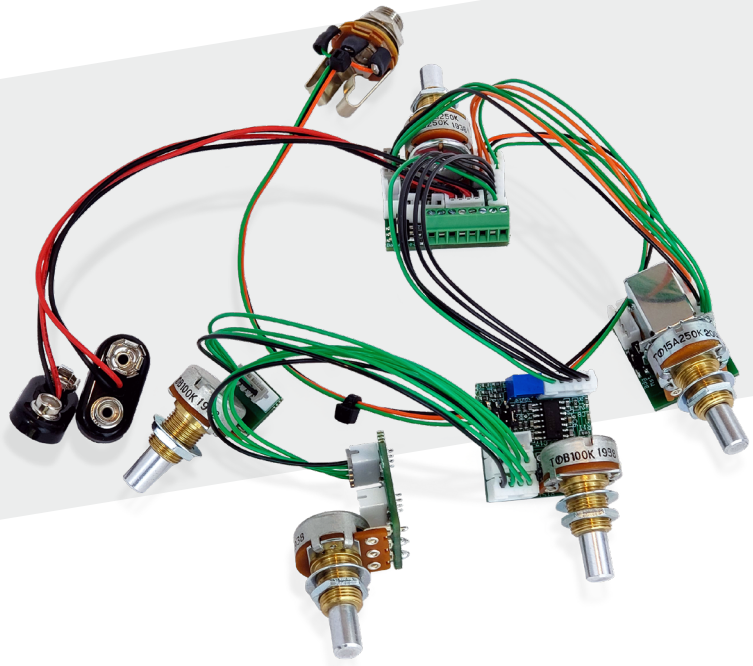
FLEX CORE

INSTRUCTIONAL OVERVIEW



INSTALLATION

Congratulations on your Flex Core purchase! It's a great product with a lot of useful features and, most importantly, it will improve your sound. We want to help you get the most out of it, so we put together this manual.

This guide is full of installation instructions and technical information about the parts that make up this system. **DON'T GET FREAKED OUT BY ALL OF THIS INFORMATION. IT'S NOT ALL FOR YOU.** Your system comes pre-wired to your custom specifications and if you follow the diagram to the right, you should be up and running in no time.

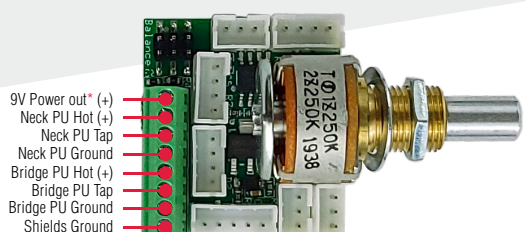
We know you are excited to set it up and get started, so let's get right to it!

Installation of the preamp is very simple. Start by connecting the pickup hot and ground wires into the terminals, and then the ground from the bridge or shielding into the shields ground. Install the jack into the bass and connect your batteries to the battey clips.

Pickups with coil tap options: If you want to use your pickups in dual coil or single coil mode, insert both coil connections into the pickup hot terminals. The coil tap terminal is only active when using our coil tap switch.

Note: To use your dual coil pickups in dual coil mode without the coil tap switch, you need to connect the hot wires from both coils of your pickup to the pickup hot terminal.

SPECIFICATIONS:
Treble: +/- 15dB at 6kHz or 10kHz
Hi Mid: +/- 15dB at 1kHz or 1.8kHz
Lo Mid: +/-12dB at 330Hz or 473Hz
Bass: +/- 12dB at 46Hz or 90Hz

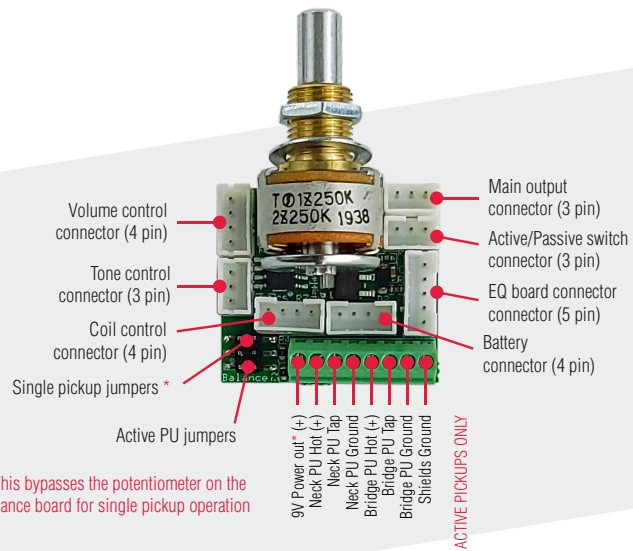


* ACTIVE PICKUPS ONLY

PASSIVE SECTION OVERVIEW

PUSH / PULL VOLUME BOARD

BALANCER BOARD



* This bypasses the potentiometer on the balance board for single pickup operation

