is often awkward as it is at a 3 degree angle with staggered saddles.)

If I build a guitar what do I need to know for the Stetsbar to mount? OEM, Stop Tail or Tele?

For new builds we recommend the OEM Stetsbar for a direct application. The OEM model requires a small shallow pocket to be routed out of the top of the guitar to hold the mounting plate (or it can be mounted to the surface). We will be happy to provide more details upon request.

How can I avoid hum when I install the Stetsbar?

Make sure that your grounding wire is properly attached to the Stetsbar. Black anodised or painted bases should have a bare patch of metal exposed unless there is one already. Stop-tail units should have a patch on the inner edge of the treble side stop-tail hole. Tele and Hard Tail units should have a patch made on the bottom around a convenient screw hole. Use a Dremmel or similar hand-tool for professional results.



www.stetsbar.com | info@stetsbar.com | 1-716-675-0009

The STETSBAR is a fine mechanism, designed and built for superior performance. In the USA, a lifetime warranty is provided to the original owner for replacement against manufacturing defects excluding normal wear and tear. Please retain all documentation for any claims. Warranty in other Territories is governed by their national laws. If you need additional help or have any enquiries, please contact us. The STETSBAR is protected by US Patent Numbers 5392680 & 7544873B1. Copyright 2008 Stets Metal Arts Inc.

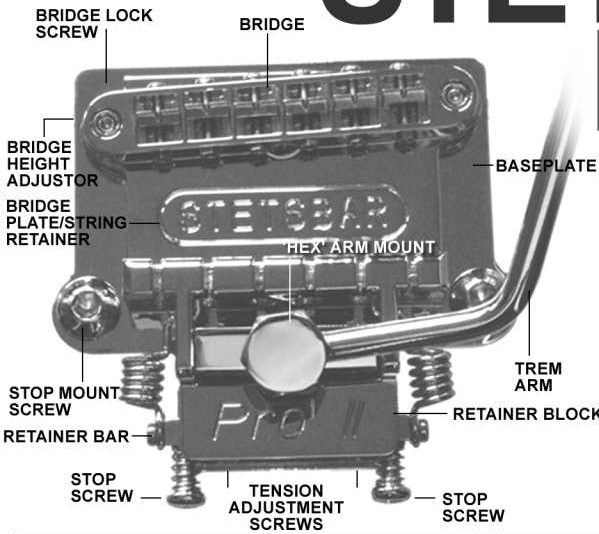
STETSBAR PRO II



INSTALLATION & SETUP

STETSBAR PARTS

STETSBAR BASES

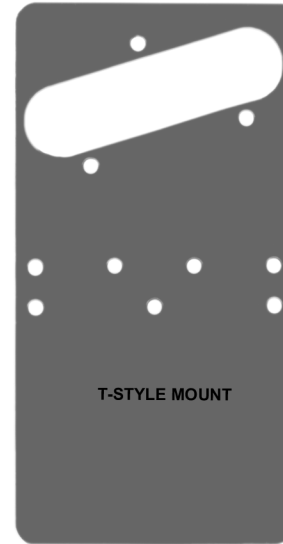


STETSBAR Pro II

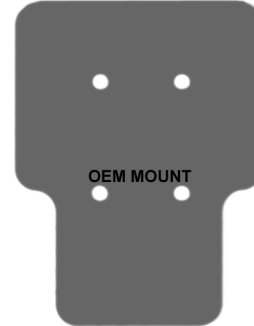
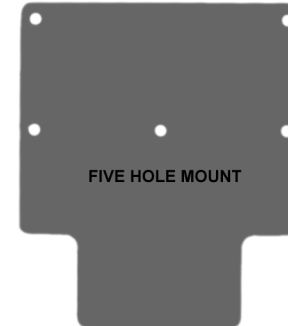
The STETSBAR Pro II can be set up to operate in its traditional full-floating mode or with the "floating-lock" feature. The Pro II design splits the action of the floating tremolo into the separate down and limited up pitch actions (determined by string gauge).

