



Series 001 Floating Bridge

- r-style direct replacement -
- new headless builds -

1.0 What's in the box?

Hardware kit (1)

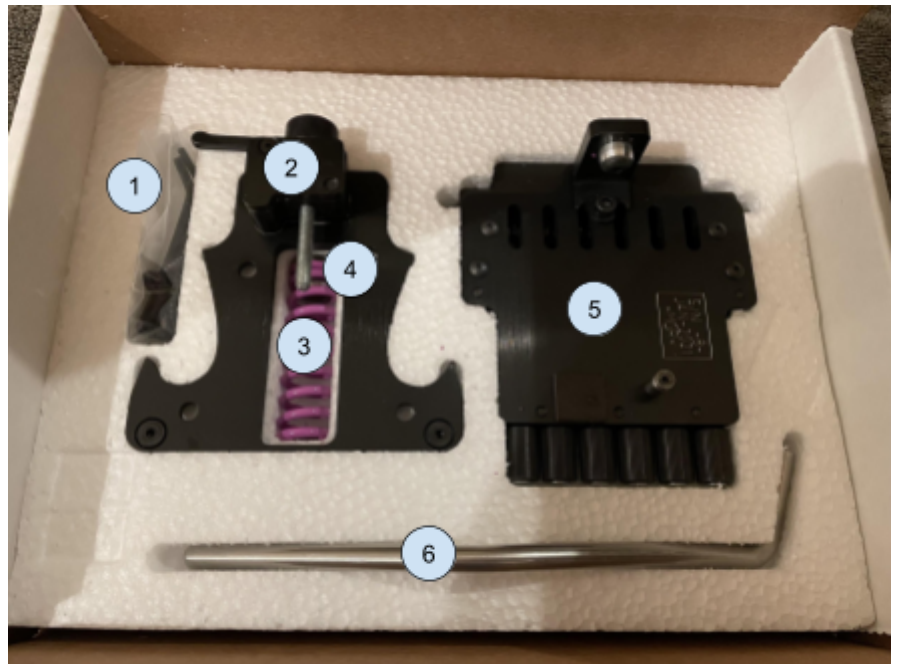
- 4 mounting screws
- 3 hex keys (0.050 in, 1/16 in, 2mm)

Base assembly (2)

Spring (3) and spring
pusher (4)

Top assembly (5)

Trem arm (6)



2.0 Installation (r-style replacement)

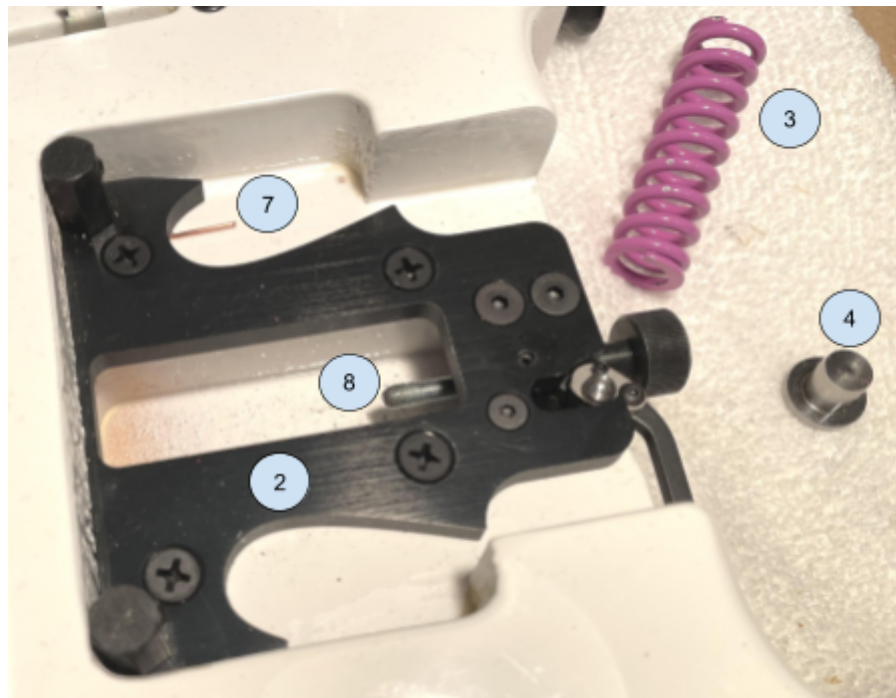
- If you are not comfortable with any of the following steps, including guitar setup, please reach out to a qualified guitar technician or luthier.
- Be aware that mgr-design is not responsible for any damage to the guitar, the bridge or any other loss or claim related to the installation and/or use of mgr-design products.

2.1 Removing Old R-style Bridge

- a) Lock the bridge using the locking lever
- b) Completely loosen the strings by turning the tuning knobs counterclockwise and remove all of the strings.
- c) Turn the main spring tension knob counterclockwise all the way to release all spring tension.
- d) Unlock the bridge using the locking lever and let the bridge drop down.
- e) Gently pull up on the bridge to release the pivot points from the pivot posts. Some bridges are really loose and come right off and some are tighter.
- f) Take off the top portion of the bridge and let the spring fall.
- g) Remove the mounting screws then remove the base, the spring and the spring pusher. That's it!

