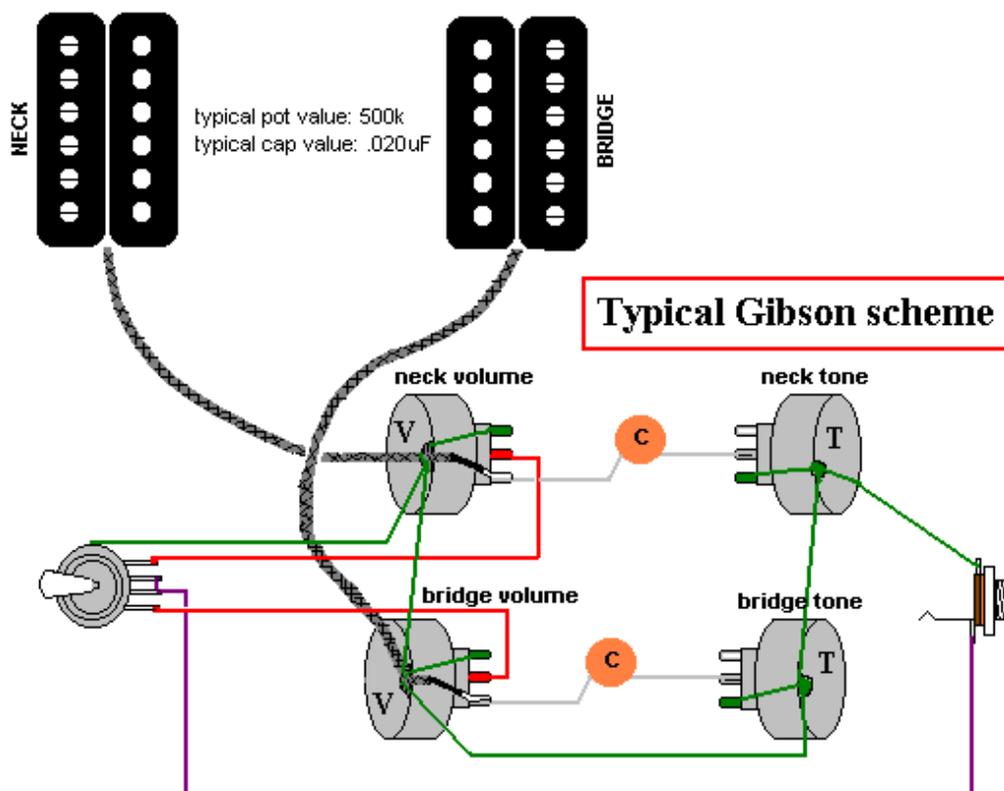


The Master Volume Mod – as in the Urban Ruffian

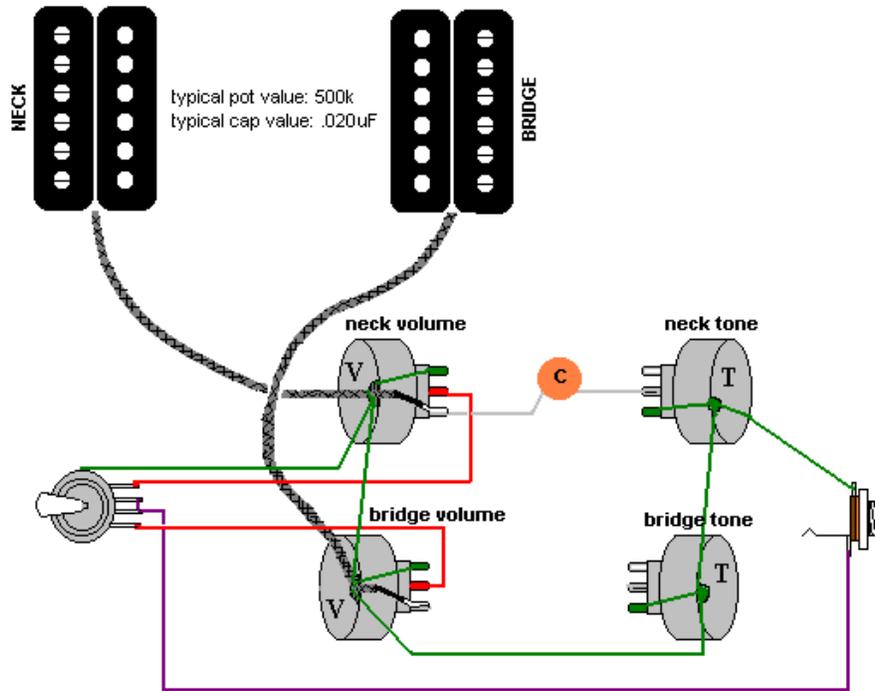
This is a mod I've done to a few axes, including my Gretsch-wannabe Epi Sheraton. It changes the functions of the controls so that you have individual pickup volumes, AND a master volume and tone - rather like the classic Gretsch set up. Here's EXACTLY how I did my Epi.

