

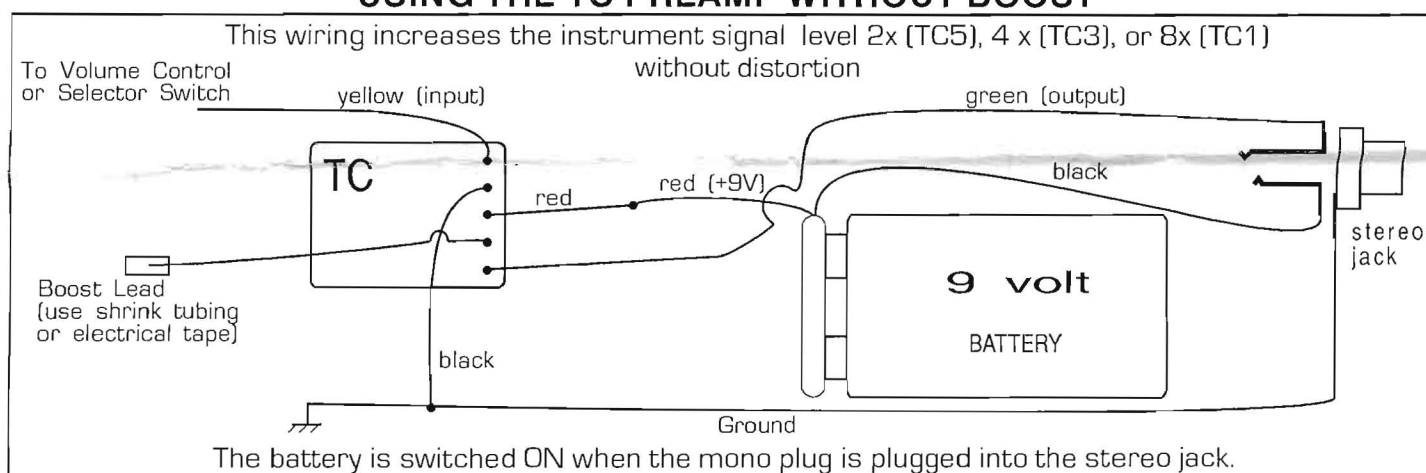
The TC series preamplifiers are designed to improve the performance of electric instruments by increasing the signal level, modifying tonal quality with a wide range of options and decreasing the treble losses in the cable.

All TC preamps can be used in the unboosted mode to provide equal amplification of all audio frequencies. The boosted modes allow tonal changes ranging from simple treble boost to a midrange spectrum shaping specifically designed to overdrive amplifiers to their best distortion sounds.

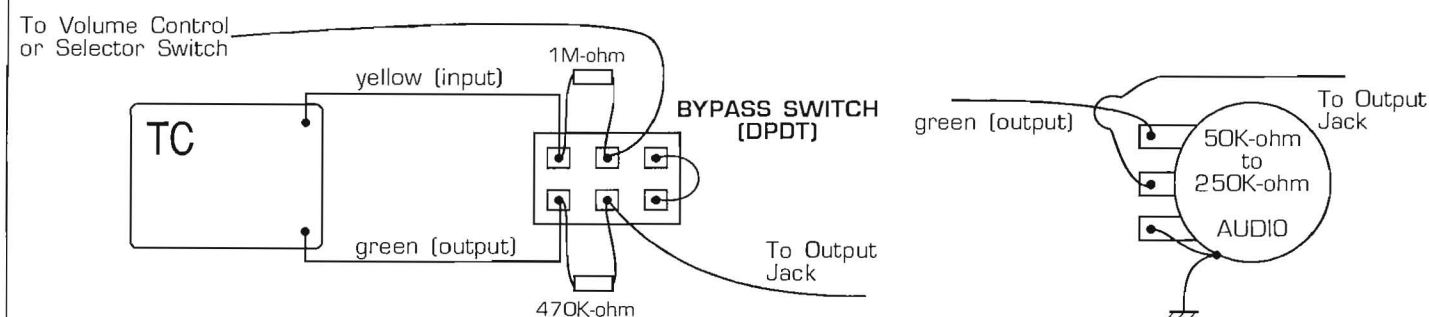
These preamplifiers are hand made from discrete components (no I.C.'s) for very low noise levels, outstanding distortion characteristics, and very long battery life. They are rugged, reliable, easy to install, and in most cases do not require modifications to the instrument. Although we recommend shielding the control cavity for optimum performance, the internal shielding of these preamps will provide very low hum levels even in unshielded installations.

