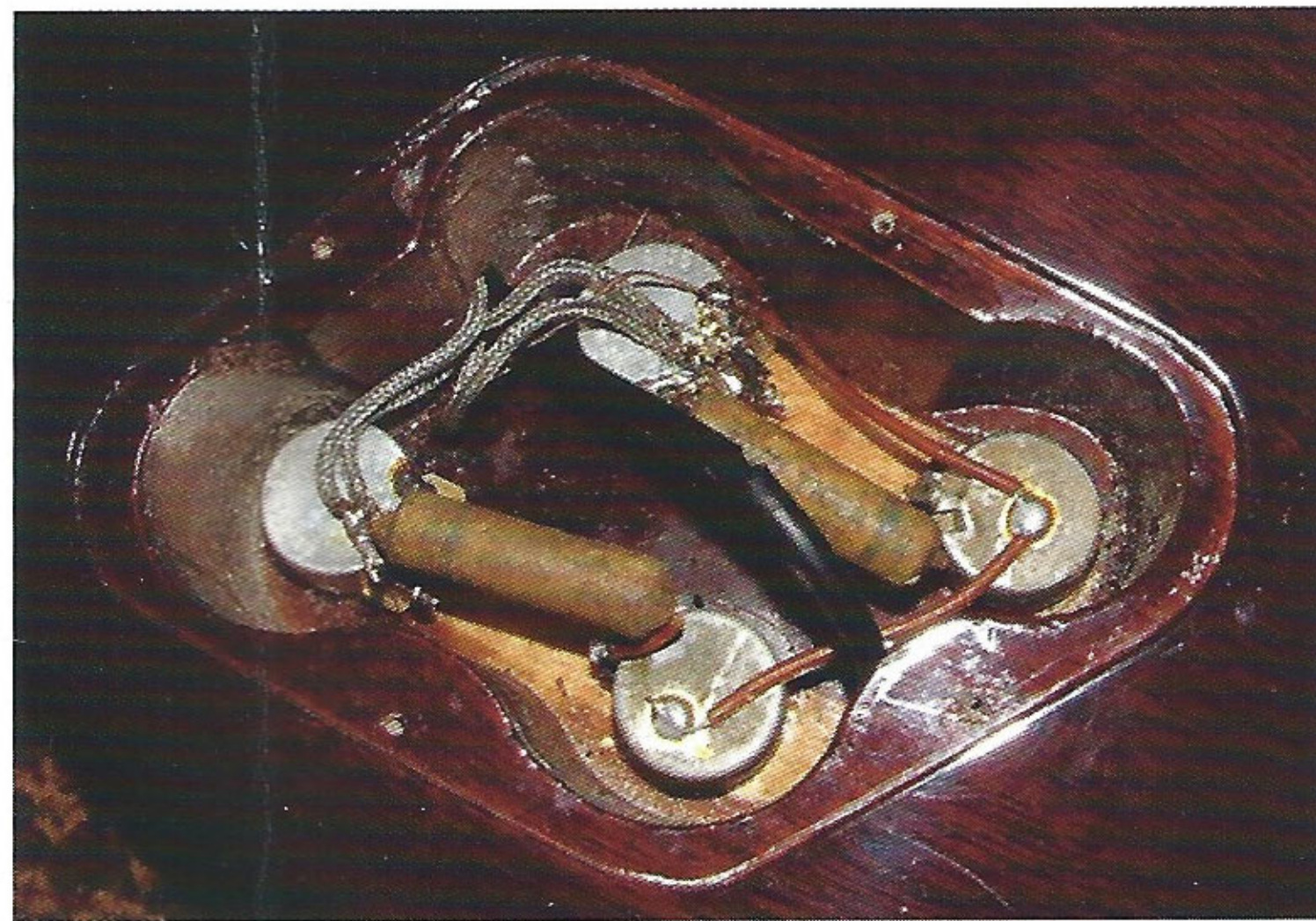
