




TECHNICAL ADVISORY: SELECTOR SWITCH – STATIC DISCHARGE

Problem:

It is common for any guitar to demonstrate a static discharge when a player comes into contact with the pickup selector switch, as well as, while switching between the pickup positions. There are many possible variables and scenarios to induce such a reaction, some being more difficult to rectify than others. This can also be confused with a scratchy sounding switch or potentiometer as well, due to grounding issues or dirty components. 

Causes:

It is a natural by-product of electrical circuitry to create a static-charged environment. It is also very susceptible to influence from the surrounding environment the guitar is being played in. For example, the type of clothing the player is wearing can impact the amount of static that is generated from the player to the guitar. The electrical wiring in the room or building can impact the static levels, as well as the atmosphere (ie. humidity levels. Etc.), and even the intrinsic physiological makeup of the player.

Solutions:

First, it would be wise to spray the electronic components with Deoxit contact spray cleaner. This will eliminate the possibility that it is just dirt and dust creating the scratchy sound that can get confused as static discharge. The simple fix for static would be to take a dryer sheet and wipe down the switch as well as the other electronic components. Another option is using a spray guard static cling formula and spraying it on a cloth before applying it to the components. Depending on the environment and the player, this process may need to be repeated from time to time.

Advice and support:

If you continue to have trouble or have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Fender Consumer Relations at 1.800.856.9801 or consumerrelations@fender.com.

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