

Figure 14: Knob installation and control functions



Congratulations! Your preamp installation is now complete and you should be ready to rock (if that's your thing). Before you go, let's talk a little bit about the the bypass control and the EQ switching feature provided by the DIP switch on the volume-blend board...read on....

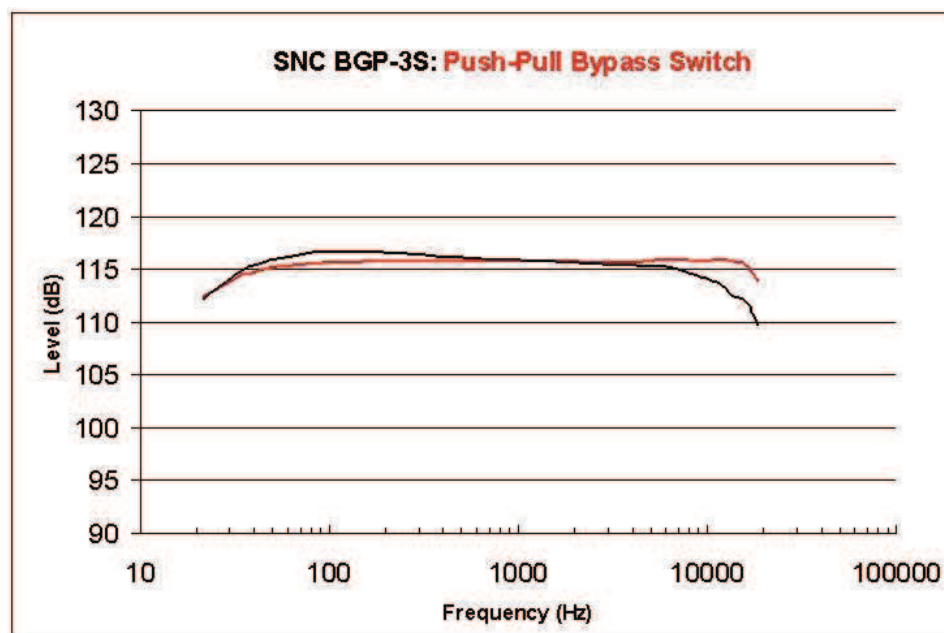
Pulling up on the volume control (Figure 15) bypasses the preamp circuitry and re-routes the signal from your pickups to the output jack. The blend and master volume controls remain fully operational in bypass mode.

Figure 15. Activation of Preamp Bypass Mode



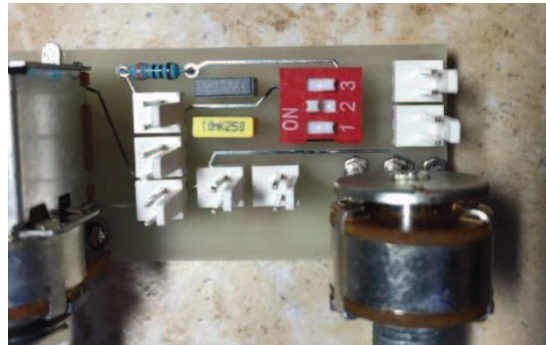
The preamp has been designed such that when the EQ controls set in their center detent position, there will be no appreciable signal level loss after switching to bypass mode (see Figure 16; black = preamp on, red = bypass mode).

