

P-90 Hx

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5-Jan-10

Hey Chris,

The project turned out great and the guitar sounds fantastic. I'm in the process of making recordings now and will likely do a video too and post it on YouTube. I tried a couple different Strat pickups for the middle position, and ended up choosing the AVn-63. It only figures into the 2 & 4 position tones anyway since I have the #3 position offering the two Hx P-90s together. So the guitar offers a great palette of tones. I ended up using the maple body as my alder body rout is going to need to be just a bit deeper for these pickups. But the maple body rout was plenty deep, so I just went with it because I had a set of Vintage Vibe P90s in it before and it sounded really good. And the tones with your P90 Hx pickups are just as good, so I'm very pleased.

You know, I sold my 4 sets of Vintage Vibe P90s because I just couldn't deal with the noise. As much as I loved the tones, with the way I play I just couldn't make it work very well. I had to cut the beginnings and ends of all my recordings very close or you would hear too much of the noise. So there's no need for that anymore. You did very well with these, I must say.

Sure is a lot of fun to play these. Follow this links to hear all that wonderful nasty P-90 vibe (fat and focused) in spades...

<http://www.soundclick.com/bands/default.cfm?bandID=868554&content=songinfo&songID=8755328>
<http://soundclick.com/share?songid=8619949> and
http://www.soundclick.com/bands/page_songInfo.cfm?bandID=868554&songID=8604826

Cheers,

Mark M (SMark of the FDP)

10-Dec-09

Hi Chris,

Thankyou for these wonderful pickups. They have transformed my Les Paul Special formally fitted with P100's into the most versatile Gibson one could own. Flat out they provide a big power chord and solo sound. The neck pickup has excellent articulation and sparkle around 3 to 6 and just explodes into this thick lead tone on full. Bridge sounds great also. These really are tonefull pickups. Great character like the P90's of old but without the noise that put's everyone off using them, I mean silent!!! I think it has now has less hum than any guitar I've owned. I've always been a huge Pete Townsend fan around the Live at Leed's time with his P90 equipped SG. These pickups put you right in that zone, makes a 50 year old fella want to go out and buy a Hi Watt amp and a couple of Hi Watt cabinets, turn up to 11 and play Pinball Wizard!

Cheers

Martyn Toole

20-Nov-09

Two P-90 Hx in an Epiphone dot (replacing humbuckers)



I have seldom seen a guy so pleased with a product. He was in heaven. Just great versatile sound. I have to design a new model guitar for a set of these pups! I wouldn't know if they should sound better, but both my customer and I, are VERY pleased.

Thanks guys! BR Peder (Guitar artisan, Denmark www.artist-site.dk)

17-Nov-09 Single P-90 Hx in bridge position of a Tokai LP Jnr replica

Hey Chris.

The P90X is fabulous.

Love it.

Responsive, has "quack", is touch sensitive. Whenever you have a large HB sized version, I'll take a pair.

Thanks mate. Over,
Bob S (Skyhooks, Angels)

17-Nov-09 Pair of P-90 Hx in a Gibson Les Paul Gold Top

Hi Chris,

I used the Gold Top with the P-90 Hx on the weekend gig. MATE you were absolutely right! They certainly have the growl of a 'normal' P90 when you open them up without any of the associated noise that usually accompanies P90s. The sound guy in the Casino was very impressed as when we were doing the sound check we both stood right next to my amp which was turned up quite loud and even he couldn't believe the lack of any noise coming out.

The bridge pickup had all the bite and growl of a P90 with a really nice midrange sort of tone without being too honky. However, I was surprised that it still had the clarity I spoke about last week when you back off the volume a little which I always do and in a live situation it had just the right amount of clarity but with its own bit of fur around the notes (tone heaven).

When blasting through my pedalboard and the associated overdrive pedals is just rocked and screamed like you would expect but it maintained a real creaminess to the notes.

The neck pickup also had the same characteristics as the bridge pickup in that when you turn it up it is really nice and fat and exactly what you need in a neck pickup.

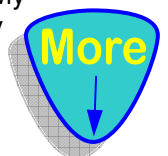
However, I guess the best test of any set of pickups for me is the in-between position and I can only say that my personal reference point is always the guitar sound in Credence Clearwater Revival's "Green River". That is John Fogerty playing a Les Paul with P90s (I've seen him in concert) using the in-between position and these little puppies nailed it completely!