2.2 Installing the Base of the Series 001 Bridge

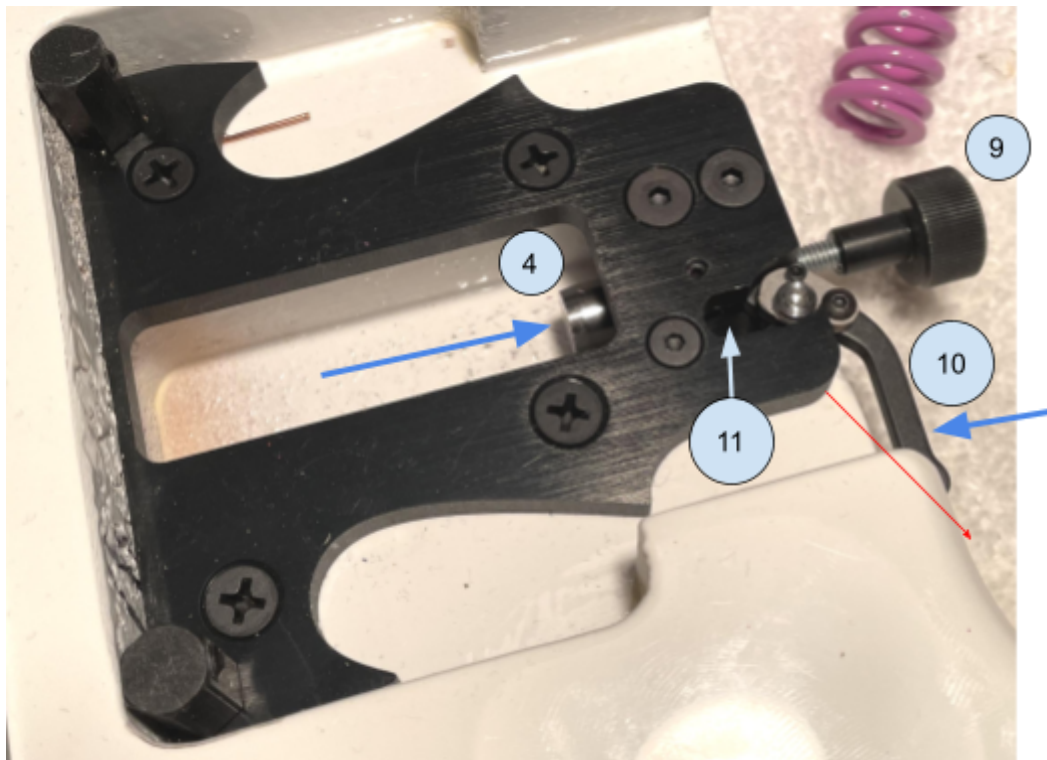
- a) Place the base (2) in the bridge cavity with the screw holes generally lining up. The holes aren't always drilled perfectly so some misalignment is fine.
- b) Make sure that the bare grounding wire (7) is between the base of the bridge and the body of the guitar. A good electrical connection needs to be made when the base is fastened to the body.



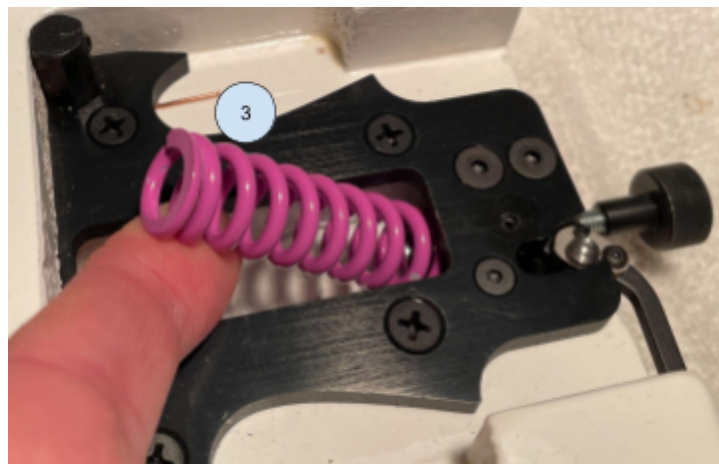
- c) Fasten the base to the body with the 4 screws provided (Series 001 base screw size is: #8 x 3/4"). Make sure not to overtighten.
- d) Any stripped screw holes in the guitar body will need to be repaired. I hate it when that happens. 😊