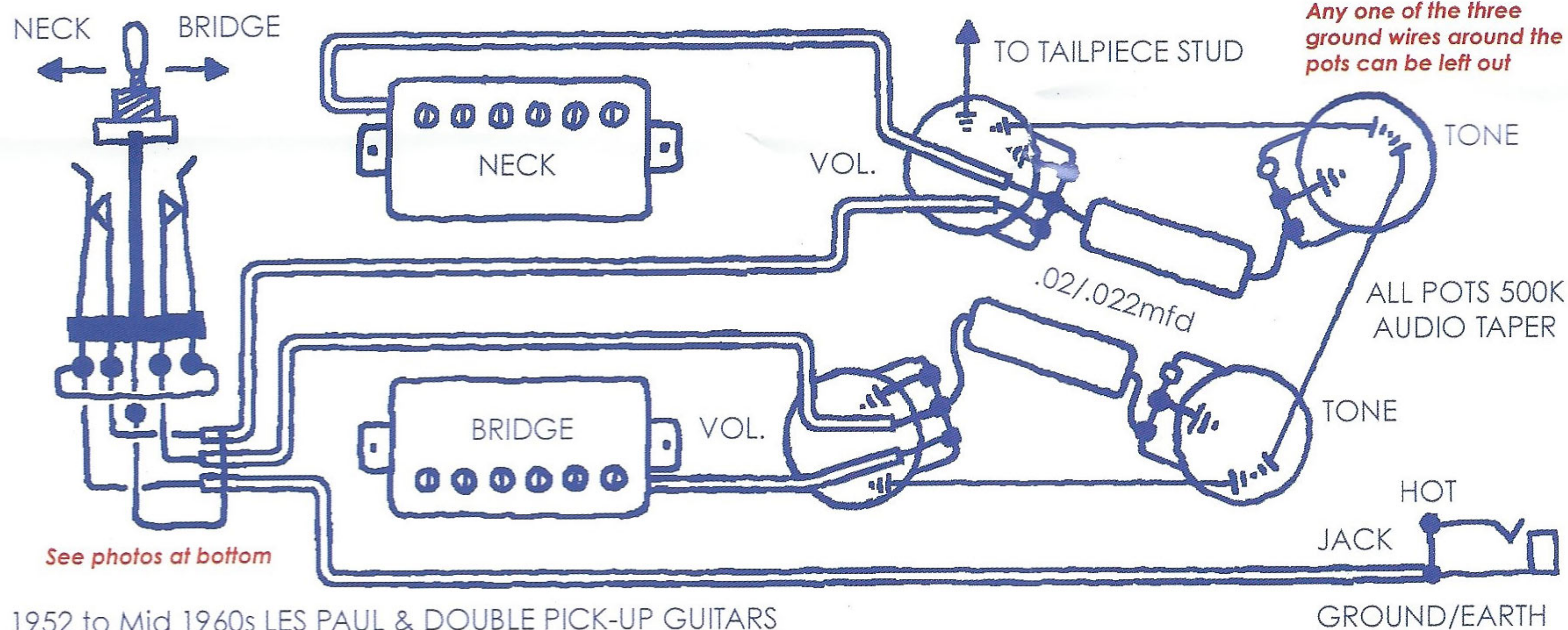


