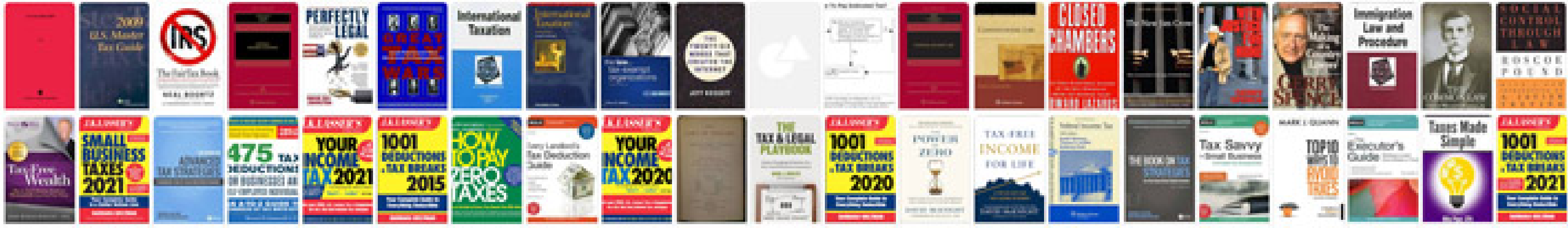

Diy jazzmaster

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Here are our essential tips for squeezing every last drop of performance out of your Jazzmaster, Jaguar or other offset guitar â€" covering everything from new bridges and pickups to vibrato fixes and supercharged electronicsâ€¦. Jazzmasters and Jaguars â€" and the many similar guitars they inspired â€" are tailor-made for modding. Everything from hardware replacement to retrofitting non-standard pickups is par for the course in the world of offsets. Here, we share some of our favourite alterations for these two great Fender instruments. Treat this article as a primer for your own ideas. And trust us, there are many more where these came from. Given that Leo Fender originally meant for these guitars to be used with the heavy-gauge flatwound strings of the day, installing a set of 0. Tuning will be more stable, the vibrato will feel smoother, and the tone will rise like proving dough. A properly cut nut is the first line of defence against pesky tuning problems. We recommend unbleached bone, brought to a high polish, for its hardness and beauty, but Tusq will suffice for those with a vegan lifestyle. Increasing the angle of the neck in relation to the body is the best way to get your guitar playing and feeling solid. Fender accomplished this by using thin shims in the neck pocket, although a thin business card laid flat at the pickguard side of the neck pocket works just as well. Otherwise, full-size shims are available from guitar-part providers such as StewMac. With just a bit of maintenance, you can keep your stock bridge and stop worrying about skipping strings and poor intonation. Place the arm in the vice with about an inch of the inserted end poking out, then give it a good whack with a hammer. This will slightly bend the end of the arm, forcing contact with the sides of the collet. From string mutes to a new vibrato unit design, a fresh approach to circuitry and a body shape optimised for player comfort, Fender crammed endless innovations into the Jaguar and Jazzmaster. Perhaps the most popular modification for offset Fenders is replacing the stock bridge with a more robust aftermarket part. Although a correct setup will make any Jazzmaster or Jaguar play dependably, we recognise that not everyone has the time or the ability to go to such great lengths. Many simply choose to change the bridge. Best understood as a heavily upgraded Mustang-style bridge, this bridge features six individually adjustable barrel saddles with a deep, centred groove to keep strings in place. The bridge is available in both 7. However, this bridge is meant to rock with trem use, which certain players may find problematic. Additionally, the fixed radius makes setups tricky for guitars with flatter fretboards. The Offset Mastery Bridge, released in , helps to eliminate the buzzing and string movement that plagued the bridges of original Fender offset models. Designed and manufactured by Minneapolis luthier John Woodland and co. The gently radiused, twin brass saddles have a proprietary hard chrome plating and deeply grooved, V-shaped channels to keep strings put. Intonation is adjustable via two Allen screws for each saddle. For one, installing them usually requires drilling out the body to accept new inserts. This makes it difficult to achieve a balanced and consistent action across the fretboard. The shape of the saddles on these bridges can also prove problematic for those who use the vibrato frequently, although this can be mitigated with lubrication and additional filing of the grooves. These are coveted by in-the-know players for the taut response of the original carbon steel spring. A rugged affair made from stainless steel with countersunk screws, this modern-meets-vintage vibrato features an updated string anchor plate, an arm with user-adjustable swing, and, best of all, a painstaking recreation of the carbon-steel spring. These custom-machined stainless-steel plates install quickly using the same mounting holes as the stock vibrato, enabling you to string your guitar using six keyhole anchors. For as long as offset guitars have existed, people have complained that the stock 1 Meg volume and tone controls are too bright and trebly, especially with certain amp rigs. Stepping down to K or K can