2.3 Installing the Top of the Series 001 Bridge

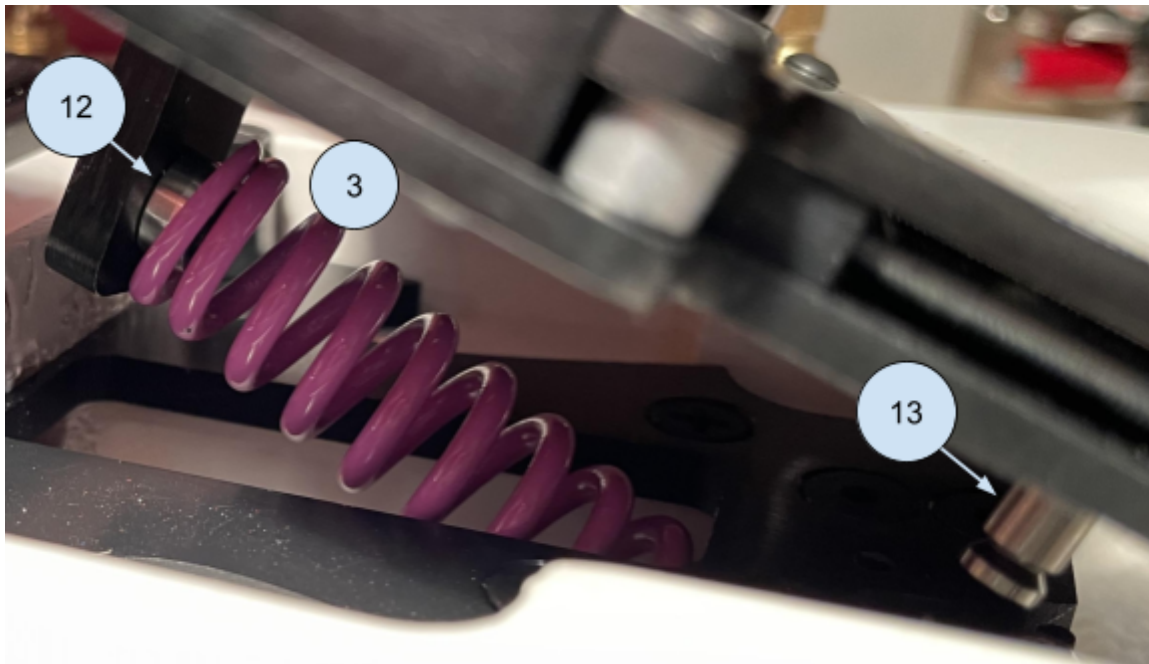
- a) Take the spring pusher (4) out of the spring (3) and place it on the end of the main spring screw (8). There is a bit of grease in the spring pusher hole so you might want something around to wipe your fingers if you get grease on them.
- b) Turn the main spring knob (9) counterclockwise until the spring pusher (4) stops moving back because it has contacted the back of the base.



- c) Make sure that the locking lever (10) is in the unlocked position with the lever towards the body of the guitar. This will let the locking pin go all the way into the hole (11) in the base.
- d) Put the main spring (3) onto the spring pusher (4) and support the other end with your finger.



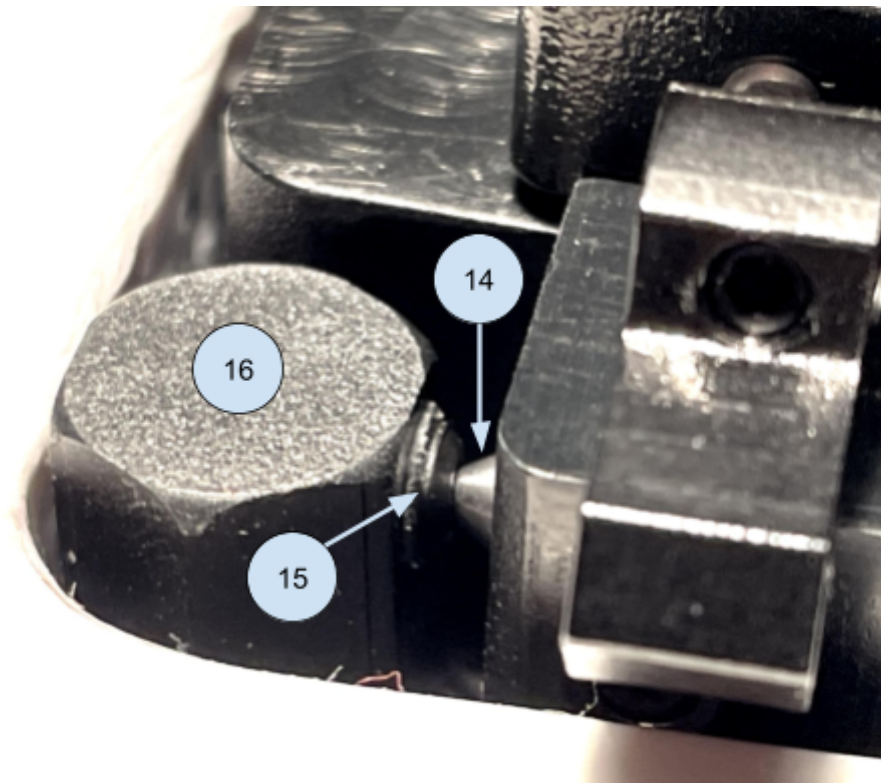
- e) Place the spring pin (12) from the top of the bridge into the other end of the spring (3) while still supporting the spring with your finger.