1952-1973 LES PAUL & ES MODELS

Much has been written about Gibson guitars elsewhere so this will focus only on the wiring and electrical components. The information here can be used in restoring any Gibson electric guitar from the early 1950s up to the early '70s. Primary wiring connections are made using 22 gauge, stranded, black cloth wire with a braided metal shield. Small bits of tinned copper buss wire are used to make short connections on the switch, between the pots, and from the pots to the tailpiece stud. This wire can vary from 18 to 22 gauge, and it is likely that the assembler kept a scrap box of short wire pieces and spaghetti tubing close at hand as the size and type of these materials can vary even on a single instrument. Solder connections are assisted with a drop of rosin flux (modern fluxes often contain corrosive chemicals that may damage your electronics so look for products labeled "non-corrosive"). Potentiometers are 500k Audio Taper and come mainly from two manufacturers: IRC (1952-1956) and Centralab (1953-



1956 Les Paul with Grey Tigers (as used from 1952-1956)



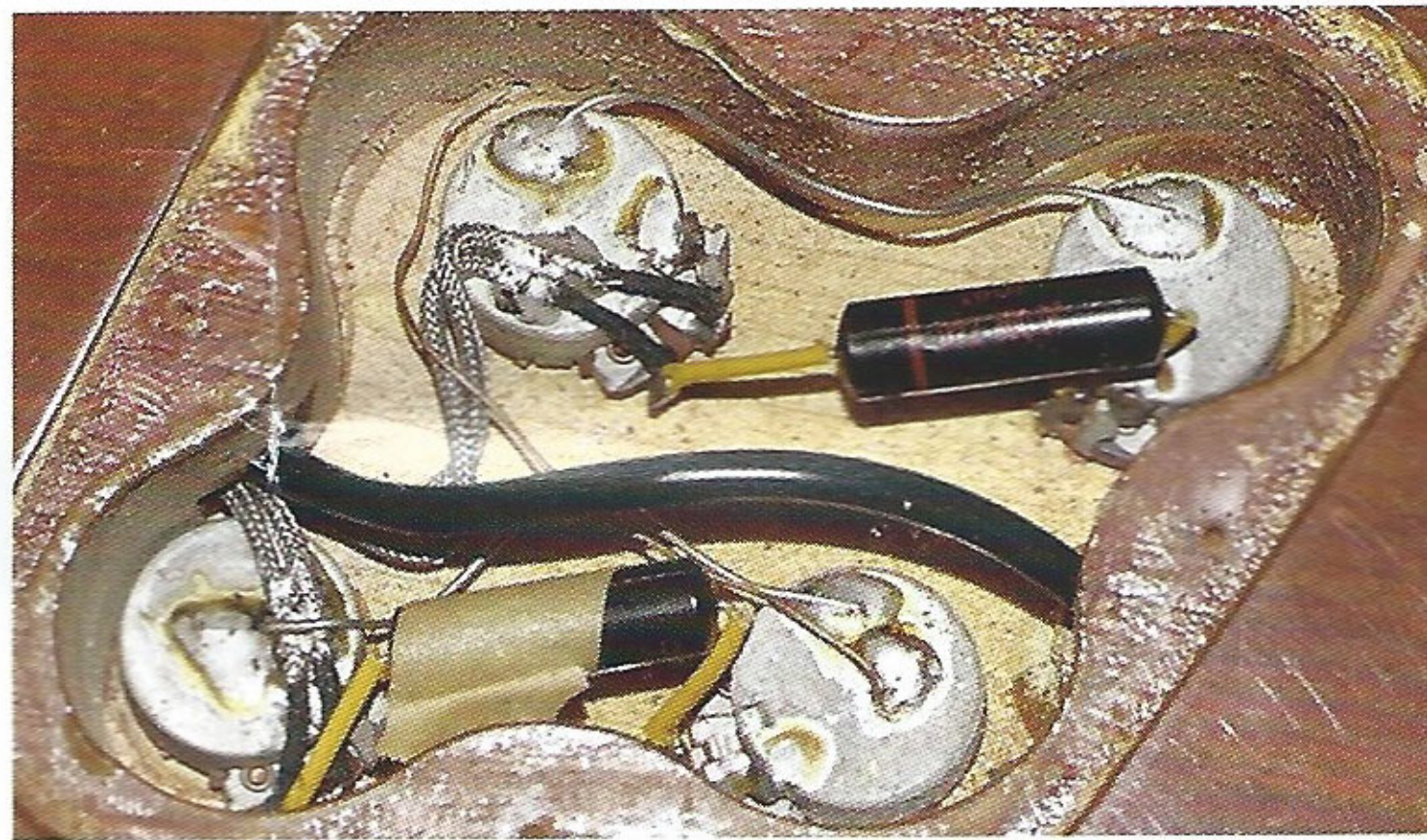
1952 to Mid 1960s LES PAUL & DOUBLE PICK-UP GUITARS