VOLUME / TONE BOARD

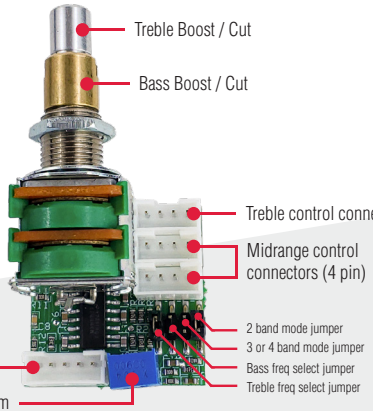
Your preamp will come with one of three different volume boards - push / pull active / passive board, a stacked volume / tone board, or a single volume board (not shown).

NOTE: For single pickup use, you must use the bridge pickup terminals and place a jumper shunt on the *single pickup jumper.

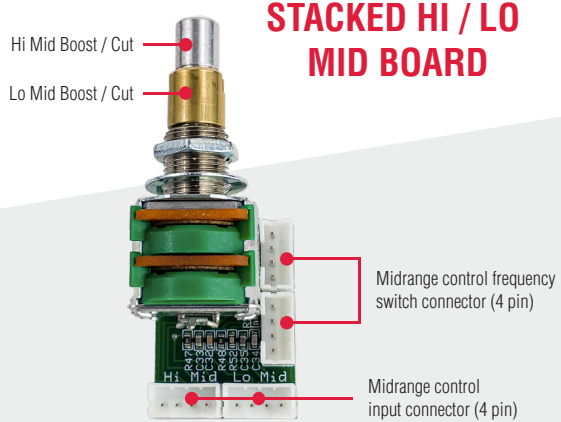
ACTIVE SECTION OVERVIEW

EQ BOARD

Note: For preamps with separate bass and treble controls, this board will have a single bass boost / cut pot. The treble boost / cut pot will be an a separate board (shown below).



STACKED HI / LO MID BOARD



TREBLE BOARD

HI MID BOARD

LO MID BOARD

VOLUME BOARD

The volume board can serve 2 functions depending on the preamp you've purchased. It can be used as a bridge volume control or a master volume control. If you have a single pickup model, this is your only volume control.

VOLUME / TONE

VOLUME / BALANCER

Configure the volume board as a master volume control by plugging the 4 pin harness from the volume control connector on the balancer board to the connector on the volume board.

Place a jumper shunt across the highlighted pins on the gold and black jumper block.

NOTE: For single pickup instruments, be sure to place a jumper shunt across the single pickup jumper on the balancer board, too.

NOTE: If you have a volume and blend or separate volume controls, this board will have single volume control.

VOLUME / VOLUME

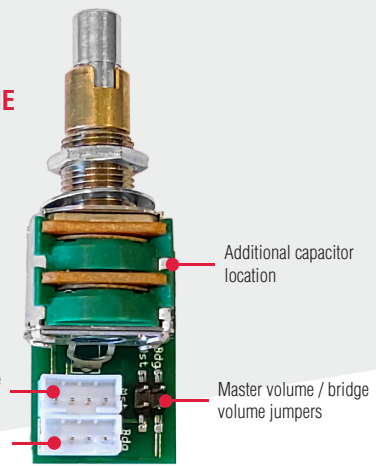
Configure the volume board as a bridge pickup volume control by plugging the 4 Pin harness from the volume control connector on the balancer board to the connector on the volume board.

Place a black jumper shunt across the highlighted pins on the gold and black jumper block.

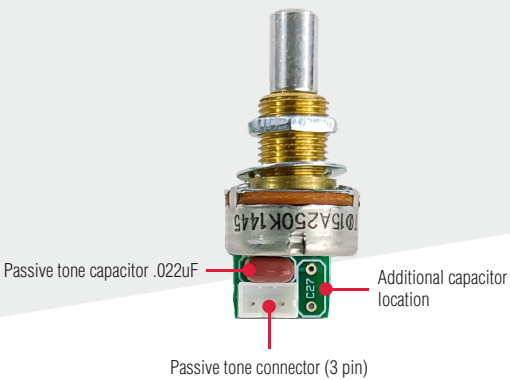
To access the push-pull function of the volume control, connect a 3 pin wire harness from the 3 pin active/passive connector on the balancer board to the 3 Pin connector on the volume control board.