- f) You can let go now since the spring is supported on both ends.

Pay close attention to the following steps. It will make your life a lot easier.

- g) First - lower the back of the bridge so that the locking pin (13) goes all the way into the locking hole (11).
- h) Second - while gently pushing the bridge towards the back of the guitar, lower the front of the bridge until the pivot points (14) are more or less in line with the pivot cups (15) in the posts (16).



- i) Third - move the bridge forward so the pivot points (14) are sitting in the pivot cups (15).
- j) Fourth - While holding the bridge in place, turn the main spring screw (9) clockwise several times to compress the spring. This will force the pivot points into the cups. 😊
- k) Installation complete!

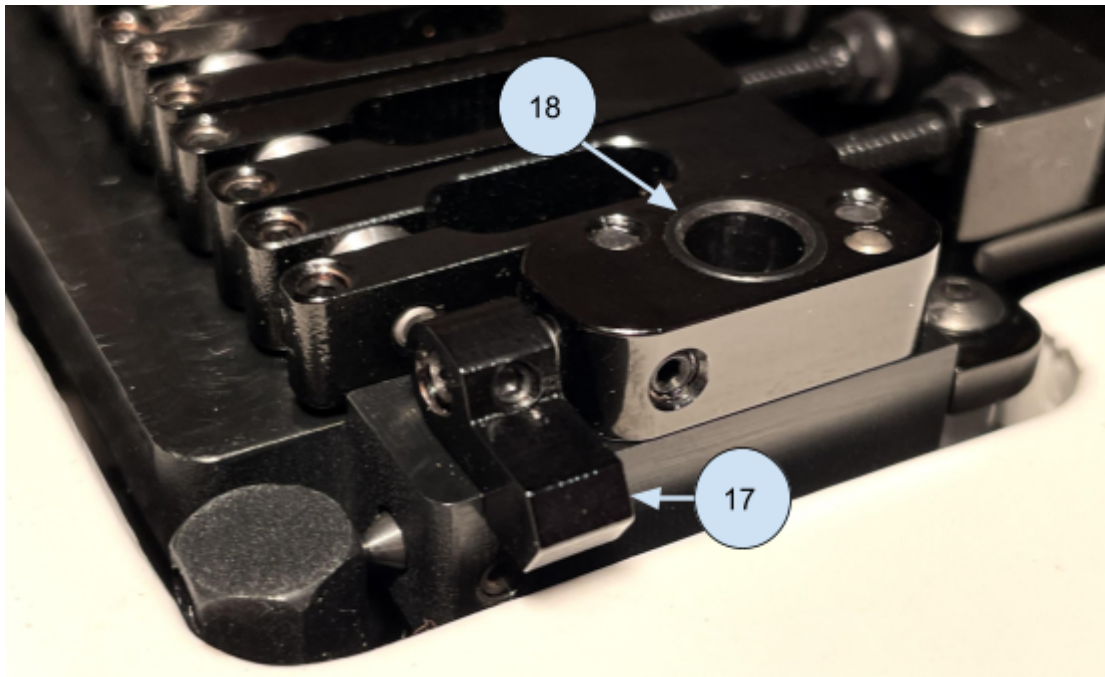
3.0 Setup

- Please read all of this section as it also covers the operation of the bridge. That being said, if you are not comfortable with any of these steps, please reach out to a qualified guitar technician or luthier and provide them with these instructions.

- Be aware that mgr-design is not responsible for any damage to the guitar, the bridge or any other loss or claim related to the installation and/or use of mgr-design products.

3.1 Installing the Tremolo Arm

- a) Make sure the arm retention lever (17) is down all the way. The arm might not go in or could be tight if the lever is up at all.

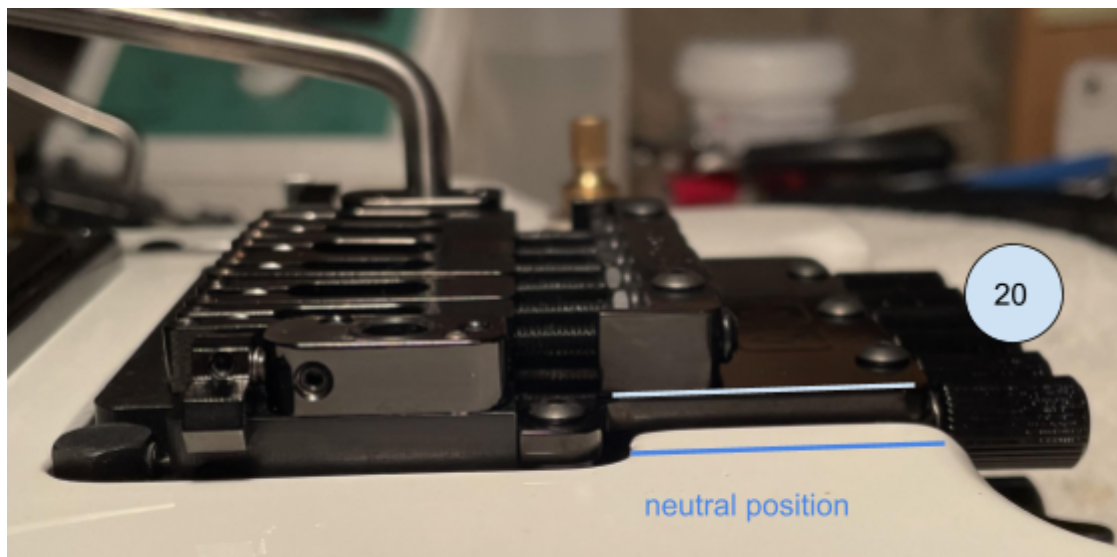


- b) Insert the trem arm (6) in the socket (18). It should spin in the socket freely.