1957 Les Paul with Bumblebees (used from 1956-1961)



1957 LP Jr.



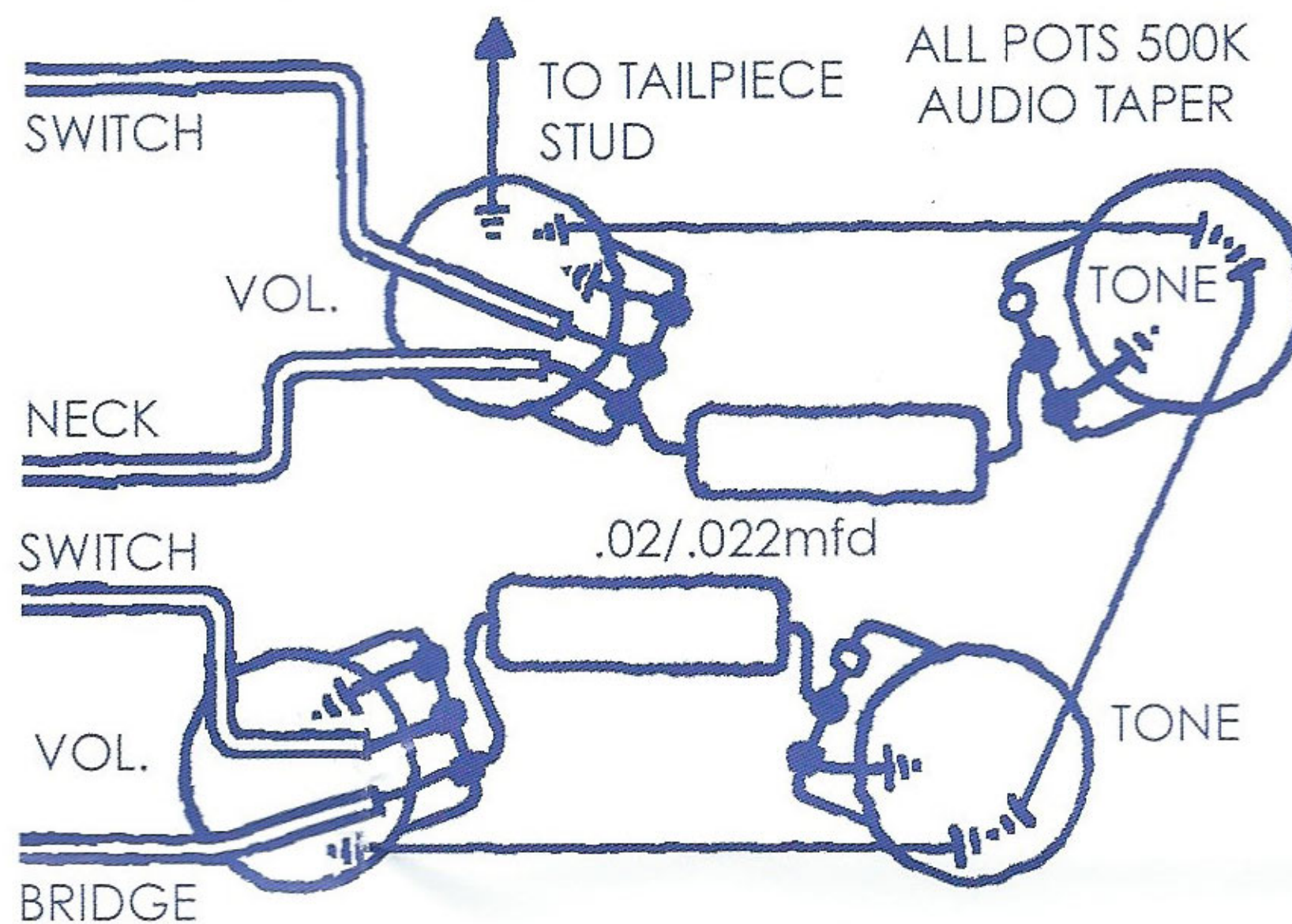
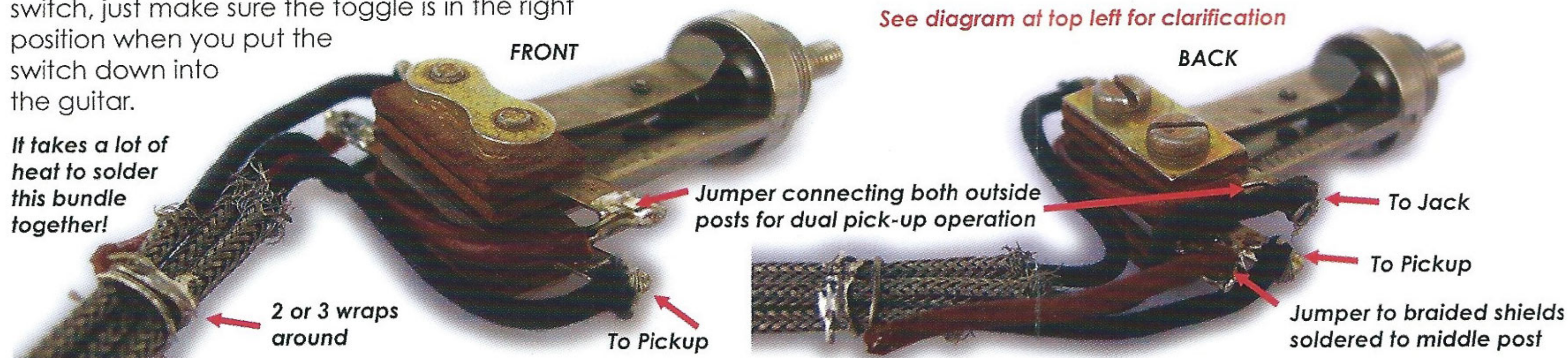
1968 Les Paul with Black Beauties (used 1959-61 & 1968-1970)

