Wiring Overview

This is a general overview of guitar wiring. Our hope is that this will break the wiring process down into smaller pieces that will allow the builder to better understand how each component of the electronics work together. Our goal is to help everyone understand how guitars are built and how each piece works together to comprise this magnificent instrument.

Pickups

Each pickup has 2 wires – 1 active (covered) & 1 ground (bare). Generally the pickups are wired directly to the volume pot with the active wire soldered to the input lug and the ground soldered to the casing or bottom of the pot.

Pots

Pots have 3 terminals – input, output & ground. Input comes from pickup(s) and is also wired to the Tone pot, output goes to either output jack or selector switch and ground is grounded out to the casing on the bottom of the pot. Pots, pickup(s), output jack and tailpiece post (if included in kit) all need to be grounded to form a complete circuit.
Selector switch has **input**, **output** and **ground** as well. The **input** lugs (top and bottom positions according to pickup position on a 3 way switch) receives wires from the volume pot(s). The **output** lug is the center lug on the bottom and is usually connected to the output jack. The **ground** lug is located on the side of the switch.

This overview is simply to provide a general outline of how the wiring works together to transfer vibration of the strings through the pickups and out the output jack and amp. The usual flow is:

Pickups – Volume Pot(s) – Tone Pot(s) – Selector Switch (if applicable) – Output Jack

Used in combination with the wiring diagram, this should help you troubleshoot any wiring issues during your build or in the future. However if you have any issues along the way, our Customer Response Team is always here to help at customerservice@rasdistributors.com.