The following examples explore some of the possible uses of these preamps.

USING THE TC PREAMP WITHOUT BOOST

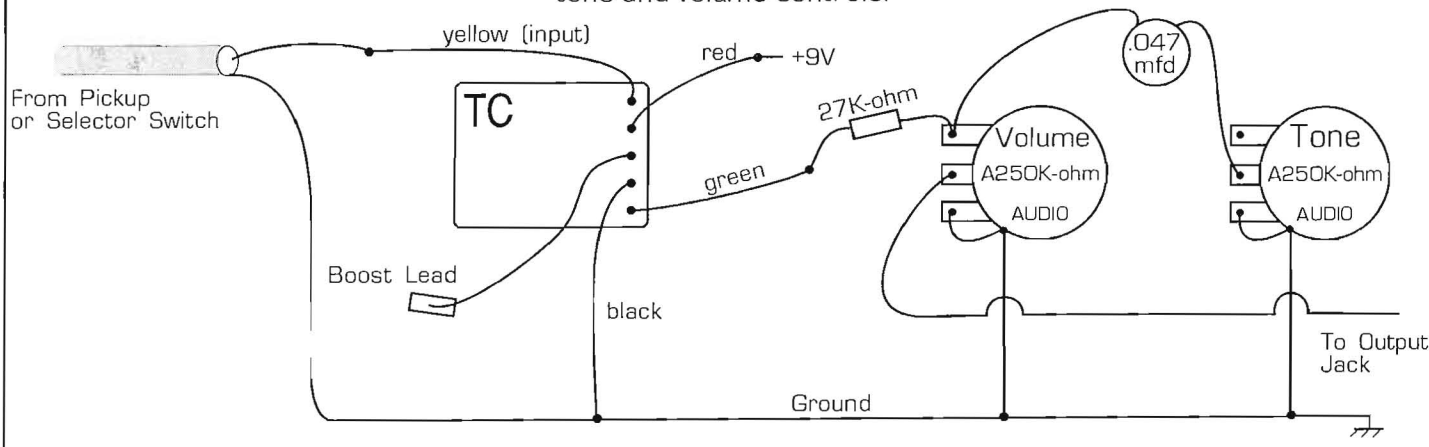


Preamplifier bypass switch or output level control can be wired as follows:



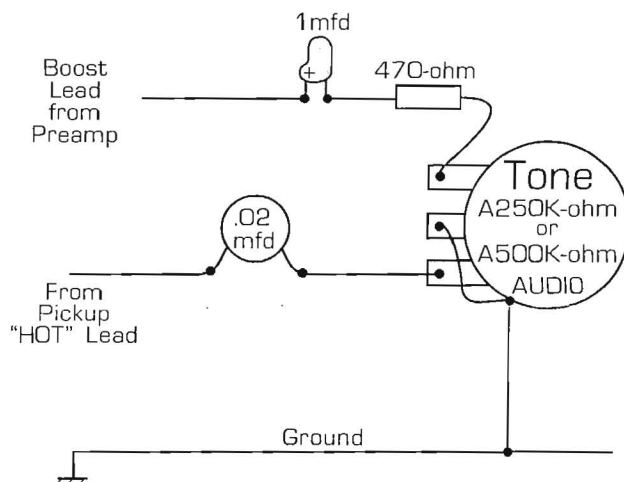
The resistors on the bypass switch minimize switching noises. The level control will vary the signal from 0 to the maximum output of the preamp.

For maximum control of pickup tonality the TC preamplifiers can be used to isolate the pickup from the tone and volume controls.