The passive tone control comes in two different configurations, stacked volume/tone and separate passive tone. All Flex Core preamps come preinstalled with a .022uF capacitor. Both boards have an additional capacitor location to add a second capacitor that adds the value to the original. Meaning, if you add a second .022uF, you will have .044uF.

STACKED VOLUME / TONE



PASSIVE TONE BOARD



BALANCE 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 blend pot or a single neck pickup volume pot. 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.

If you are using active pickups like EMG's, you **MUST** run the preamp at 18 volts. You must also install the provided jumper shunts on both of the active PU jumpers.

Volume control connector - Connect this, through one of the supplied 4 pin wire harnesses, to the appropriate connector on the volume board.

Tone control connector - Connect this, through 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

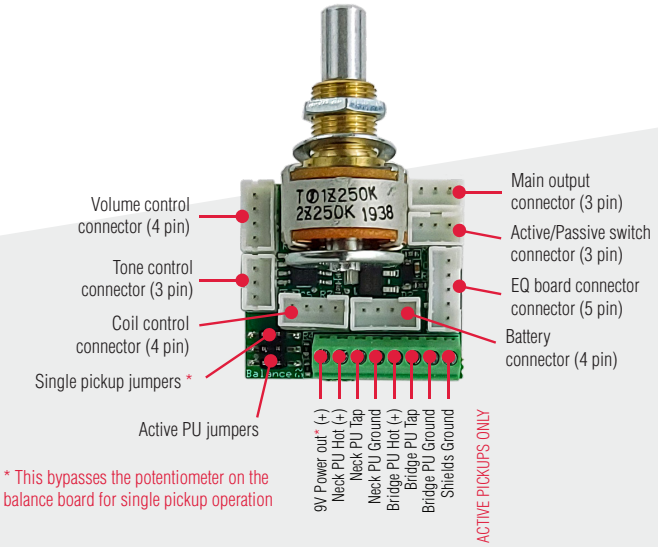
Coil tap connector - Connect this, through one of the supplied 4 pin wire harnesses, to the optional coil tap switch module.

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.

Battery harness connector - Connect the supplied 2-battery harness here. If you intend to operate the preamp on 9 volts, please read the information on the battery connections page.



* This bypasses the potentiometer on the balance board for single pickup operation

EQ board connector - Connect this, through the supplied 5 pin wire harness, to the 5 pin connector on the EQ board.

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.

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 3 pin connector on the optional standby switch module. Then connect the output jack to the remaining 3 pin connector.

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 connectors on it.

The 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.

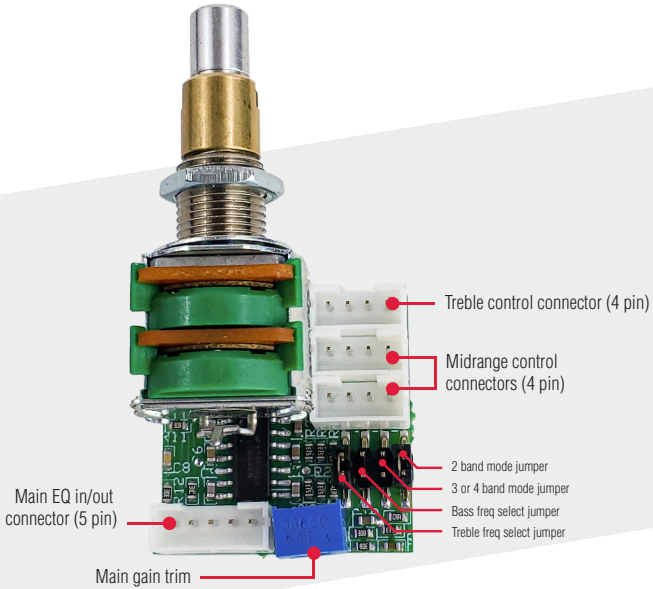
Main gain trim - Controls the amount of overall gain the preamp has with EQ controls set to flat.

Treble and bass freq 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.

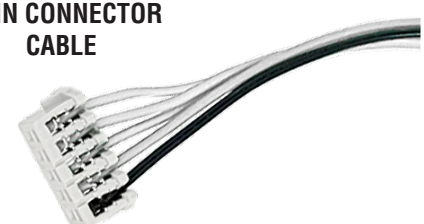
2 band and 3/4 band mode jumpers - If you plan to only use the bass and treble bands only, then place a jumper shunt on the 2 band mode jumper. If you plan to use one or both of the midrange controls, place one on the 3 or 4 band mode jumper.

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.

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.