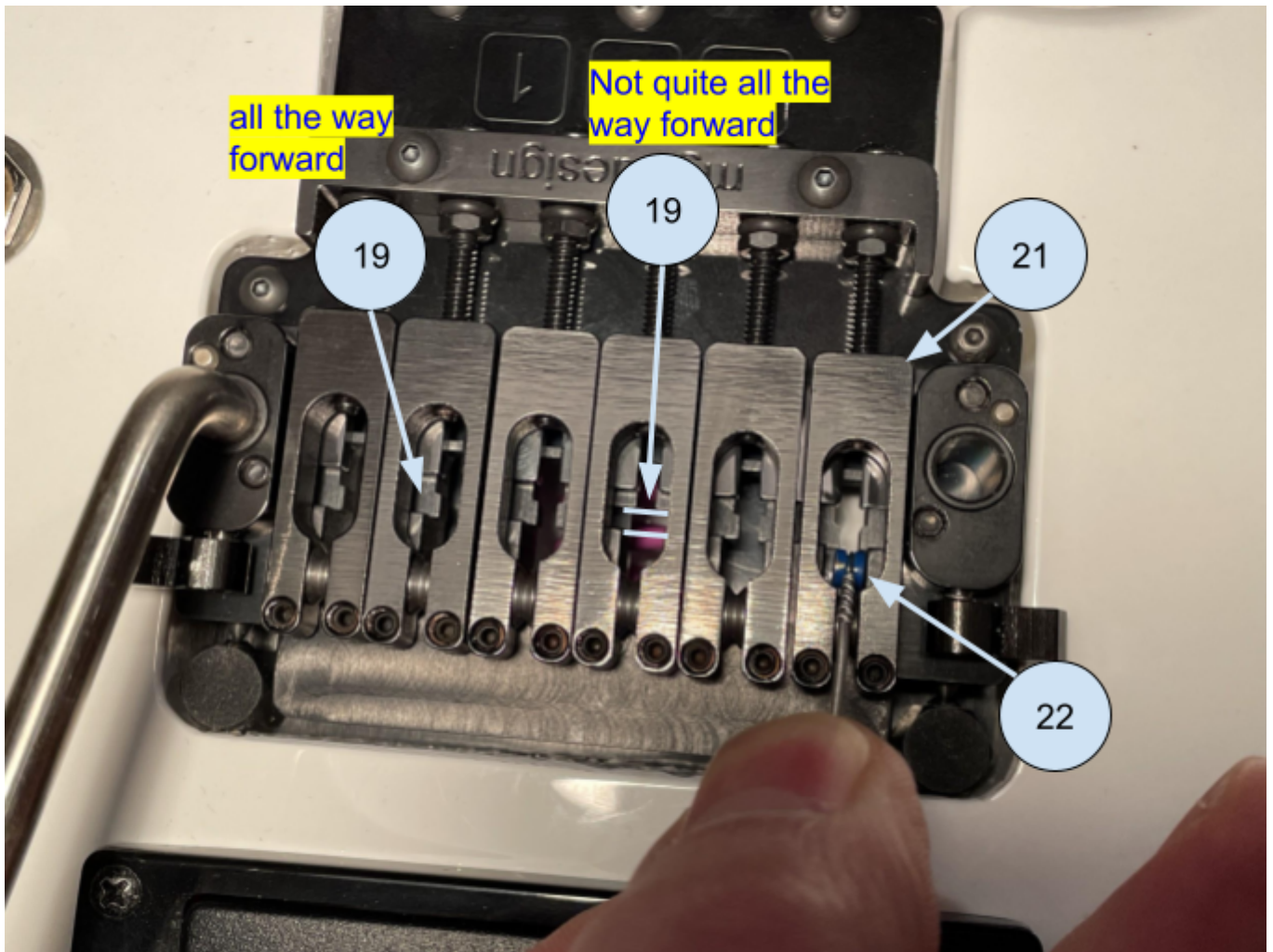
- c) Slightly lift the retention lever (17) with your finger and the arm will not be able to come out. It's not a good idea to force the lever. Making the socket tighter doesn't change the friction on the arm that much and excessive force could make the lever slip on the retention screw.

3.2 Installing Strings

- a) Using the trem arm, move the bridge forward until the bridge is level with the top of the guitar. This is the neutral floating or locked position.