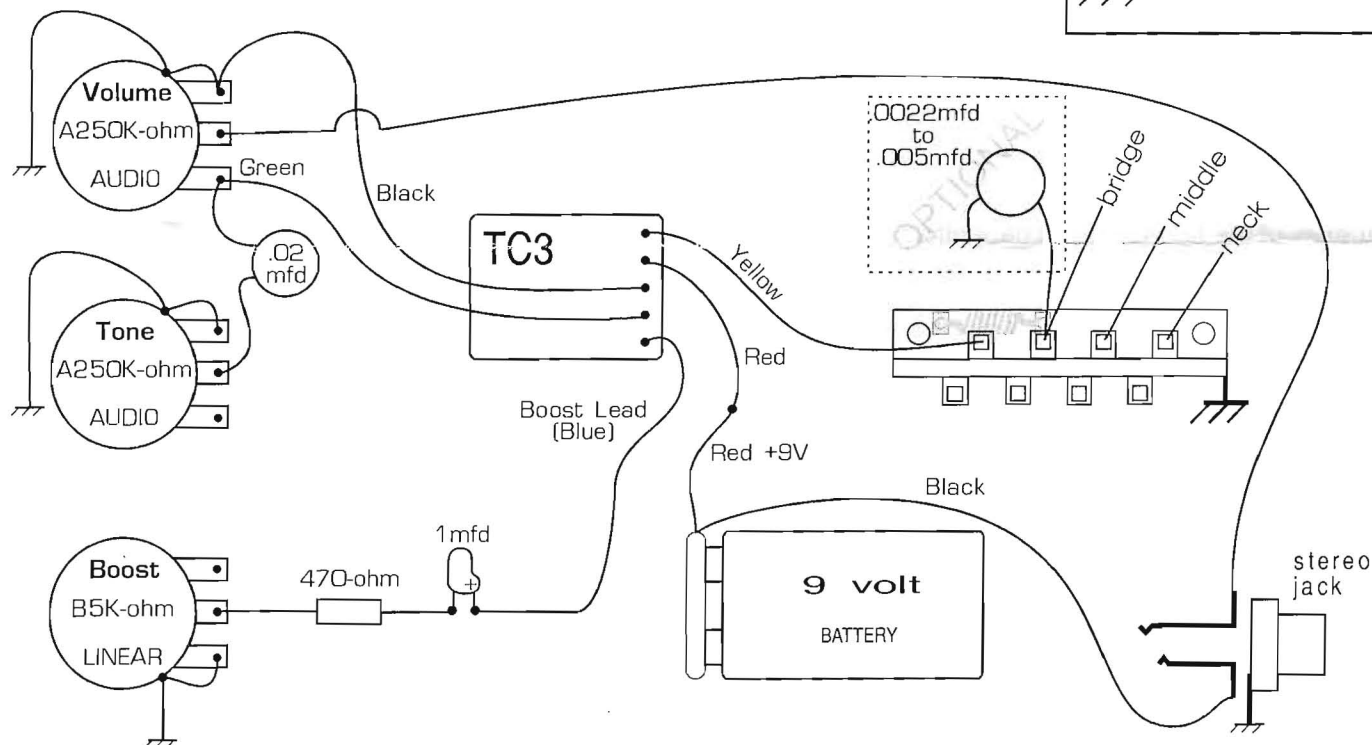
TONE CONTROL BOOST

Thanks to Ed Reynolds (Austin, TX)



