

Humbucker-Single-Humbucker

Introduction:

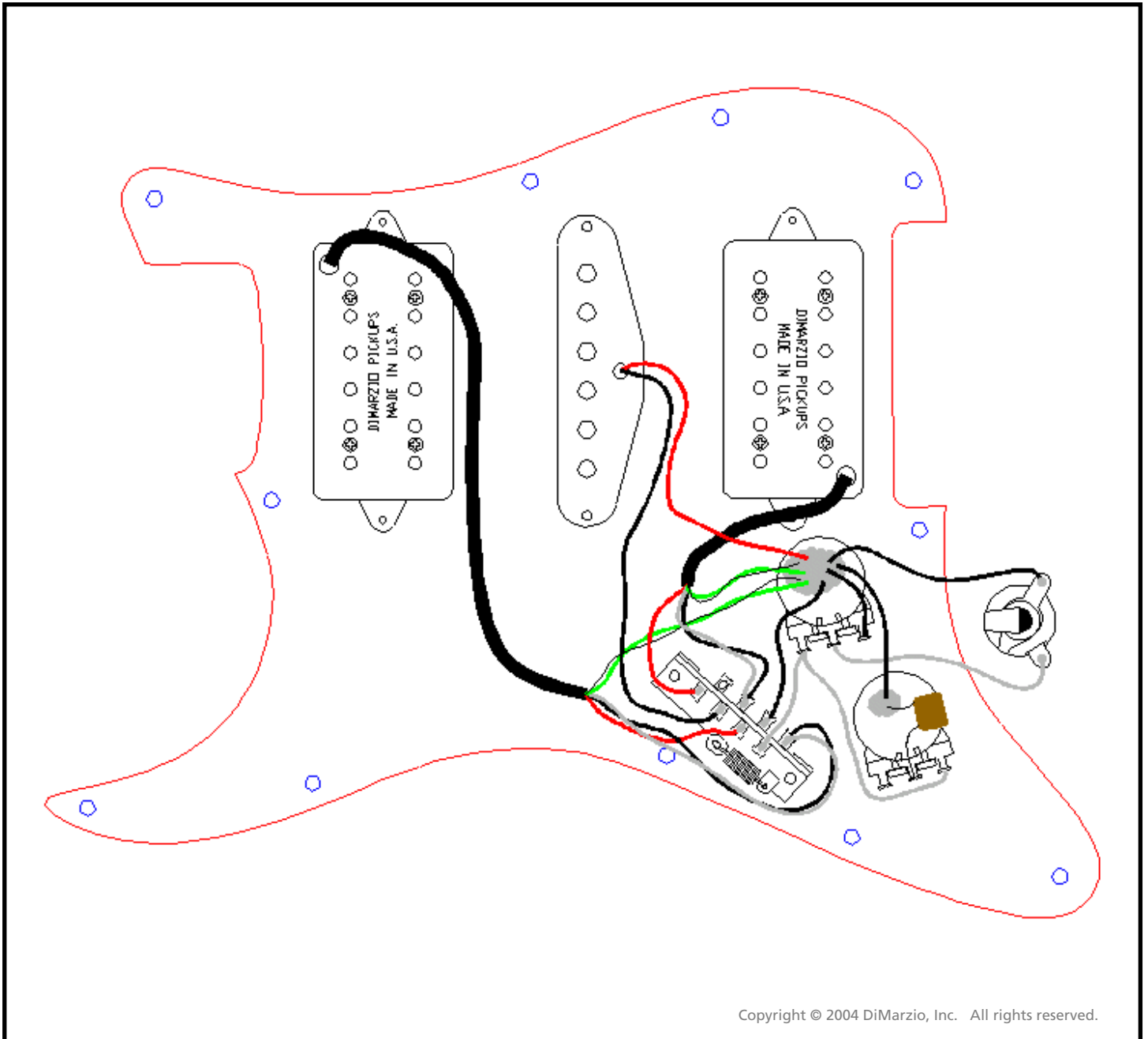
This diagram shows a versatile 5-way setup with a full humbucker sound in the 1 and 5 positions, a true single-coil in the 3 position, and Strat-like split sounds in the 2 and 4 positions. This is achieved by wiring the 5-way switch to shut off one coil of the neck or bridge humbucker in the 2 and 4 positions. If the correct coil on the humbucker is selected, it will be in phase and hum-canceling when it is combined with the single-coil in the middle position. This is similar to the common Strat wiring with 3 single-coils, where the middle pickup is reverse-wind and reverse polarity with the neck and bridge pickups. The diagram shows the way it's done on an Ibanez JEM. Observe the positioning of the humbuckers: the neck pickup is installed in the opposite direction from the bridge pickup. This is done so that the coil closest to the middle pickup remains "on" in the 2 and 4 positions. This produces the most "quack". If the humbuckers are turned around, the result is a less hollow, more Tele-like sound. The middle pickup shown in the diagram has red and black wires. This is the way the pickup in the JEM guitar is built. If you're using a standard DiMarzio single-coil pickup in the middle like a Blue Velvet™, you should get the reverse-polarity model (DP170S or DP171S) and wire it so the black wire goes to the 5-way switch (the same as the JEM shown in the diagram) and the white wire is grounded to the back of a control.

Technical Notes:

Most guitars with this wiring use 500K volume and tone controls (EP1201). If you have a particularly bright-sounding guitar, you can warm up the sound a little by substituting 250K controls (EP1200). The capacitor on the tone control should be .022 μ fd.



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