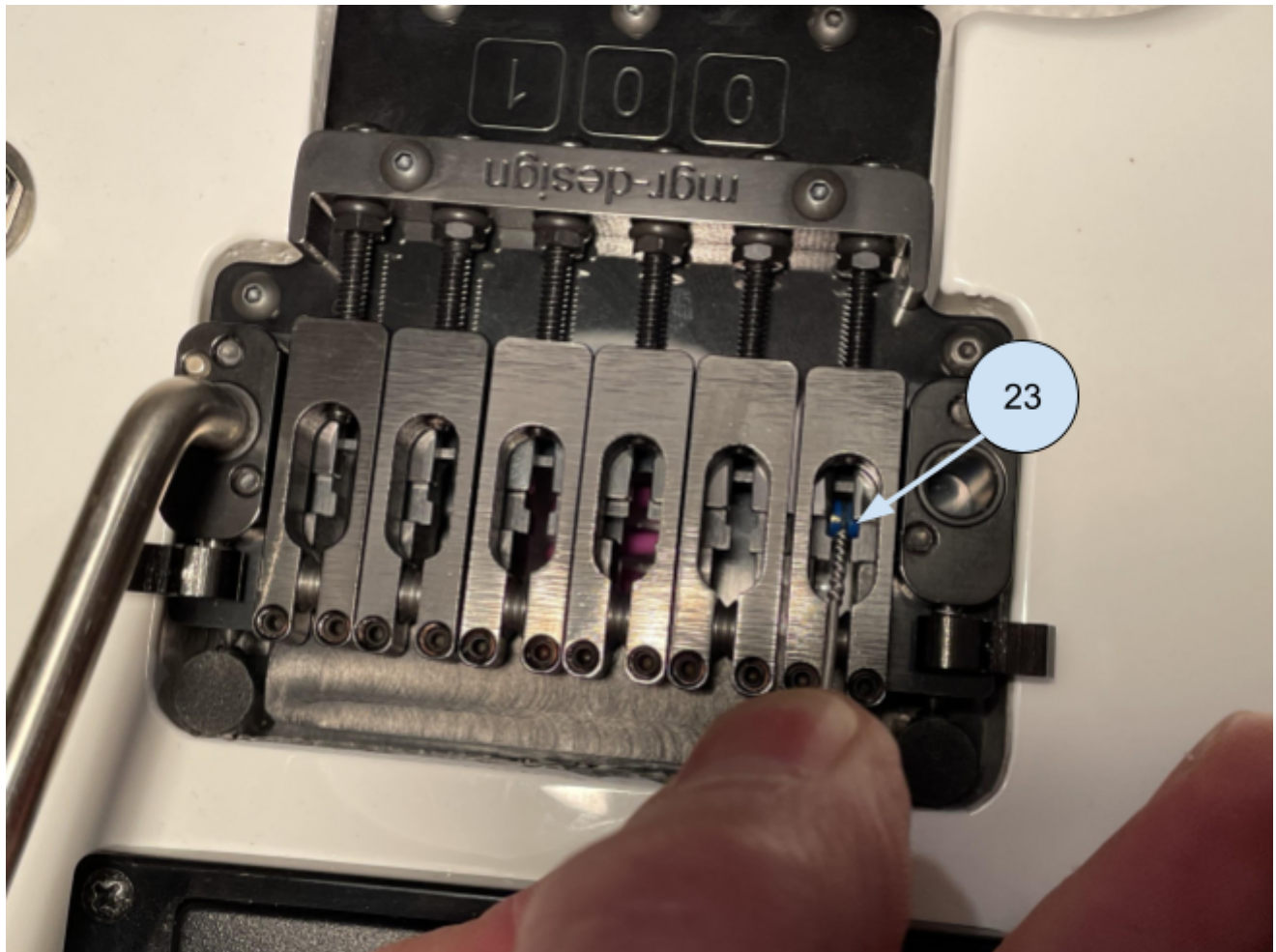


- b) Lock the bridge by swinging out the locking lever (10). You should feel the locking lever engaging the lock pin (13). Use the trem arm to hold the bridge in the neutral position when swinging out the lock arm. Make sure the lock arm is fully engaged. There should be zero movement if the bridge is locked properly.
- c) Make sure that the tuning claws (19) are fully forward by turning all of the tuning knobs (20) counterclockwise. You will not be able to turn the knobs anymore when the claws are all the way forward.



- d) Do not force the knobs tight when the claws are fully forward. There is just no need and it will be hard on your fingers to loosen the claws for tensioning and tuning the strings.
- e) This is a good time to look down through the saddles (21) and see what the tuning claws are doing when you turn the tuning knobs.
- f) Hold the ball end of a string (22) so that the flat sides of the ball are square with the saddle opening. This is how the ball will fit in the tuning claw (19) below the saddle.

- g) Insert the ball end through the saddle (21), down past the tuning claw (19) then back and up into the tuning claw. It sounds complicated but it's easy once you've done it a few times. Just put the ball end down through everything and hook it up into the tuning claw.
- h) With the ball properly seated (23) in the tuning claw, it can't go anywhere as long as you are slightly pulling on the string. The ball will be fully captive once the tuning claw starts moving backward for tuning.



