



Email us : sales@riograndepickups.com

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Oh My God! I've got Stratitis!!!



Is your Strat sounding a little strange after adjusting your string or pickup height ? You may not be aware of the fact that setting the strings too close to your pickups can cause problems (most of us old guitar dawgs have run across this already).

Q: How close should pickups be to the strings?

A: The string is the signal source for the pickup. You will get the best and fullest tone by setting your pickups as close to the strings(signal source) as possible without **physical** or **sonic interference**.

1. **Physical interference** happens when the string hits the pickup. The string colliding with the pickup will cause a popping sound. Your pickup should be lowered just far enough to eliminate that "popping" sound that may occur during aggressive playing.

2. **Sonic interference** also tells you that the string is too close to the pickup. "Stratitis" is a made up term to describe the "warbling" sound that is produced when a single coil pickup is set too close to a string(s). Stratitis is most commonly produced by the neck position pickup on the low E string because the the string will move/vibrate the most close to the neck. In addition the Low E string contains the most "steel" and will be most affected by magnetic pull. Once you get the stratitis of the Low e string taken care of on each pickup , the other strings will probably be fine (as long as they are low enough to prevent popping).

You may hear this multi-tone or warbling sound if the pickup is too close to the string. Fret the low E string at the 15th fret and listen for it. If you do not hear it raise the pickup till you do. Then lower the pickup slowly until it just disappears and you get a clean , pure single tone. That is where you want it.

Your middle pickup can be closer to the string than the neck pickup and the bridge pickup can be closer still. That is because the string gets tighter towards the bridge and is less affected by magnetic pull.

"Most" humbuckings and P-90's with bar magnets under the coils do not have stratitis. It mainly applies to single coils with actual magnet polepieces. However it is these magnet polepiece type pickups that produce the clear, natural and glassy tones that we all love so much.



Rio Grande also offers many "true splitting" humbuckings with magnet polepieces. These include the Muy Grande, Halfbreed, Tallboy, and Babybucker.



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MADE IN TEXAS SINCE 1993
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