All in all, a complete success. These guys are taking up permanent residence in my Gold Top, which I have never used in anger with the P-100's in it.

Cheers, Butch

8-Nov-09 (updated 13-Nov) Pair of P-90 Hx in a Hamer

P-90 heaven. Chris, I would just like to say how impressed I am with the new P-90's. They are without a doubt the best sounding noiseless P-90 pickups ever made. They have turned my lowly Hamer into a snarling, biting giant killer. It is now my most aggressive sounding guitar, in a very



good way. It absolutely shreds for rock, and they clean up nicely for more dynamic blues based playing as well. The neck pickup is especially fine for high gain soloing ... what a tone!!!!

I have 3 other guitars with humbuckers. A '02 Gibson LP sunburst, an '07 Gibson 339, and a '94 Hamer Koa Studio (with Gibson Burstbucker Pro's) and the new Kinman P-90 Hx's smoke them all. Not that the other guitars sound bad at all, but these are on another level both in gain and tone. I would say if I was recording a ballad or something light, I'd be more inclined to use one of the other guitars. This P-90 Hx equipped Hamer is just a very different animal. I like that, because it gives me some variety. The three other humbucker equipped guitars sound very sameish and don't have as much tone as the Hamer with the Kinmans.

The noiseless P-90 pickups I've had before are Seymore Duncans which replaced the Dimarzio's I had a couple years ago so the Kinmans are actually my THIRD set of noiseless P-90's. I'm very very happy!

Many thanks, John D (USA)

4-Nov-09 Pair of P-90 Hx in a Gibson Les Paul Gold Top

Hi Chris,

Got the P90s on Monday (thank you very much!) and put them in my Gibson Gold Top that came with P-100's. Here's my first impressions.

Tone:

Clear as a bell, both front and back and really well rounded sounds. The bridge pup has a really nice snap to it and doesn't sound honky, (don't know what you discovered but it works!) and it has what I can only describe as a fidelity to the sound. You could say it's a bit more refined than a normal P90, however it is punchy, it is clear but when I turn it up I get a great growley sound as well.

The front pup again has a really nice well rounded warm tone but still really clear for a front pup and nowhere near as woofey as a normal P90.

They are a pair of little cream chameleons, turn them down and they are nice and pretty and clean, open them up and whoa they get all dirty and nasty. And the bridge really, really growls.

As a gnarley old Tele player, I love their tones as they have the clarity of a good Tele but they also have a bit more of the meat and grunt of a good humbucker if that's possible?

Installation:

Both went in easily and your instructions were very clear and helpful as I did have to use the existing Gibson covers as yours were too tight in the corners to fit in my Gold Top. BTW, the trick of putting in the additional rubber at the back of the cavity to change the pup angle is a little gem!! I also had no issue with my pup cavity as they were already deep enough having P100s.

One thing I was really impressed with was that the balance of the pole pieces were spot on straight out of the box. I had to do no adjustments on both pups in terms of balancing the pole pieces. Well Done!

Packaging:

Loved the plastic boxes, messages and what you provided as everything necessary to do the installation (extra rubber, screws etc.).

Noise:

As you stated on your site there is a tiny bit of incidental noise, however, let me clarify what I found.



On the Bridge position there is no noise at all! Man it is dead quiet! On the neck position there is a tiny bit of background noise that disappears when you touch (ground) any part of the guitar. On the middle position, (both pups) the noise is slightly louder for some reason but still disappears when you touch (ground) the guitar. I have to stress it is still VERY quiet. My Gold top has the proper grounding, proper wiring and shielding in the pup cavities and control cavities and the noise level is not that noticeable nor is it anywhere near a normal P90, so a huge tick for noise reduction!