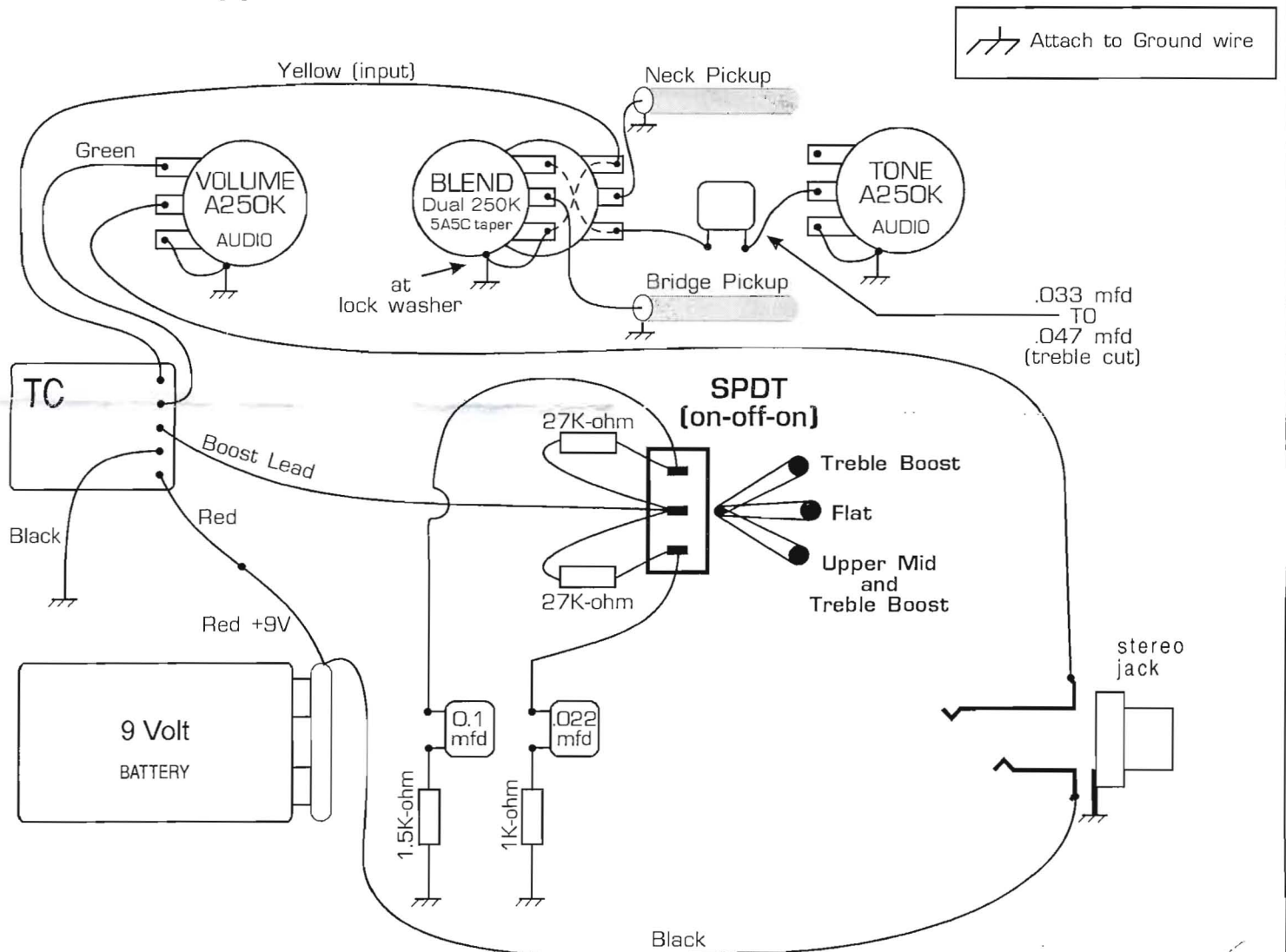
The second tone knob is replaced with a 5K-ohm control that controls the amount of boost. The optional capacitor from the bridge pickup to ground enhances midrange frequencies for better overdrive distortion but will diminish “squak” in the #4 (“in between”) position.

 Attach to Ground wire



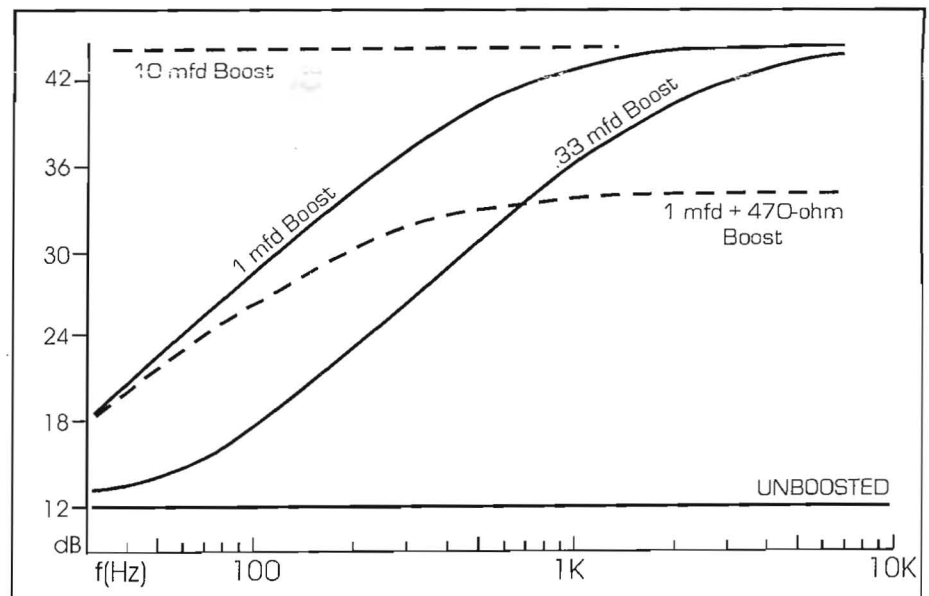
Disclaimer: Strat and Stratocaster are registered trademarks of the Fender® Musical Instrument Corporation. Bartolini Pickups & Electronics, LLC is in no way affiliated with the Fender® Musical Instrument Corporation.