1970?). These two brands can even be found combined on a single instrument. Output jacks and 3-way toggle switches come from Switchcraft. Cloth spaghetti tubing is used to insulate the capacitor leads and switch jumper wires (and the ground wires between the pots on some guitars). Sometimes this will be varnished black cloth insulation, but primarily an amber colored rubber coated cloth (1952-1961) or yellow-rubber coated cloth (1959-1970) is used (and all three types can be combined on a single guitar). Luxe capacitors ship with vintage style shielding on the leads, to insulate other areas you can use 22 gauge black cloth wire (after pulling out the wire and inner braid). The braided shield leading from the switch and passing over the pots is insulated with a length of #8 black PVC tubing. All three types of this tubing (Yellow, Amber and PVC) are available by the foot from Luxe and can also be salvaged from discarded '50s and '60s electronics (try asking a radio repair shop).

ORIGINAL 3-WAY SWITCH WIRING

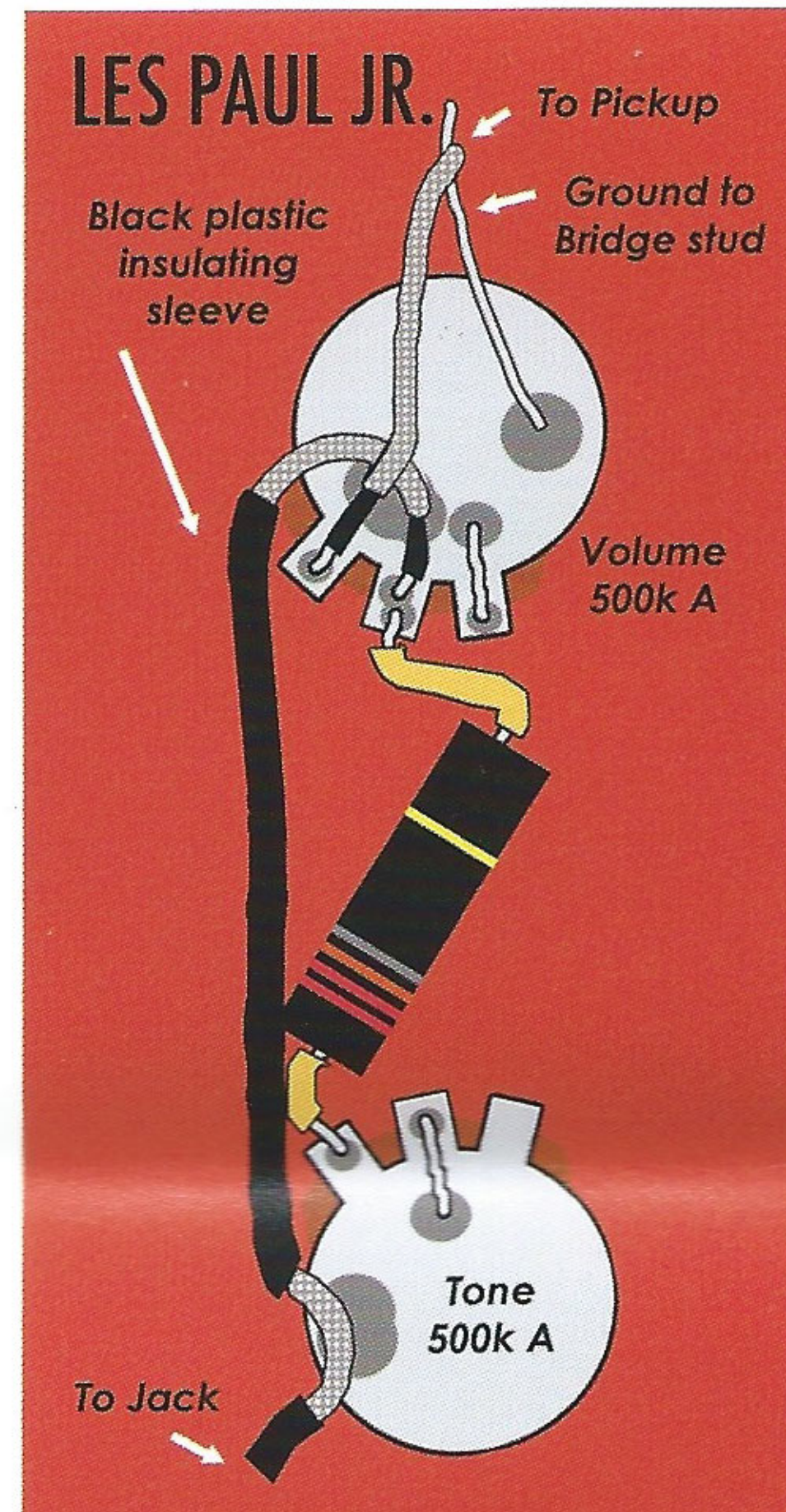
The three-way switch can be wired several ways, all of which are authentic. The method used today, where the two right and left posts are bent together and soldered to the jack lead was used as far back as 1952, but far more common in vintage Gibsons (and far more interesting) is the method illustrated here. The bridge and neck leads can be soldered to either end of the switch, just make sure the toggle is in the right position when you put the switch down into the guitar.