Thanks again for a great set of P-90 pickups, I can guarantee that the Gold Top is going to get more action from now on. I never took it on stage with the P-100's as they did not inspire me to play well. Cheers, Butch

The following review appears on Harmony Central (4-Nov-09)

Single P-90 Hx in bridge position of a PRS

Features

Noiseless P90 with a 600 Ohm low impedance "noise sensor". Technically, it's impressive to see: far from two plain coils stacked on each side of two bar magnets. The Kinman has two coils of different shapes mounted on a complex structure and several shielding screens. According to the builder, there's 202 individual parts (where a "real" P90 includes 13 parts only). The rounded shape of the upper coil accepts various types of covers. The whole pickup is taller than a standard P90, like most noiseless devices.

Electronically... I won't mention its DC resistance because it doesn't mean anything : the power of a P90 depends on its inductance.

Of course, the inductance of a pickup is generally related to its DC resistance. That's why current noiseless P90's lose their powerful sound to a higher DC resistance, translating in an altered tone (the sound of a humbucker).

But here it's not the case: the P90Hx has a low resistance and 6,13 Henry of inductance, according to my measurements. It's not the highest possible value for a P90. But it's already huge (the same inductance than many high gain humbuckers) and it gives a strong attack, without that compressed and muffled tone often due to an excessive resistance.
Instrument

I had already five electric guitars : home made Strat with Fender pickups, ash body and maple neck Fender Strat Dlx with Kinman Blues Set, Gibson LP Std with Duncan SH55's, Variax500 with an added Duncan SH13, Charvel CH4 with active electronic... I've bought a PRS SE one especially to mount a noiseless P90 Hx in it (bridge position, a single volume pot). I've therefore dug the single cavity of the guitar because it wasn't deep enough... but it's worth the effort. Although made in Korea, the PRS has an extraordinary bright resonance, that the P90Hx enhances with much soul and natural.

Sound

Playing since 1980, I've always considered the P90 as a perfect crossing between a single coil and a humbucker. The Kinman reproduces this tone without the huge hum traditionally generated by P90's... but with all these nuances that a good P90 expresses and that other noiseless clones tend to flatten.

As I've kept the capacitor against treble bleeding mounted by PRS, the sound doesn't darken when I lower the volume: in the crunch or drive channel of a tube amp, it gives many interesting tonal shades... Roll off your volume pot around 2 or 3: it sounds clean, jangly, twangy. The sound of the sixties, almost more than through my Strats. Rise the level around 7 or 8 and play with your fingers: the guitar literally speaks with a sensual voice that I've rarely heard elsewhere.



Almost more “woman tone” than my beloved Les Paul itself. Crank up your pot: you now have a creamy sound, with a strong attack and that wonderfully “morphing” release that single coils or high inductance pickups generate (you can hear something like vowels while the sustain decreases: if you don’t know what I mean, listen Roy Buchanan and say to yourself that the Kinman does it effortlessly thanks to its single coil architecture AND high inductance). The SH13 mounted in one of my other guitars doesn’t seem more powerful, without having that harmonic complexity due to Alnico magnets. Result: I’ve been able to play Eddie Cochran, modern blues, mainstream pop as well as Metallica with the P90Hx... and with a single amp setting if needed! Another good surprise is the ability of this pickup to handle bottleneck licks without noise : nor hum nor fret buzz. Just that thick tone that a bottleneck requires.

Now to mention how it behaves plugged in a Boss acoustic simulator: thanks to its dynamic, the Kinman gives many room to such an emulator. Volume full up, it sounds like a nylon stringed guitar. Pot rolled down, it produces a thinner and brighter tone, like a standard country axe... My Variax could collect the dust in a near future.

Conclusion: exceptionally rich sounding and surprisingly versatile for a single pickup with a single pot!

Overall rating: Outstanding. Not the strongest P90 available but just enough powerful to give serious balls and clear enough to translate perfectly the subtlety of your playing as well as the original resonance of the guitar. Not the kind of pickups whose hegemonic tone hides anything else than itself – IOW: the contrary of a DiMarzio X2N, for example, although the Kinman doesn’t seem weak compared to it.

The P90 Hx sounds open, strong and alive. Furthermore, not only it delivers a convincing noiseless P90 tone, but mounted as it is in my SE, it’s in itself one of the most versatile pups I’ve ever played, and maybe the most inspiring.

For these reasons, this pickup is a milestone in my already long guitar trip. The owner of my favorite music shop, who is also a friend, is accustomed to high quality gear: he owns 13 American PRS’s. And he’s sold too!

Hubert (France)