drastically affect the overall tonality of the instrument, and the lower the rating, the greater the difference. On the other end of the spectrum are those who rely upon consistent operation of the volume control â€" the Jazzmaster and Jaguar circuits may cut off far too much treble when backed off. Treble-bleed networks are an easy mod to retain clarity and bite without altering your basic guitar tone. Placed between the input and output lugs of your volume pot, this mod consists of a cap in parallel with a resistor. They can either be bought from a number of vendors or DIY-ed. One popular combination is a pF marked as capacitor and a K ohm resistor, but some swear by a pF capacitor instead. Experiment away! The Jaguar control layout will always be confusing, but luckily, there are alternatives. You could cram the end of a pencil eraser in there and break it off, but if you want to retain your tonal options while keeping the switches out of the way, spacers such as those sold by Faction Guitars are the perfect compromise. The sheer number of pickup makers large and small means nearly every whim, within any budget, can be catered to. Ps, humbuckers, Wide Range, Gold Foils, sustainersâ€¦ all are welcome here at the altar of the offset. Here are eight ways to make the most of your upper-bout electronics without dramatically changing the stock look. Note: These diagrams assume proper grounding for pots, switches, and the jack. Removing the rhythm from your circuit is fairly easy: simply re-route the neck pickup directly to the selector switch, the switch to the first lug of the volume pot, and then the output from your volume pot to the output jack. Remove the secondary tone circuit to save some weight, and you may even find your tone improved with the streamlined wiring. The wiring diagrams that follow offer a variety of ways to inject new sonic character into your offset. Instead of clipping the circuit, why not try to get more out of it instead? All pickup selections will now be available. This Les Paul-like wiring scheme repurposes the rhythm circuit as a standard volume-and-tone combo for the neck pickup and substitutes the 50K Tone for a 1 Meg mini pot. Repurposing the rhythm circuit switch to run your pickups in either series or parallel is a painless procedure. Players who swear by thin and funky tones will love this one. Great for fattening up a thin sound or adding bite to a murky one, the PTB wiring has long been a secret of studio and stage alike. Start with something simple like a Fuzz Face or Tube Screamer and move up from there. Between the bridge and vibrato lurks an otherworldly palette of eerie dissonance, ghostly reverb and pitch-specific resonances. Whether or not Mr Fender could have anticipated the eventual widespread embrace of DIY enthusiasts for his then-top-of-the-line models is up for debate. No matter the historical perspective, one thing is clear: even those with limited experience should feel right at home adding personal touches to their prized instruments. Happy modding! Check out other DIY guides here. New attachment helps one-handed musicians play guitar Cillian Breathnach - 23rd February We check out this golden wonder from in the latest instalment of The Money Shot. Nestled amid the beautiful Green Mountains of Vermont, Froggy Bottom Guitars crafts fine acoustic instruments using centuries-old woodworking techniques. For those that are searching for a band with influences steeped in the golden era but confidently driving it into the 21st century, look no further. Electric Guitars. Yet, 25 years ago, it became a million-selling commercial success thanks in part to an appearance from the princess of pop. Essential Guides. Quite probably. Rory Gallagher was a pioneer with a sound and style as unique as his battered Fender Strat. Buyer's Guides. Metal machine music: The history of guitars made from metal Tony Bacon - 18th February From National to Travis Bean, James Trussart and beyond, the bodies and necks of guitars have been made out of metal for almost a century. Join us as we chart their history. All Advanced Beginner Intermediate. In the first of a new series, we examine how this simple and common system for learning the guitar contains hidden depths that could be the key to unlocking your potential as a musician. Continuing our look at the chord shapes and