- i) Now put the other end of the string in the string holder / headpiece at the end of the neck.

- j) Sometimes, strings are a little short so you can unlock the bridge and push down on the trem arm so you can get the ball in the headpiece. You can lock the bridge again or just keep going by inserting strings and pushing down on the arm to get the strings in on the other end.
- k) Install all of the strings and turn the tuning knobs clockwise to take slack out of the strings.

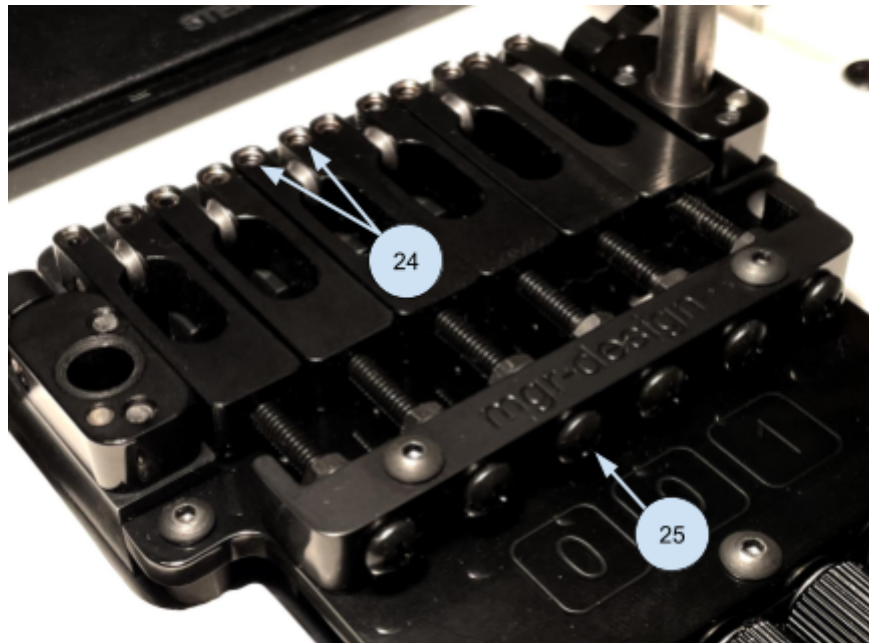
3.2 Tuning

- a) In the locked position, tune each string to pitch by turning the tuning knobs (20) clockwise to tighten the strings and counterclockwise to loosen the strings.
- b) At any time, feel free to use a good fitting Phillips screwdriver to turn the tuning knobs during setup or a complete string change. You can also use a power drill with a good fitting bit to speed things up but please be careful!
- c) Unlock the bridge while holding the trem arm - the main spring adjustment can be way out, especially for the initial installation.
- d) At this point, the bridge will likely tilt forward as the string tension will be greater than the spring tension.
- e) Turn the main spring screw clockwise to compress the main spring and tilt the bridge back. Keep going until the bridge is more or less back in the neutral position or the same position when it was locked.
- f) Tune the low E string back to pitch USING THE MAIN SPRING KNOB, not the tuning knob. Turn the main spring knob clockwise to tighten the string and counterclockwise to loosen the string.
- g) This should bring all of the strings back in tune in both the locked and floating position.

h) Note that you can make minor tuning adjustments without locking the bridge. The only tradeoff is that this could make tuning a little off in the locked position. If you don't need to lock the bridge very often, it's a good tradeoff.

3.3 Adjusting String Height and Intonation

a) If you are familiar with adjusting intonation and string heights, the Series 001 bridge is very easy to adjust. Note that you make adjustments without loosening the tuning screws if you unlock the bridge and push down on the trem arm to slack the strings and make adjustments.



b) Saddle heights are adjusted by turning the two setscrews (24) on each saddle with the included 0.050in. hex key.

c) Saddle position is adjusted using a good fitting Phillips screwdriver and by turning the intonation screws (25). Clockwise to move the saddles backwards and counterclockwise to move the saddle forwards.

3.4 Tuning Stability

- a) After making major changes like a new installation and changing strings, it can take a bit of time for things to “settle” in for any guitar. The neck has to settle into being under tension again, especially if a different gage of string is used and everything just needs to find its place as the strings stretch and the guitar is played.
- b) To speed things up a bit, you can use common techniques like stretching new strings and always tuning up to pitch.