Upper Mid and Treble Boost - 3 Position Switch



The 0.1 mfd and 0.022 mfd Capacitors control the frequency of the boost. Larger capacitors boost more of the bass frequencies. A 10 mfd capacitor will boost all frequencies equally (flat boost). The 1.5K-ohm and 1.0K-ohm resistors limit the amount of boost, larger resistor values decrease the boost levels.

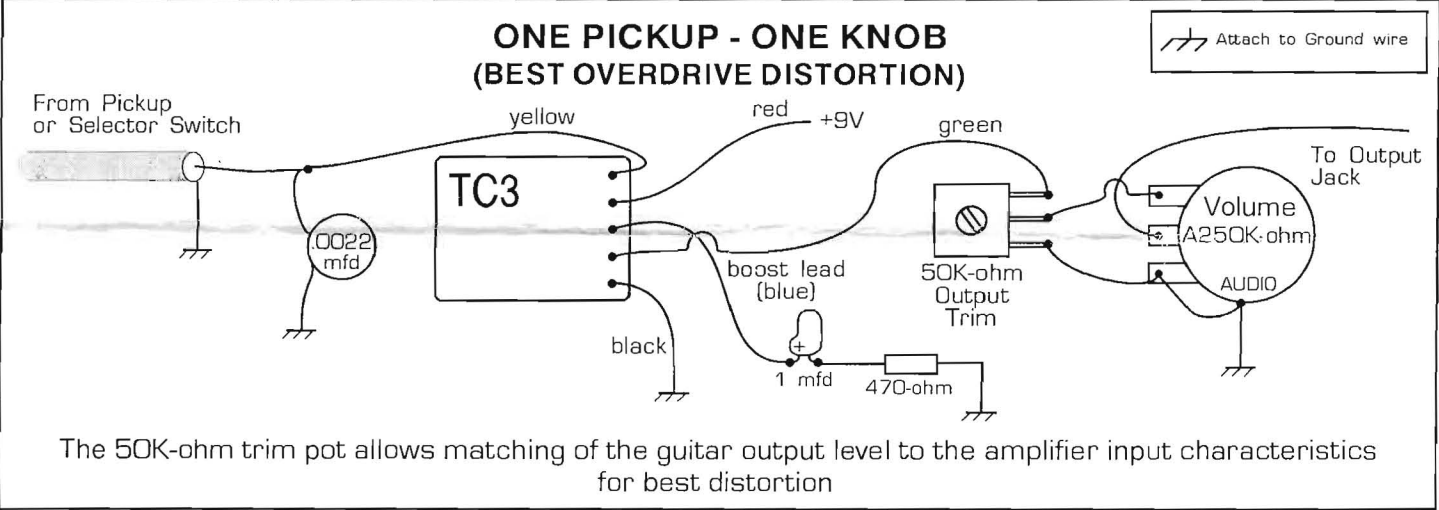
The graph shows the behavior of a TC3 for other capacitor and resistor values. When used on the TC3 boost lead a 1.5K-ohm resistor will limit the boost to about 12dB above the unboosted level.



USING THE TC PREAMP WITH BOOST

Connecting the boost lead to ground through a capacitor increases the gain of the preamp. The gain boost can occur throughout the range of the instrument or only at midrange and treble frequencies depending on the value of the capacitor. A resistor in series with the capacitor can be used to limit the gain boost.

| Preamp | Input Impedance | Input Wire Color | Output Wire Color | Boost Wire Color | Unboosted Gain |
|-----------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| TC1 & TC2 | 300K-ohm | Yellow | Green | Brown | 8x (18dB) |
| TC3 & TC4 | 400K-ohm | Yellow | Green | Blue | 4x (12dB) |
| TC5 & TC6 | 500K-ohm | Yellow | Green | Grey | 2x (6dB) |



SWITCHING FROM BOOSTED TO UNBOOSTED MODE

A 3PDT switch is used to switch the coil tuning capacitor, the preamp boost, and output attenuation components.

The frequency response curves show one of our hum-cancelling pickups (Vintage Bridge Pickup) with the TC5 in both modes compared to a Strat®. The Output level in the unboosted mode is 4 times that of the Strat®. The maximum level of the boosted mode is at least twice that of the unboosted mode. The TONE and VOLUME controls can be 250K-ohm or 500K-ohm audio pots. The 27K-ohm resistor minimizes switching noise.