sequences used by The Beatles, we get inside the head of Paul McCartney and find a songwriting genius with an enthusiasm for minor chords and chords from outside the key. We head into psychedelic territory in our second part of our John Lennon lesson, as we explore the chords and sequences used by a man spreading his creative wings. Guides DIY Workshop. By Michael James Adams. New attachment helps one-handed musicians play guitar Gear 23rd February The March issue of Guitar Magazine is out now! Read More. The February issue of Guitar Magazine is out now! The January issue of Guitar Magazine is out now! The December issue of Guitar Magazine is out now! The November issue of Guitar Magazine is out now! We tackle the installation of a Mastery unit and show you how to wire up your controls to keep hum to a minimum. Jazzmasters are nothing if not eccentric beasts, and that presents certain unique challenges if you want to mod, repair or restore one of your own. Mastering The Bridge. In , Fender began using threaded saddles on some of their guitars â€" Telecasters got them, along with the new Jazzmaster model. The idea behind this was that the multi-grooved design would allow players to set their own string spacing â€" and with a nice steep break angle over the saddle they work well enough. However, it never really caught on with jazzers, and the surfers, garage-rockers and noiseniks who took the instrument to heart have generally had to retro-fit a Mustang bridge as a drop-in replacement. Another well-documented issue involves the action height adjustment screws. Jazzmaster bridges are attached to posts with grub screws at the bottom. For shielding Allparts UK supplied a Fender aluminium plate and adhesive backed copper foil. In practice the grub screws can be too loose and prolonged vibration and whammy bar action can cause them to retract within the posts. As a consequence, the action becomes lower and strings will begin choking out and even stop ringing altogether. A popular modern solution is the Mastery Bridge. Designed by luthier John Woodland, this high-end unit is made in Minneapolis and has garnered a stellar reputation with such Jazzmaster heavyweights as Nels Cline, Thurston Moore and Elvis Costello. Curiously, J Mascis prefers a tune-o-matic. Transfer the cavity shape onto the foil by pressing the edges with your finger then cut them out with scissors. The Mastery unit looks more like a piece of contemporary sculpture than a regular bridge, and it purports to solve every Jazzmaster problem. The bridge features two saddles, each with two pivot points allowing both trios of strings to be intonated accurately. In addition, saddle heights can be set at each end to conform to various fingerboard radiuses. After cutting out the foil to line the bases of all the cavities, we set them to one side. The Mastery posts and thimbles are made to such fine tolerances that when you press a post into a thimble, it forms a vacuum. Unlike a regular Jazzmaster bridge, which is designed to rock back and forth with the vibrato, Mastery bridges are fixed in place. Foil is applied to the sides then lipped over the top and bottom edges. If this is the case with your guitar, you may decide to change the thimbles as well as the bridge. Check the thimbles on the instrument you are upgrading to see what fits best. After the sides are done you can lay in the base and the second circuit rout is now completed. The Mastery thimbles also differ in size from Japanese thimbles. The Mastery dimensions are 9. So if you do decide to swap out the thimbles on a Japanese-made Jazzmaster, some re-drilling may be required. I covered the process of installing bridge thimbles in our November Telecaster revamp feature. Once I have the thimbles installed, I adjust the post grub screws to extend beyond the posts to ensure they contact the base of the thimbles. The grub screws are also fairly tight, although they do move freely enough for adjustments. Before dropping the bridge in, I very slightly slacken the screws connecting the posts to the bridge base because the Mastery allows you some leeway to compensate for thimble spacing discrepancies. The posts went straight into the thimbles, so I re-tightened the base screws and then retracted the post grub screws to lower the bridge height. It was immediately apparent that the neck would