Motif

Active Acoustic Guitar System

INSTALLATION GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION

The Mi-Si Motif Acoustic Guitar System continues Mi-Si's pattern of innovation in acoustic amplification. It includes a high-performance, endpin-mounted preamp featuring Mi-Si's now classic battery-free technology, while introducing the world's first Active Under-Saddle Condenser Pickup.

This breakthrough pickup offers all the benefits of conventional under-saddle applications. It's highly responsive with low feedback, allows the player freedom of movement, and does not impair your instrument's appearance. It is only 1 mm thick, providing superior contact with your guitar's bridge and saddle, with much less impact on its structural integrity.

Eliminating the harsh characteristics of more typical piezo-electric technology, Mi-Si's Condenser pickup captures the full richness and depth of your acoustic guitar. The system is completed by a low-noise Class A discrete preamp mounted directly to the endpin output jack. And like any other Mi-Si product . . . it is battery-free. Charge it for 60 seconds via the output jack and you have 6 hours of exceptional acoustic amplification.

IMPORTANT: Be very careful when handling and installing the Motif Condenser Pickup so as to avoid any damage to the wire connection or sensing elements.

LIMITED WARRANTY

The warranty period is one (1) year from the date of purchase. During this time, Mi-Si Electronics Design, Inc. will replace a faulty unit at their discretion. This warranty does not cover any consequential damages or damage to the unit due to misuse, accident or neglect. Mi-Si Electronics Design, Inc. retains the right to make such determination based on results of inspection performed at the factory. Products returned to Mi-Si Electronics Design, Inc. for repair or replacement must be shipped in accordance to Return Policy, as follows:

Return Policy

Mi-Si Electronics Design, Inc. will accept returns for products purchased within 30 days from receiving the goods. To return products to Mi-Si Electronics Design, Inc. you must do the following:

1. Email Mi-Si Electronics Design, Inc. at sales@mi-si.com describing the reason for the return.
2. Enclose a copy of the original Bill of Sale with the product in its original undamaged packaging. The package must be returned in damage resistant packaging stuffed with appropriate amounts of cushion.
3. Warranty repairs or replacements will be sent automatically free of charge.
4. The customer will not be refunded shipping or insurance costs. Additionally, return shipping charges, including insurance, are the sole responsibility of the customer unless the return or replacement is determined to be the fault of a Mi-Si Electronics Design, Inc.

Mi-Si Electronics Design, Inc.

Battery-Free Technology for Acoustic Amplification

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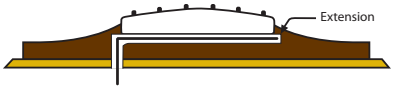
PICKUP INSTALLATION

The Mi-Si Motif Acoustic Guitar System includes the world's first Active Under-Saddle Condenser Pickup, providing superb response and easy installation.

For optimum performance, your guitar's saddle slot must have a clean, flat surface free of any debris or over-spray from the finish. Be sure that the length of the slot extends beyond the pickup length to avoid binding **(FIGURE 1)**. The saddle slot must be a minimum of .125" (1/8") deep, but we recommend a depth of at least .187" (3/16") to avoid excessive saddle tilt.

Figure 1

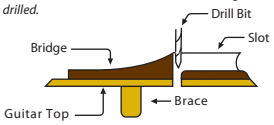


Follow The 50/50 Rule: The amount of saddle visible above the bridge surface (with the pickup installed) should be no greater than the amount of saddle in the slot beneath the bridge surface; otherwise the balance and output of the pickup may be compromised.

Inspect the inside of the guitar and note the position of the braces and the pickup in relation to the saddle slot. Drill the wire hole through the end of the slot on the side that will avoid all braces as you penetrate the top **(FIGURE 2)**. Blow out the slot with compressed air and check for remaining debris.

Figure 2

This view depicts the bridge at an angle level with the guitar top and perpendicular to the saddle slot. Note the rounded edge where the hole has been drilled.



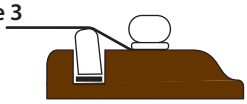
Important: It is crucial that the floor saddle slot and the bottom surface of the saddle be smooth and make even contact with the pickup. The saddle should fit loosely enough so that it can be pulled out with your fingertips.

Round out the inside of the wire hole where it meets the bottom of the slot with a small, sharp knife or file. Feed the pickup wire through the wire hole from the top of the saddle slot and out the endpin hole of your guitar's body.

If the saddle is too tight, binds at all, or is too loose, it will have a negative effect on the string balance and output. Set the saddle in the slot, noting how much material must be removed to compensate for the thickness of the pickup. Sand the bottom of the saddle against a machined flat surface with fine sandpaper. Use a straightedge with a strong light source to inspect the flatness of your saddle.

The saddle will lean forward slightly when the strings are under tension. It is absolutely necessary to compensate for this slight lean by sanding the bottom of the saddle at an angle so it still sits flat on the pickup when the strings are at tension **(FIGURE 3)**.

Figure 3



Proper saddle / pickup contact
(exaggerated saddle lean)

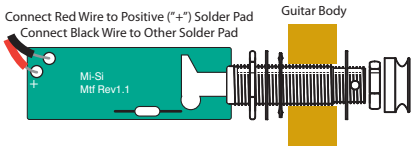
Poor pickup installation may produce boominess and feedback. After your preamp is installed (See Preamp Installation), restring your guitar, and plug into your amp or PA. Confirm that the EQ controls are flat and test the Motif, paying careful attention to string balance.

String balance problems are almost always the result of an uneven interface between the bottom of the saddle and the saddle slot. If the string balance is uneven, check these surfaces to ensure that they are both completely flat.

Tip: A segmented packaging knife blade is useful for determining the flatness of a saddle slot. Break off enough blade segments so as much of the blade fits into the slot as possible. Briefly use a back-and-forth scraping motion to see if the slot bottom scrapes evenly. Any high or low spots will be readily apparent. A minor low spot in the slot may be compensated for by shims under the pickup; however, for gaps over .005" or multiple gaps, we recommend rerouting the saddle slot.

PREAMP INSTALLATION

Solder the ends of the Motif pickup wire to the preamp and replace your guitar's endpin with the Motif's endpin-mounted preamp as shown.



Charging and Plugging In

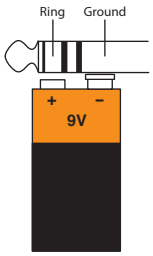
To charge the Motif preamp, plug the Power Charger into a 120/220 V AC outlet. Then connect the Power Charger 1/4" stereo plug into the Motif's output jack and wait 60 seconds.

Your Motif System is now ready for 6 hours of performance time (actual playing time may vary depending on playing style). For best performance, increase the charging time up to 120 seconds for the initial 2-3 charging cycles.

You can plug your instrument into ANY input of ANY system or amplifier regardless of input impedance. In the same manner, you can use ANY type of shielded MONO cable - regardless of its capacitance. Your sound will not be altered. You can enjoy the benefits of an active amplified system without worrying about batteries.

Useful Tip

Using the Power Charger to power up your preamp is truly remarkable. But what if you forgot or lost your Power Charger? Don't worry! Although we don't promote the use of batteries, in this case all you need to power up your system is any stereo cord and a common 9V battery.



Plug the stereo cord into your instrument. Hold the 9V battery so that the positive terminal is touching the Ring of the stereo plug and the negative terminal is touching the Ground. Hold it like this for 60 seconds and you are ready to play for 16 hours. The system will not be damaged by accidentally connecting the battery in wrong direction.