This first drawing represents a pretty typical setup for many two-humbucker axes with two volume and two tones. There are only TWO differences that might be obvious in your specific guitar: (1) where-and-how the tone caps are hooked up, and, (2) the in/out lugs on the volume pots. This drawing represents the way a Gibson Les Paul, ES-335, SG, etc. is wired. If your curious, take a peek at the last drawing on the last page now to see how the volume pot in and out lugs would look, reversed... but come right back! That last drawing shows how MIK Epis are wired, with the in and output lugs of the vol pot reversed from this drawing. I actually prefer that style wiring, as it makes the pup volumes truly independent - with both pups selected, you can actually shut one pup all the way off and the other will still sound. If your volume pots are wired just as they are in this first drawing, when you shut one pup off with both selected, neither will sound. That's just the way the Gibsons work..

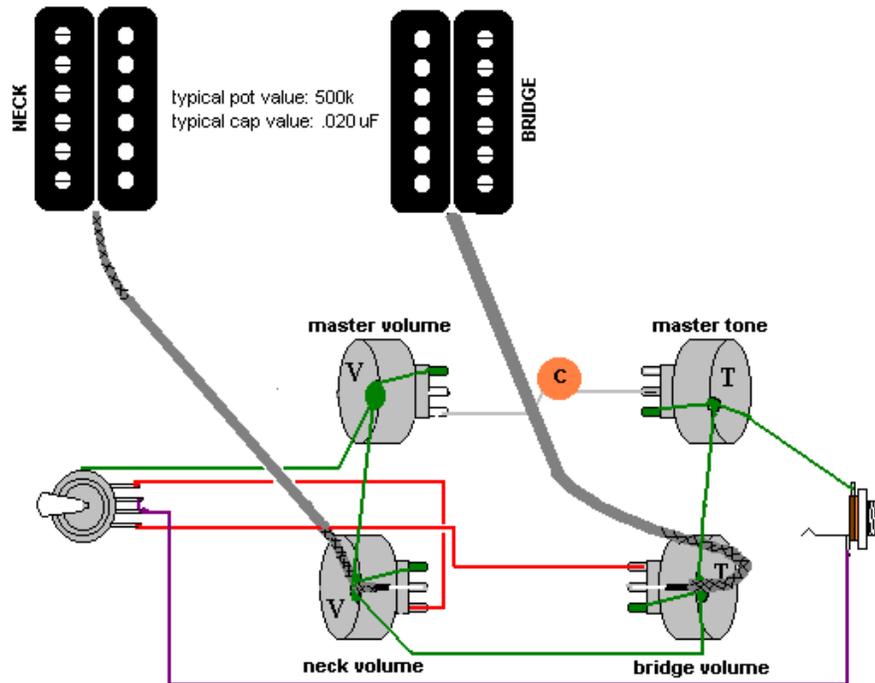
Some wiring schemes (Fender Strat, others) jumper the tone pot to the volume pot and put the tone cap between a lug of the tone pot and ground, rather than the cap between the tone and volume pots. There's no perceivable difference in the tone, but if your tone caps are NOT wired as they are in this drawing, no worries - we're eliminating one and rewiring the other, anyway.