With this feature, tuning stability is maintained even when a string breaks

The STETSBAR's features are further extended through the ability to support drop-D tuning and extreme string bends now have no impact on the other strings.



As well as the stop-tail version shown above STETSBARs are available with baseplates to suit 'Hard Tail' guitars like the Thinline Tele, custom guitars that will use our 'OEM' mount and 'T-Style guitars' with the traditional diagonally mounted bridge pickup cutout.



1. Remove the 'ashtray' bridge and separate the bridge pickup from the bridge.
2. Remove the neck from the body by unscrewing the screws in the neck plate.
3. Place the supplied shim in the neck pocket with the thin edge facing forward and re-attach the neck. Check the neck angle and adjust the thickness of the shim if necessary.
4. Mark mounting holes and drill these slightly oversized for screw clearance. Re-fit the neck.

1. Remove the existing 'hardtail' bridge and neck. Place the supplied shim in the neck pocket, fit and re-attach the neck following the Telecaster instructions.
2. Remove the bridge following Telecaster Instructions Point 5.
3. Fit the STETSBAR to the existing 5 mounting holes using the supplied screws. Remember to ensure that the earth wire is well grounded to an area of bare metal on the STETSBAR.
4. Proceed to 'Setup'.

1. Make a 2mm shallow route in the top of the guitar to take the baseplate which should be secured with 4 wood screws.
- Alternately simply mount the the unit without routing.
- A position and routing template is available for purchase.
2. Proceed to 'Setup'.

READ ME FIRST

Please read through these instructions before starting work. We want you to get the best from your STETSBAR investment and if you do not have experience of this sort of work then you should get professional assistance to avoid damage to both your guitar or your STETSBAR. The STETSBAR requires no drilling or cutting tools but will require a 'guitar friendly' environment in which to perform the installation and access to basic guitar tech tools and techniques.

If you have ANY problems during installation then STOP and please call us for advice.

"IF YOU WANNA PLAY RIGHT, INSTALL IT RIGHT!"

Rev 111610: Always check www.stetsbar.com for the latest instructions & information

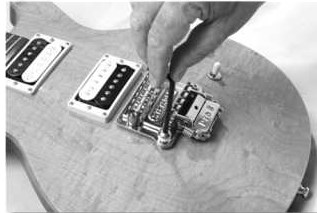
MOUNTING A STOP TAIL



1. Remove all hardware from the bridge pickup backwards - bridge, bridge posts, stop tail and stop-tail studs.

Place the STETSBAR on the guitar with the stop mount holes over the guitar's stop mount bushings.

Check that the unit sits flat to the body of the guitar and that nothing impedes it. Some guitar models have large collars on bridge and/or stop tail bushings and these may need to be removed.



2. Place the unit on the guitar. Fit one nylon washer on to each of the supplied 'button head' mounting bolts (both inch and metric bolts are supplied) and place these through the baseplate holes into the stop tail bushings to secure the STETSBAR to the guitar.

Secure firmly but DO NOT over-tighten the bolts as this could pull the bushings out of the guitar and might also damage the finish of the guitar.



3. Attach the Tremolo arm to the STETSBAR.

We recommend that you use a lubricant on the nut slots prior to attaching the strings as the nut is usually the cause of most tuning instability.

String the guitar, not forgetting to stretch the strings in as each is brought up to tune. HINT - always tune from the low E upwards. Proceed to 'Setup'.

Please Note

For carved top guitars like the Les Paul we supply a cosmetic foam filler. This filler sits between the body of the guitar and the rear of the baseplate to disguise the gap that may sometimes be seen. As these types of guitar models vary in their contour it is usually necessary to trim away part of the foam filler to ensure that the centre of the Stetsbar baseplate sits directly on top of the body of the guitar. Failure to do this may result in an overly high action.

Guitars like the ES335 or SG do not need a cosmetic filler.