Figure 16. Frequency Response and Output Levels: Active Mode vs Preamp Bypass



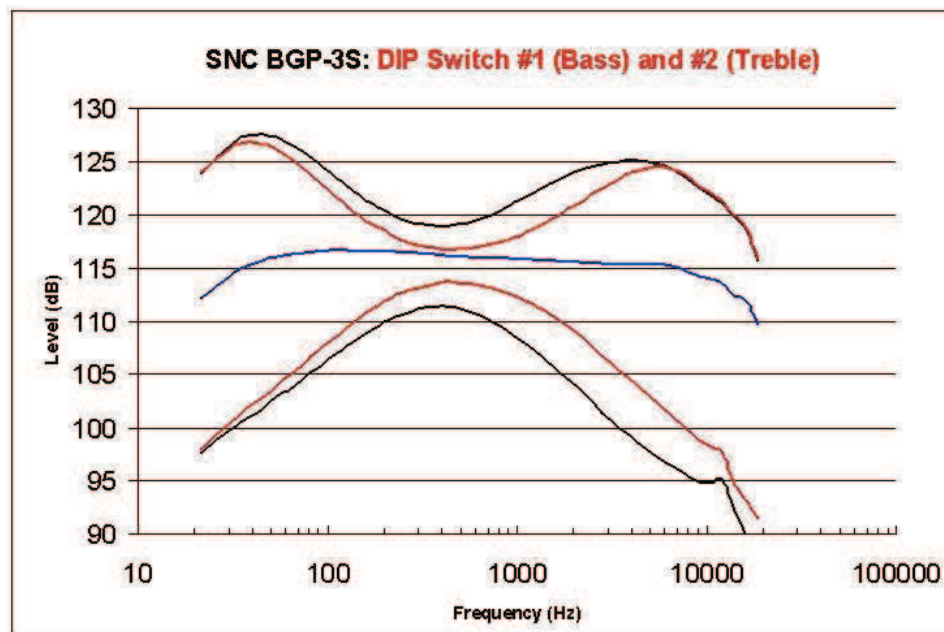
The DIP switch (Figure 17) on the volume blend board allows you to configure the bass and treble EQ parameters to best suit your rig setup and tonal preferences.

Figure 17. SNC BGP-3S DIP Switch Feature



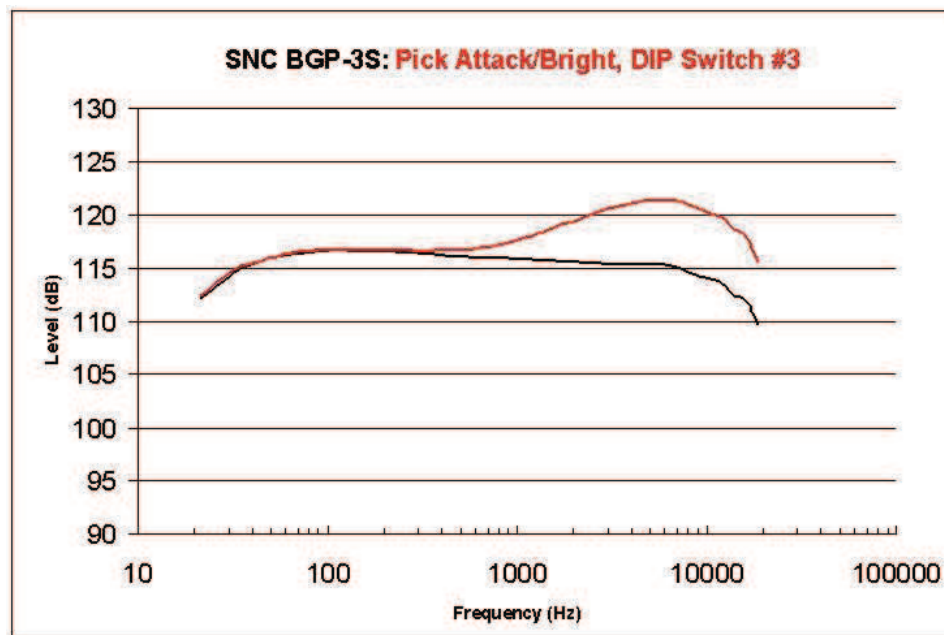
The classic HAZ preamp voicing for the bass and treble controls is achieved by setting the DIP switches as illustrated in Figure 16 (1 = off, 2 = on, 3 = off). This will configure the EQ response to match the black curves shown in Figure 18. Placing switch 1 in the on position shifts the bass portion of the EQ curve to the left (shown in red) to reduce low midrange 'boominess' and improve low end clarity when necessary. Placing switch 2 in the off position shifts the treble part of the EQ curve to the right (shown in red) allowing you to adjust high frequencies without dramatically boosting (or cutting) the aggressive sounding upper midrange band (1-2 kHz). This feature comes in handy when you want to dial in a modern slap tone or if you want to shave off a little high end without sacrificing too much the growly tonal character located in the upper midrange band. The blue curve in Figure 18 is the frequency response of the preamp with the bass, mid and treble knobs in their center detent positions. DIP switches 1 and 2 do not affect the center detent frequency response profile.

