

## ★ '72 Classic

Review By:  snaredrum on 9/8/09 1:00 AM

Reviewer Background:

Purchased From:

[www.catswhiskerpickups.co.uk](http://www.catswhiskerpickups.co.uk)

Price:

Features: ★★★★★

This humbucking bridge pickup measures around 14k, but actually sounds less than this because it is wound in a different way to normal humbuckers - it actually sounds like about a 9k pickup, but in an interesting way which i'll describe below. It has an Alnico 5 magnet, and comes with four conductor wiring, for phase/series/parallel options. i have the Zebra model :o)

Instrument:

O:) put this pickup into a Tokai LS48 LP style guitar, replacing the factory spec humbuckers. I later put a Catswhiskers in the neck to accompany the '72 classic. I'm a big fan of Catswhiskers pickups, and Allan (the guy that makes them) recently came up with these and suggested i try one out.

Sound Quality: ★★★★★

The pickup was voiced using Led Zeppelin's 'Heartbreaker' as a tonal reference point, and gets very close to the Page tone. I'm told the original plan was to make a T Top clone, but this evolved into the '72 classic, so instead of having low output, it starts out high but this is shaped into something approaching the distinctive live led zeppelin, and has that nice rounded top end that sounds as though the pickup is vaguely out of phase or coil split, but isn't. Although it sounds like a high output, the way this pickup is wound means that it sounds less powerful than that, with a crunchy almost glassy quality that you can hear in Jimmy Page's work, especially live. it sounds like a nice hot PAF with a bit of extra crunch thrown in, and it cleans up very nicely if you back off the volume. it isn't boomy or muddy, and has very nicely developed mids and highs. i play rock and blues (who doesn't? hehehe) and this pickup is perfect for that slight higher output early '70s rock sound. like i said above, i matched this on Allan's advice with an A2 PAF style neck pickup and they go very well together. the '72 doesn't overpower the neck pup, but in the middle position makes a very nice mix of bite and warmth that sounds great, and if you flip to just the bridge and push the volume up full it soars away as a great pickup.

<http://www.harmonycentral.com/products/124208>