need a shim, but the factory saddle settings provided a good starting point for intonation and the acoustic tone displayed superb clarity and sustain. Protect the paintwork from stray blobs of solder with kitchen paper. Gibson and Gretsch introduced humbucking pickups in , so Fender must have been considering how to reduce noise without deviating from single-coil pickups. He went down the shielding route and lined the control cavities with form fitting brass. The first Jazzmaster pickguard was aluminium, which also provided shielding, so when Fender changed to a celluloid nitrate guard, he placed a thinner aluminium shield under the pickguard. Fortunately, you can buy a Fender-branded repro of the aluminium shield, but full cavity shields are impossible to come by. Instead I decide to use sticky backed copper foil to line the body cavities and found the foil and a shield at allparts. Solder joints ensure electrical continuity across the screening. The process of lining the cavities begins with laying the foil over the cavities â€" with the backing still on the foil â€" and pressing around the edges of the routs to transfer the shapes onto the foil. This provides a crisp outline and you can cut out the shapes with a sharp scissors. With foil cutouts made for the bases of the control cavity routs and both pickups, I set them aside while applying foil to the sides of the routs. I try to leave a slight overlap at the top and bottom so the foil will contact the aluminium shield and make up for any inaccuracies in the base cut outs. Some of the shapes were tricky and I found it easiest to work with shorter strips of foil rather than attempt to complete each area with a single strip. Once the sides are done I lay in the bases and patch up a couple of areas where I can see green paint. The shield is aligned with the scratchplate and held in position with the switch and jack socket. Wherever I had used multiple strip or added patches, I applied blobs of solder to the joins between the various pieces. I also applied solder to the joins between the foil on the sides and bottoms of the cavities. I perform a test fit with the shield and the pickguard to establish that everything lines up really well. However there are some oversized holes around the tone circuit switch and controls, so I add some copper foil patches and cut out the holes using a craft knife. Load hardware with pots facing down to ensure it all fits in the cavities. I loosely fit the circuit switch and the output jack, line up all the screw holes then tighten up the screws and nut to hold the shield in place before loading up the pots and pickup selector switch. The Allparts Jazzmaster wiring kit provides everything you need for this fairly complex wiring job. You also have to mount the pots onto the bracket and loosely fit the rollers before screwing the bracket onto the pickguard. I ploughed through a bunch of different Jazzmaster wiring diagrams online until I found one I trusted at Rothstein Guitars Most of those I found seemed to show alternative wiring schemes, so be careful. To wire a Jazzmaster, you need to assemble quite a collection of parts. Allparts UK sells a complete Jazzmaster wiring kit, which comes with helpful diagrams. Hooking up begins with grounding the volume pot tag and splaying the solder tags on the pickup selector. While referring to a schematic and photos of Jazzmaster wiring, I connect up the main control pots and the three-way switch. The fiddliest part is connecting up the pots and switch on the second circuit then running all the longer wires between the two circuits. I use strips of masking tape to hold all the wires neatly in place as I work my way through the installation. With the wiring finally completed, the wires are held in place using nylon cable ties. Unlike Stratocasters, where the pickups are suspended from a pickguard assembly, which can be lifted out in its entirety, Jazzmaster pickups are screwed directly onto the body. To position the pickups properly, I first fit the loaded pickguard onto the body and screw it down. The pickup covers are then placed into the cutouts with spacers underneath so the sides line up properly with the closely cut pickguard openings, and I drill pilot holes for the cover screws using the screw holes in the covers to guide the drill bit. The solder tags connect the bridge