Figure 18: DIP switch customization of the Bass and Treble EQ bands



DIP switch 3 activates the pick attack/bright mode feature (Figure 19). When DIP switch 3 is set in the on position, the upper treble frequencies (peaking at ~4-5 kHz) are boosted by 6 dB. As the name suggests, this setting helps accentuate the upper harmonics that are associated with playing with a plectrum or finger nails. This mode also improves note definition when playing a fretless bass and can also help breathe some life back into an older set of roundwound strings.

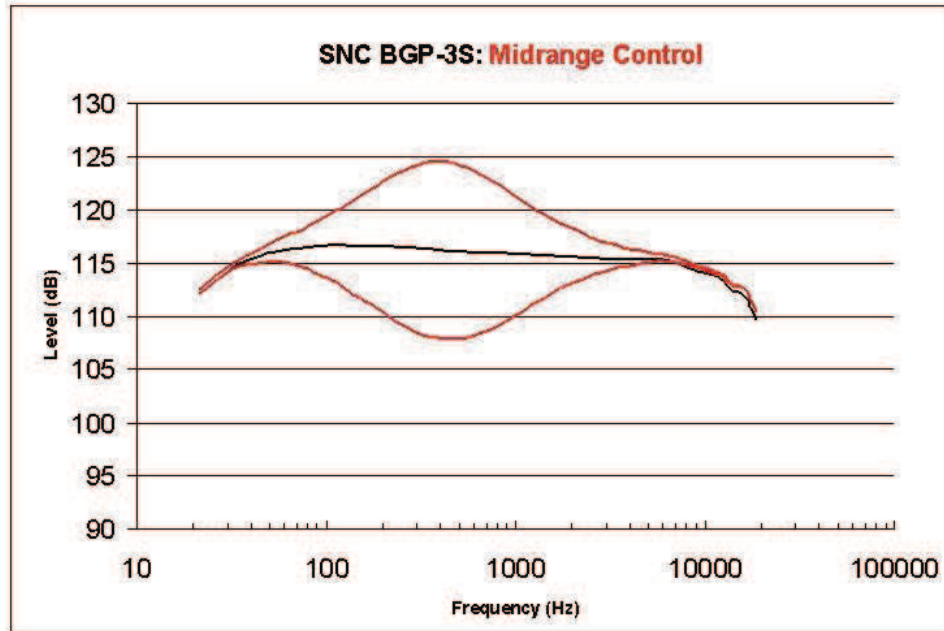
Figure 19. DIP Switch 3 – Pick Attack/Bright Mode



Last, but certainly not least, let's talk a little bit about the midrange control (Figure 20). This control enables you to add some extra bark and growl to your bass tone when boosted, or to achieve a smoother scooped tone when cut. If you prefer to boost all the EQ controls, you may find the DIP switch setting of 1=on, 2=off to be more suitable. The range of the midrange control is +/- 10dB and is centered @~450Hz. Try soloing your bridge pickup while boosting the midrange knob to get a feel of the additional tonal landscape accessible with this feature.



Figure 20. SNC BGP-3S Midrange Control Response



Well, that pretty much covers everything you need to know to get the most out of your new preamp. As always, let your ears be your guide. I hope this product lives up to your expectations. If you have questions or comments feel free to contact me anytime by PM on Talkbass.com. My Talkbass username is SNCpre.

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