5 PIN CONNECTOR CABLE



HIGH AND LOW MID BOARDS

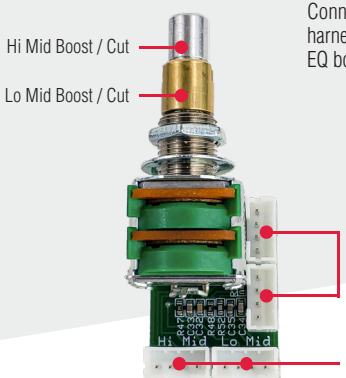
The Midrange Boards are functionally identical except for the parts that determine the frequencies they control. You can use either one or both interchangeably.

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 our website.

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

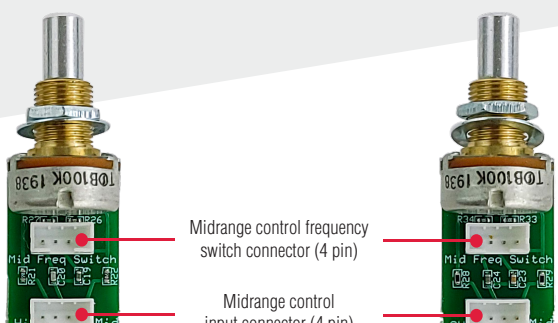
The high mid can be either a very high, snappy frequency or an edgy finger tone “bite” frequency with the jumpers on.

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 connector if want the treble boost/cut function. You are not required to use the treble control if you so desire.



Midrange control input connectors -
Connect this, through one of the supplied 4 pin wire harnesses, to either of the mid connectors on the EQ board.

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 connector on the optional frequency select switch module.



SWITCH COONECTIONS

The Flex Core preamp has optional expansion toggle switch modules for active/passive, midrange frequency selection, coil tapping, and on/off (kill switch). All switches are available in chrome or premium black with a mini flat toggle.

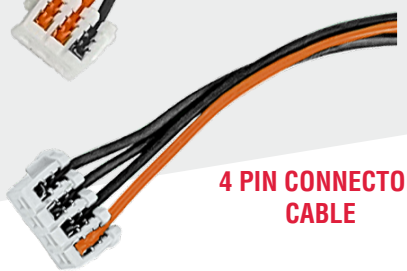
NOTE: The on/off (kill) switch is connected from the main output on the balance board to the IN with a 3 pin wire connector. The output jack connector is connected to the OUT of the switch board. The active/passive, mid frequency selector, and coil tap connections are made with the appreprate locations shown in previous pages.

NOTE: 3, 4, and 5 pin connector cable colors will vary.

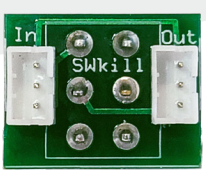
PREMIUM BLACK

STANDARD CHROME

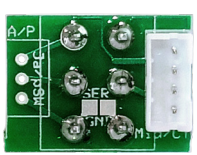
3 PIN CONNECTOR CABLE



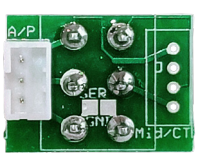
4 PIN CONNECTOR CABLE



ON/OFF (KILL)



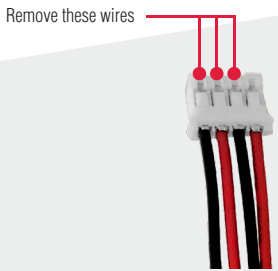
MID FREQUENCY OR COIL TAP



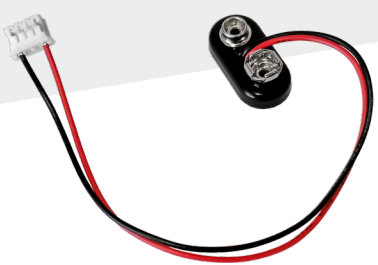
ACTIVE/PASSIVE

BATTERY COONECTIONS

The Flex Core preamp ships with a battery connector that is for 2 x 9 volt batteries (18 volts) but will function perfectly as a single 9 volt system. To convert your 18 volt battery connector to 9 volts, simply take a small flathead screwdriver and gently lift the wire retainers to pull the left 3 wires from the connector clip. They should release easily and have a small metal insert attached to the end of the wire. Set aside the extra 9 volt battery clip. Take the single black wire from the remaining battery connector clip and insert it into the far left retainer.



9 VOLT



18 VOLT

CONTACT INFORMATION

FLEX CORE PREAMPS

by
Trickfish Amplification USA LLC.
1410 Brittmoore Road
Houston, Texas 77043
https://www.trickfishamps.com

sales@flexcorepreamps.com
https://www.flexcorepreamps.com