It takes a lot of heat to solder this bundle together!



Mid-1960s & ONWARDS CAPACITOR WIRING

See diagram at top left for clarification



NOT JUST TIGERS, BEES AND BLACK BEAUTIES

While these are certainly the most commonly used tone caps in the Les Paul, several other types can also be found in old Gibsons. Early Goldtops could have Chicago .02/400v caps and (cont'd below)



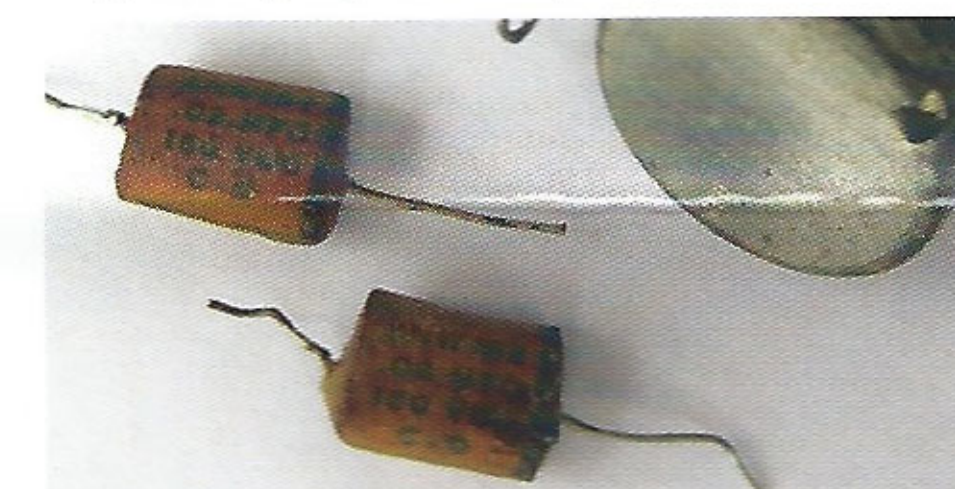
1953 Les Paul Wiring with Chicago caps



1959 Les Paul Junior Wiring



Original Flying V with Sprague Chiclet



Original LP Custom/Flying V C-D Chiclet

all Gibsons from 1959 to 1961 might have the Astron brand .022/400v caps pictured above. The LP Custom as well as the Futura and Flying V had Sprague or Cornell-Dubilier brand .02/150v chiclets.



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