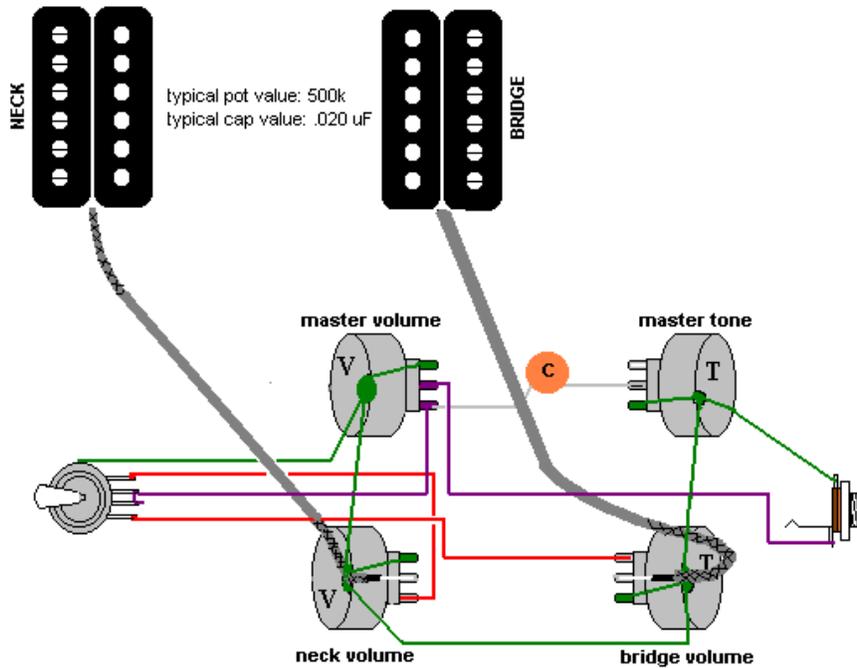
The first thing we'll do is remove the tone cap from the BRIDGE tone control.



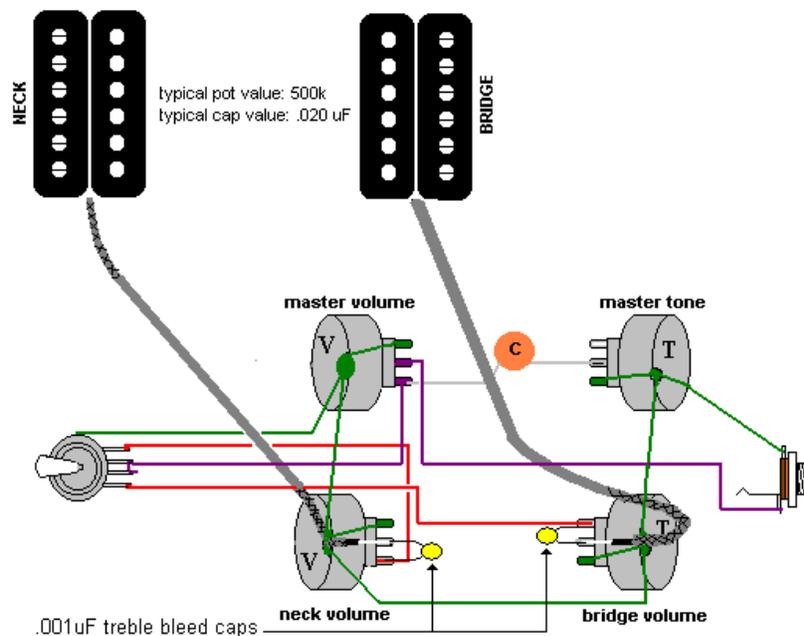
Next, we'll move the pup leads and change the way the individual volume pots are wired to make them independent. The bridge pup's lead goes to its old tone pot, the neck pup's lead goes to the old bridge volume. Notice you might be reversing the "in" and "out" leads to match this drawing - put the pickup's lead on the center lug, and put the jumper to the pickup selector on the first lug.



Now we'll wire the old neck volume pot to be a **master volume**. Find the output lead from the pup selector switch, and unsolder it from the output jack. Solder it instead to the **FIRST** lug on the **master volume** pot – leave the tone cap connected there with it. Solder a new lead from the center lug of the master volume pot to the output jack, where you removed the lead from the pup selector switch. The old neck tone pot is now your **master tone**.



Last, install the "treble bleed" caps. I highly recommend them when you do this kind of master volume mod, as running a pup through two volumes can affect its high-end tone negatively. I've drawn them in on this drawing as little yellow caps, one leg each on the "in" and "out" lug of the individual pickup volume pots. A typical value for these is in the .001uF range, some people go lower, a few people go higher...



GOOD LUCK!