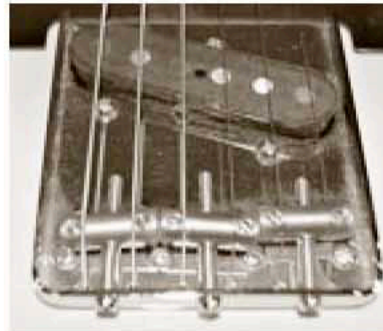




Fred Stuart  
**Black Guard Telecaster Set**



If you have unsuccessfully pursued a set of Alan Hamel's Telecaster pickups, just log on to [www.virtualvintageguitars.com](http://www.virtualvintageguitars.com) or call Jason Allen to place an order for Fred Stuart's Black Guard Tele pickups. One of

the first masterbuilders in the Fender Custom Shop, Fred Stuart knows Telecasters and classic Telecaster tone as well as anyone on the planet. (See our recent cover story on Fred in the May 2006 issue). Stuart's Black Guard Tele set nails what we perceive to be a benchmark within the widely variable range of vintage-inspired Tele pickups. The bridge pickup is powerful, perfectly microphonic and authoritative, without sacrificing upper frequency harmonic detail, clarity and spank. If you can't cuddle up with Stuart's Tele bridge pickup, you shouldn't be playing a Telecaster.

The neck pickup is oddly void of the dull muddiness of the original Fender design – you'll actually use it alone and in combination with the bridge. Both of our Telecasters are wired with a 4-way switch yielding series and parallel neck/bridge pickup combinations, and the Black Guard set excels in this configuration, which is the default setup for all of Fred Stuart's custom built Telecasters. Compared to a typical set of Fender Tele pickups found in current Custom Shop guitars, Stuart's set seems slightly rounder, smoother and fuller sounding while retaining all the jangle-jolt and laser beam focus that first put the Telecaster on the map. **TQ**

[www.virtualvintageguitars.com](http://www.virtualvintageguitars.com), 949-635-9797