ground wire to the shield and the shield to the negative terminal of the output jack. Applying masking tape to the top of the covers, I position them inside the pickup openings with the tape holding them in place. The pickguard is then flipped and the pickups dropped into their covers then soldered into the circuit. The shielding has to be grounded, so I attach a couple of solder tags to the side of the control cavity with a self-tapping screw. The tags are used for the ground wires connected to the bridge and the output jack. First impressions of the Mojo pickups I used are also highly encouraging â€" visit We check out this golden wonder from in the latest instalment of The Money Shot. Nestled amid the beautiful Green Mountains of Vermont, Froggy Bottom Guitars crafts fine acoustic instruments using centuries-old woodworking techniques. For those that are searching for a band with influences steeped in the golden era but confidently driving it into the 21st century, look no further. Electric Guitars. Yet, 25 years ago, it became a million-selling commercial success thanks in part to an appearance from the princess of pop. Essential Guides. Quite probably. Rory Gallagher was a pioneer with a sound and style as unique as his battered Fender Strat. Buyer's Guides. Metal machine music: The history of guitars made from metal Tony Bacon - 18th February From National to Travis Bean, James Trussart and beyond, the bodies and necks of guitars have been made out of metal for almost a century. Join us as we chart their history. All Advanced Beginner Intermediate. In the first of a new series, we examine how this simple and common system for learning the guitar contains hidden depths that could be the key to unlocking your potential as a musician. Continuing our look at the chord shapes and sequences used by The Beatles, we get inside the head of Paul McCartney and find a songwriting genius with an enthusiasm for minor chords and chords from outside the key. We head into psychedelic territory in our second part of our John Lennon lesson, as we explore the chords and sequences used by a man spreading his creative wings. Guides DIY Workshop. By Huw Price. Mastering The Bridge Advertisement. The March issue of Guitar Magazine is out now! Read More. The February issue of Guitar Magazine is out now! The January issue of Guitar Magazine is out now! The December issue of Guitar Magazine is out now! The November issue of Guitar Magazine is out now! J Mascis is an offset-guitar hero and his main guitar is this sunburst '63 Fender Jazzmaster with original neck and pickups. He replaced the pickup covers, knobs, and added a Tune-o-matic-style bridge. Photo by Perry Bean. In the second episode of the Netflix documentary series Abstract: The Art of Design , the famed creator of the Air Jordan, Tinker Hatfield, muses on his years at Nike, where he seemingly pulled iconic shoe designs out of the very ether. Consumer reaction toward the stark black-and-Kevlar aesthetic of the new shoe was overwhelmingly negative, and they were critically panned. My heart goes out to the Jazzmaster; it really does. For nearly 50 years they were misunderstood, maligned, and marred by stories of string slippage, tuning instability, and impossible intonation. Convicted in the court of opinion, the Jazzmaster was viewed as a flawed experimentâ€"a joke guitar that was nice to look at perhaps, but not to play. Photo 1. Jazz Odyssey When Leo Fender began work on the Jazzmaster alongside designer George Fullerton and Hawaiian steel player Freddie Tavares, he set out to create a solidbody guitar with the geometry of an archtop acoustic. It was an effort to capture the jazz market, in which Gibson had enjoyed overwhelming success. Going through old patent drawingsâ€"one of which is now tattooed on my left forearmâ€"his intent is obvious. When viewed from the side, the string path of a properly set up Jazzmaster Photo 1 is reminiscent of an archtop, such as a venerable L-5 or ES Photo 2. The strings flow from the tailpiece and break over the floating bridge at an angle, then plummet down a pitched-back neck toward the nut and tuning machines. In theory, the downward force exerted on the bridge keeps the strings in place while the bridge freely rocks back and forth with vibrato use. Photo 2. Whereas most other models tend to need some bridge