4.0 Playing

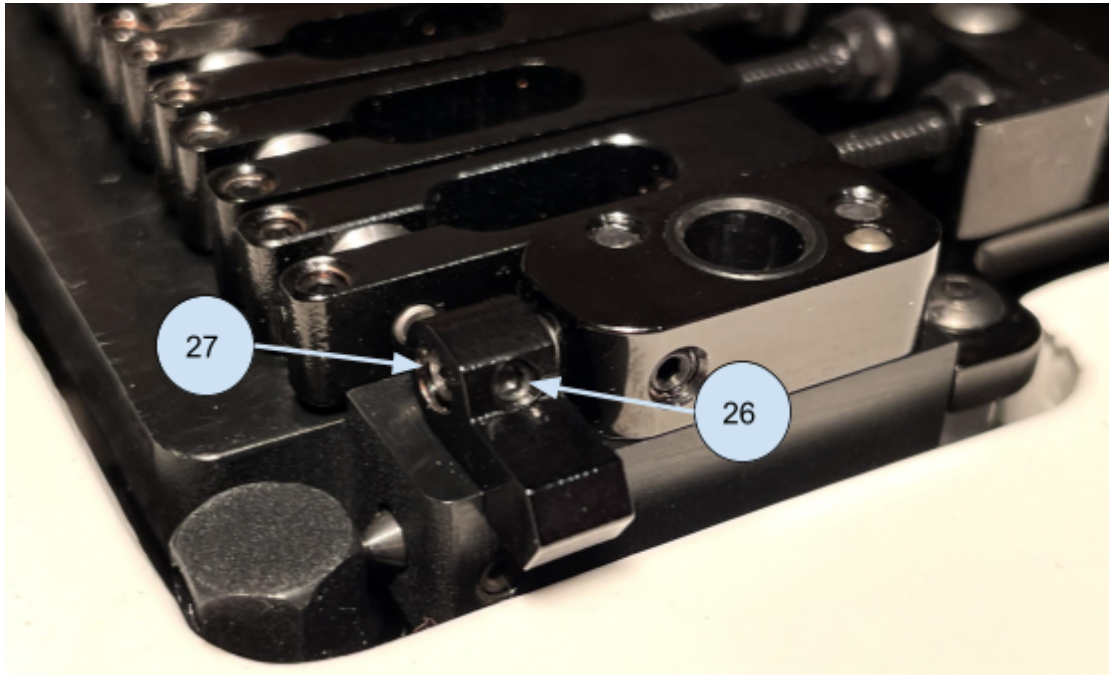
- a) With a proper setup and a bit of time for everything to settle in, you should not have to worry about the bridge for a very long time.
- b) The whole point of the mgr-design Series 001 bridge is for it to fade into the background so that you can focus on playing and making great music.
- c) Other than standard stuff like changing strings and tuning, when you pick up your guitar, the bridge should always be the same as it was when you put it down.

5.0 Frequently Asked Questions

- a) Can I remove one of the arm retention levers if it's in the way?

Yes you can. Some players rest their hand on the bridge and the retention lever can feel like it's in the way. To remove a lever that feels uncomfortable, undo the tiny setscrew (26) with the provided 0.050 in hex key. Then use the 1/16 in hex key to remove the retention setscrew (27) with the lever. If you ever put the lever back on, be careful with the tiny setscrew, it is very small and can strip easily.

If you don't want to take off the lever, maybe placing a piece of black sticky foam or something like that on the lever would help. There are always many ways to solve a problem.



TIP: There is a left hand and right hand retention setscrew. They will turn in opposite directions to take them out.

b) Can you make the tuning knobs bigger or easier to turn?

The tuning knobs are pretty much the size that they need to be for this type of bridge. I get it, they can be a bit small and hard to turn. The tuners were designed to be as easy to turn as possible given their small size and how close they are to each other. There is also a Phillips drive on each knob so that a screwdriver can be used when a lot of adjustment is required.

TIP: The tuners get harder to turn as the string tension goes up. If you need the tuners to turn easier, you can unlock the bridge, push down on the trem arm to slack the strings with one hand and turn the tuner with the other hand while the strings are slacked off a bit.

c) Can you design the bridge so that I can pull up further on the strings?

Well, maybe. The more you pull up, the more stress you put on the neck and everything else. I think that players will mostly use the tremolo/vibrato effect and dive bombs. Design modifications will be considered in the future if there is enough interest.

d) Can the “flutter” effect be executed with the Series 001 bridge?

Yes, yes it can. 😎

e) Can you design the lock arm so it’s a bit more out of the way?

Again, maybe. It may be possible to bend the arm down to get it further from the tuning knobs. This is certainly being looked at.

f) Will the strings hit the side of the saddles during extreme bends?

No. This can be a problem on r-style bridges but all strings were tested to the extreme on the Series 001 bridge without any issues.

6.0 Hex Keys and Advanced Adjustments

a) Your hardware kit comes with 3 hex keys:

- i) 0.050 in
- ii) 1/16 in
- iii) 2 mm

b) As mentioned before, the 0.050in key is used to adjust saddle heights and to remove the retention arms. It can also be used to replace the pivot points and to adjust the tension of the lock arm if ever needed.

- c) Also, as mentioned before, the 1/16in key is used for removing the retention arms and could be used on a lot of the other screws on the bridge if ever required.

- d) The 2mm key is used to adjust the cups in the pivot posts. You should never have to use this key but it's there in case you ever need it. This would be used to make adjustments if the lock wears over time or if you need to install new pivot points. Don't worry if you lose this key or the other ones. They are all common sizes. 😊

- e) If you ever need help with more involved trouble shooting for your bridge, please get in touch with support@mgr-design.com. We'll do our best to help.