

Princes pickups and guitar

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Despite numerous attempts over many years to discover which Kinman pickups Prince installed into his Hohner guitar I have never received a reply to my emails. Also information on the net did not reveal any clues, until a customer in Switzerland sent me a link to his Prince guitar website www.photopix.ch/guitar where I spotted the photo on page 2 below.

This photo reveals differences in his personal guitar from the production models which have Stratocaster pickups. In the photos you can see the neck pickup appears to be shiny, like chrome. And the bridge pickup is slanted and appears to have white covering around the side of the coil.

These observations put together are a positive indication of a set of Kinman Broadcaster pickups.

Customers wanting to install a set of Kinman Broadcaster pickups into their Prinz guitars must consider changing two parts of their guitar.

First is the plastic mounting plate for the bridge pickup. The cut out for the pickup is larger than the original and it is slanted (like a genuine Fender Telecaster).

Next is the pickguard; the cutout for the pickup has to be smaller for the Broadcaster neck pickup.

Customers wanting to get these parts made can download a pdf file with drawings and dimensions of the pickups from my Telecaster product page >Additional information >Dimensions

There are several links to manufacturers of pickguards listed on my Links page. Send them a faithful tracing of your original parts (including the cutouts for the pickups and all screw holes) along with the drawing and dimension of Kinman Tele pickups. You can select a material for the parts from their website, hopefully they will have one similar to the original.

Prinz control plate: Customers ordering a set of Kinman Broadcasters will also notice the TK4 NoSoldering Harness which is better than the original in many ways. Although the metal control plate appears to be similar to the one in my TK4 NoSoldering Harness I can not guarantee it will be interchangeable without any adjustment. I suspect though that it is interchangeable. For more information about the TK4 go to my Telecaster page and click the link titled >>>
>>> "Prewired NoSoldering Harness for 2 & 3 pickup Teles with TK4 and TK9 switching, Click here."

There you will see >> "**NOTE:** Some early Mexican Teles and Tokai's have an exceptionally narrow control cavity which has to be widened to allow our CTS pots to fit in. The MIM specimen I saw was made around 1992. However later versions of Fender's MIM have a normal control cavity measuring 25mm (1") wide. I recommend you measure your cavity if in doubt, or be prepared to have it widened with a router. " Same might be true for the Prinz so check the control cavity.

An alternate to the above is to order Avn-64b (bridge) and AVn-62 (neck) Kinman Strat pickups that although not the same as the Broadcasters will give similar results. Strat pickups will fit readily, without modification to the guitar.



Note the slanted bridge pickup and the white sides of the coil indicating white string wrap of a Broadcaster bridge pickup (AVn-48b).

Note the shiny neck pickup indicating a Broadcaster neck pickup (AVn-48n).