adjustment or a partial turn of the truss rod, to play their best these guitars need to be treated differently and considered as a whole. Guitars Bass Amps Pedals Players. Photo by Perry Bean In the second episode of the Netflix documentary series Abstract: The Art of Design , the famed creator of the Air Jordan, Tinker Hatfield, muses on his years at Nike, where he seemingly pulled iconic shoe designs out of the very ether. Previous 1 2 3 4 5 Next. Michael James Adams is a musician, writer, voice-over artist, and guitar tech based out of Long Beach, California. He lives there with his actor wife and singing dog, and he names all of his guitars after Star Wars characters. Big amps and Jazzmasters for life. More videos from Premier Guitar. Get our email newsletter! Rig Rundowns Most Recent. Rig Rundown: Teenage Wrist. Rig Rundown: God Is an Astronaut []. Rig Rundown: Molly Miller. Rig Rundown: Kurt Ballou. Rig Rundown: Tori Ruffin. Your Pedalboards ! The Big 5: Elizabeth Moen. On PremierGuitar. Sponsored Content is clearly labeled everywhere it appears, and Premier Guitar 's editorial department has no involvement in its creation. String Selection Being aimed at jazz players of the day, the Jazzmaster was built around the use of heavy flatwound strings. It just takes a bit more fiddling around with the setup. I use and recommend. I do find it interesting that complaints about bridge buzz started surfacing around the time that ultra-light gauges became more commonplace, in the mid-to-late s. Neck Angle Ensuring the proper amount of neck angle relative to the body is essential to getting the most out of your offset guitar. Although the archtops that inspired him were constructed with a permanently inclined set neck, the famously pragmatic Leo Fender addressed this by specifically designing the Jazzmaster with shims in mind. The goal here is to increase downward force on the bridge. As the neck is angled down away from the bodyâ€"like a see-saw, imagine the headstock dropping slightly lower than the end of the fretboardâ€"the bridge must be raised to achieve playable action. This causes the strings to pass over the bridge at a sharper angle this is called break angle , and thus adequate pressure on the bridge is realized. This pressure helps keep the strings in place while also increasing resonance. Photo 3. Fender used to employ leftover fiberboard pickup bobbin material, but for DIY-ers, baseball or business cards will do just fine. Reattach the neck, string up, and then raise the bridge until you find the action comfortable. I usually start with two shims and add or subtract according to the needs of the individual instrument. Note: If you happen to be using a Mastery or Staytrem bridge, one or two shims should work just fine. The Bridge When I got my first Jazzmaster, the bridge positively flummoxed me. It seemed that, no matter what I did, I could not get the thing to stop buzzing. Using heavier strings goes a long way to cure this. Photo 4. However, I also realized that with the original bridge, the intonation screws that poke through the middle of the saddles can be just as much of a pain Photo 4. Photo 5. Insert the appropriate hex key in the postholes on the face of the bridge and adjust the height of the treble and bass sides of the bridge to taste Photo 5.

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The saddles themselves should only be used to set radius. Two screws, after all, are much easier to adjust than Guitars Bass Amps Pedals Players. When viewed from the side, the string path of a properly set up Jazzmaster is reminiscent of an archtop, such as a venerable L-5 or ES Previous 1 2 3 4 5 Next. Michael James Adams is a musician, writer, voice-over artist, and guitar tech based out of Long Beach, California. He lives there with his actor wife and singing dog, and he names all of his guitars after Star Wars characters. Big amps and Jazzmasters for life. More videos from Premier Guitar. Get our email newsletter! Rig Rundowns Most Recent. Rig Rundown: Teenage Wrist. Rig Rundown: God Is an Astronaut []. Rig Rundown: Molly Miller. Rig Rundown: Kurt Ballou. Rig Rundown: Tori Ruffin. Your Pedalboards ! The Big 5: Elizabeth Moen. On PremierGuitar. Sponsored Content is clearly labeled everywhere it appears, and Premier Guitar 's editorial department has no involvement in its creation.