

Looking At CH-3 Fitting Issues On Celtic and Pedal Harps

Pickup Location

The CH-3 Artist is designed to span the string strip ideally about one-third of the way up the soundboard from the lowest bass string. Since some harps have an extremely wide string strip, it is not always possible to place the pickup in that recommended spot. Testing has shown that positioning the pickup as far as half way up the soundboard from the bass end is not particularly detrimental to the sound of the bass end or the overall string balance or the output of the pickup.

Pickup Fit To Soundboard

Ideally the 'feet' or rosewood base of the pickup should make full contact with the harps' soundboard. All harps, either as new or over time, have or will develop a small out-bowing of the soundboard. If the bowing is relatively minor and the pickup base makes good contact with the soundboard then the 3M VHB tape may be used to attach the pickup to the soundboard. Installation of the pickup should be done with the VHB tape first and if the sound quality and string balance is fine, then that part of the installation is complete.

If however the sound quality is not as good as it should be, you should take a look at the following things:

- 1) Check the fit of the pickup base to the soundboard. If it does not fit flush to the soundboard using the VHB tape, then the putty supplied with pickup should be utilized. The putty will provide considerably more leeway in terms of fitting the pickup properly to a soundboard with that little bit of extra bow. In extreme cases where the soundboard is very bowed, it will probably be necessary to add a thickness of rosewood to the bottom of the pickup base and then re-contour the pickup feet to match the bowing of the soundboard more closely.
- 2) Check to make sure that the string strip does not come into contact with the underside of the pickup base arch. Also make sure that no string knot comes into contact with any part of the pickup or lead wire.