



Helpful and 'must read' information for Home of Tone pre-wired harnesses

IMPORTANT

Please read this information prior to fitting of your new harness, regardless of knowledge level.

First of all, I want to say a heartfelt, thank you for choosing one of my pre-wired harnesses for your guitar. Whether it's for a long overdue repair, upgrade, modification or a project, I honestly enjoy making them and the response from players since introducing them back in 2015 has helped that enjoyment grow further, so thank you for the continued support.

This info sheet is for both the less experienced, and the more than confident users for reference prior to fitting of your new harness to help make the experience easier, stress free, safe and importantly reduce the risk of damaging your new harness or your guitar. Let's get started...

- Most hobbyist soldering irons we have in our tool cupboards at home are up to the job of helping you fit your harness. For working on guitar electronics, I personally recommend a 40w iron, this will provide ample working temperature for the task at hand. For commercial product reasons, I have to use lead free solder. I personally use Rapid brand lead free on harnesses and it'll be what I used on your harness too, so if you're deciding which solder to use, I'd happily recommend using Rapid lead free.. It's available in small lengths too meaning you won't necessarily need to buy a huge reel of it.

- Although a complete, pre-wired harness offers a player the simplest solution of swapping your guitar's wiring, we do recommend prior experience or knowledge of guitar wiring before attempting to fit. I do understand for some it can be a daunting task, but it can be a rewarding job to carry out if done so with the correct knowledge, tools and preparation. Soldering is a somewhat simple task, but good technique is achieved from practice and you'll need to ask yourself whether you're keen on practicing that technique on your pride and joy guitar. I honestly don't want to deter anyone un-experienced from giving it a go, but perhaps find some old or broken pots for example and practice getting used to feeling the solder flow and when it 'takes' to a surface, this could be a big help when it comes to installing the harness and reduce the risk of damaging your new harness or guitar.

IMPORTANT- If you are at all unsure about fitting, I do highly recommend getting a professional and importantly, trusted guitar technician to fit the harness for you. If you are local to my office (West Midlands based), I do also offer a fitting service of my harnesses if required or if you're not local, I have begun to compile a small list of trusted techs I would be happy to recommend across the country.

- I have created wiring diagrams for all of my pre-wired harnesses, and in an effort to reduce the amount

of excess packaging and waste, I have made all of these available on my website. The wiring diagram will help with the final stages of the install, and I've tried to make the illustrations as simple as possible to follow. These will mainly be required by you for example when fitting your pickups and where to solder the wires too. You will find the wiring diagram on the website page 'Wiring Diagrams & helpful technical info'. But if you're not sure which is the correct one, do please drop me a message and I'll happily forward it to you via e-mail as well - james@homeoftone.co.uk

- When soldering your pickup wires, you will need to consider the colour code of the wires. Rather unfortunately, there is no set in stone colour code used in the industry and different pickup makers and factories use their own colour codes, so please ensure you refer to their colour code diagrams prior to going ahead with soldering. My wiring diagrams have been drawn with either traditional 2 conductor or McNelly Pickups colour codes in mind. Again, a McNelly colour code diagram is available to view on the 'Wiring Diagrams & helpful technical info' page of the website.

- As my harnesses use USA specification pots, if you are upgrading your far east built guitar for example, you may find you need to widen the body holes and/or pickguard holes to accommodate for the larger shaft diameter (9.5mm).. I recommend doing this using a step cutter. This is in my experience the safest method as it will reduce the risk of paint chipping around the hole, I usually widen the pot mounting hole on pickguards or bodies depending on the guitar being worked on, to a 10mm hole to comfortably suit and fit the CTS USA specification 9.5mm shaft diameter.

A good technique is to tape off the stop point diameter required on the step cutter to avoid drilling to the wrong diameter hole, and carefully run your drill to ensure an accurately finished hole. Once this is done, you can final finish the hole to straight edges by running a regular drill bit through for the pots to easily fit through.

IMPORTANT- Again, please note that if you are not comfortable with doing this in any form, or importantly don't have the correct tools, I highly recommend taking this to be done by a trusted professional guitar technician. It's not worth the upset and disappointment in damaging your guitar.

Now this paragraph might seem utterly crazy, but hand on heart, this is a very common mistake and one that deserves mentioning!

IMPORTANT- fitting your push fit control knobs (Does not apply to solid shaft type).

Whether you are refitting your existing USA spec control knobs (5.95mm spline diameter with 24 splines), or have purchased a new set of control knobs either from myself or another store, this is very very important as it can easily cause damage to your freshly fitted and wired in harness which only leads to disappointment.

Please ensure care is taken when fitting your push fit control knobs to your pots as they are designed to be a snug fit on the pot shaft, but if forced on can cause extensive damage to your pots which I can't be held liable for. Gently push them onto your pot shaft first. If it feels too tight, to the point that excessive pressure is required or that you get a feel that you are forcing it on, then stop immediately and remove the control knob. With the control knob removed, slightly pinch the split shaft of the pot together and re-fit the control knob, repeat if required until fit is perfect. It should push on fairly easily but with enough pressure to feel like it has sufficiently gripped the pot shaft and your control knob will stay put. If you have import sized control knobs these will NOT fit the CTS pots I used for my harnesses, they're too small and will damage your pot in forcing on to fit, so please do not attempt to fit these to the harness. The very design of a split shaft pot is to do this, ensuring a tight, secure fit on the control knob. They are of course super super easy to fit, but surprisingly super easy to break your new pots in doing so as well. I advise to take care when fitting to avoid any damage to your pot. Nothing worse after spending time fitting your fresh harness, string back up etc and finally end up damaging your pots by forcing the control

knobs on afterwards.

- It is a simple task for many, but some might be quite as confident at wiring a guitar's jack socket, but on some guitar models like a Strat or Les Paul 50s style for example I cannot pre-wire the jack socket prior to install due to cavities and routing inside the guitar body. If you haven't wired a guitar jack socket before, I have written a helpful article on the blog showing you how to do it to avoid any disappointment or frustration from wiring it incorrectly. I hope this helps! -

<https://www.homeoftone.co.uk/blogs/news/how-to-guide-wiring-your-guitars-jack-mono-socket>

I cannot take responsibility for the incorrect fitting of your wiring harness, control knobs and other harness related item to your guitar. If you choose to fit this harness yourself, please do ensure that you have the correct tools prepared, have read through this guide, taken the time to feel confident to carry out the task and/or practiced on old components and have read and fully understand the wiring diagram supplied. Importantly, you should feel 100% comfortable carrying out the task. My harnesses are made with a very high level of care and attention and components and solder joints are checked prior to packing, if the item has been mistreated, incorrectly fitted or damaged by yourself or those fitting for you, I cannot take responsibility of said damage which is another reason why I highly recommend having a qualified, trusted professional guitar technician carry out the work for you. Since introducing my harnesses in 2015, I can honestly say the entire experience has been very positive and any customers who have been concerned about any details have contacted me prior. I am very much here to help and take pride in doing so, so if you have any questions do please contact me before diving in and possibly fitting incorrectly, causing damage to your much loved guitar. I'll be more than happy to help with any queries.

If you have any further questions, or perhaps wish to have your harness fitted to your guitar by me, don't hesitate to get in touch and I'll be there to help as soon as possible. I really take a lot of pride in my wiring harnesses and most important to me is that fitting is as straightforward as possible and your guitar is enjoyed more than before! Thanks for supporting our shared passion.

James