Pro II SETUP



With the guitar approximately in tune adjust the two Tension Adjustment screws (slackening tuning as you go) to bring the tremolo to its 'zero' point where:

- A - the hexagonal top of the arm mount is flat
- B - there is adequate up and down pitch
- C - the front of the bridge plate is parallel to the front of the base plate

Ensure the instrument is in tune and adjust the bridge height using the Bridge Adjustor Wheels for the preferred action then tighten the Bridge Lock Screws.



Adjust intonation and ensure the guitar is in tune.

If you want to engage the 'floating lock' feature of the Pro II then do the following:

Adjust the stop screws so that they touch the back of the bridgeplate and apply one more half turn to push the bridgeplate slightly forward. This will detune the guitar.

Now use the Tension Adjustment screws to bring the guitar back to tune.

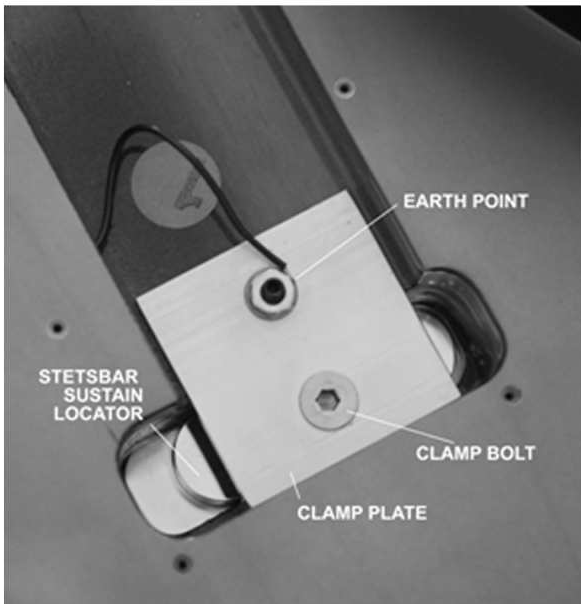
5. Remove the bridge to expose the retainer screw. Remove this and pull the bridge plate gently upwards to access the mount holes. **Note** the pockets where the linear bearings are located, how the springs are connected to the Tension Bar and how the arm swing link drops into the slots in the locator block - because you are going to have to put them all back!
6. Fit the bridge pickup to the STETSBAR. Note that the pickup height will need to be adjusted to the maximum so do not use the original pickup springs or rubber sleeves. You may find it necessary to insulate the pickup contact points to avoid them shorting across the STETSBAR.
7. Line up the STETSBAR baseplate to the existing 3 or 4 mounting holes using the supplied screws - NOT the original screws. Remember to ensure that the earth wire is well grounded to the STETSBAR - you may have to bare some of the plating to achieve this.
8. Re-fit the bridge plate, springs and Tension Bar and ensure that the linear bearings are located in their pockets before closing the bridge plate to the baseplate. Locate the retainer screw. Screw this tight and then unscrew a half turn.
9. Proceed to 'Setup'.

STETSBAR S-TYPE

Installation Notes



STETSBAR S-Style



The latest Stetsbar mounting plate brings the capability of this renowned tremolo system to trem equipped Stratocaster™ style guitars.

Installation is straight-forward although adjustments to the neck angle of the guitar may be needed.

Instructions

- A. Remove the guitar's spring cavity cover.
- B. Clip the earthing wire.
- C. Remove the existing springs and spring anchor.
- D. Remove the original tremolo bridge.
- E. Place the S-Style Stetsbar on the guitar with the sustain locator on the reverse of the base plate in the sustain block cavity.
- F. Fasten the clamp plate with the provided clamp bolt and lock washer.
- G. Bare the end of the earthing wire and connect this to the earthing nut on the back of the clamp plate.
- H. As the Stetsbar's Tune-o-Matic bridge is higher than the original bridge check the action of the new bridge. If the action is too high you will need to remove the neck and install a neck shim. Note - If your guitar has a micro-tilt adjuster mechanism this may provide sufficient adjustment.
- I. String the guitar and set up as shown in the Pro II instructions