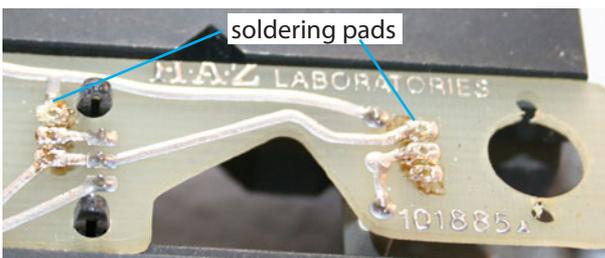
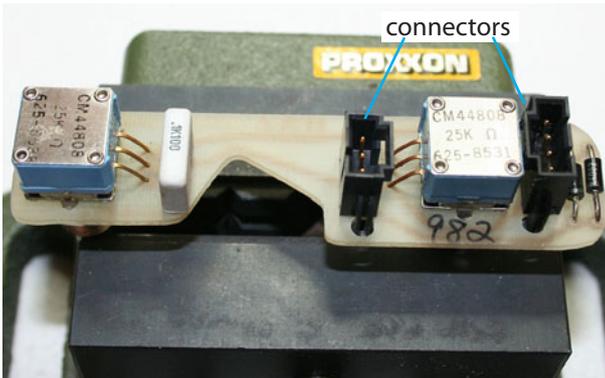
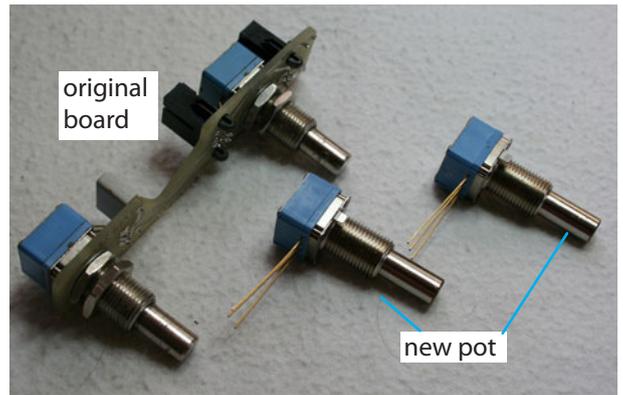


Replacing the potentiometers on a Steinberger GL: passive HazLabs board



After facing a number of HazLabs boards with a crackling or otherwise defective volume pot, I started a desperate search for pots that might be used as a replacement. Without success, no pot available in stock anywhere had the required values and dimensions. So I had them made on custom order from STATE Electronics, the providers of the original pots. It was not possible to get the exact length of the bushing (no longer manufactured as an option), so the most important question is: WILL THEY FIT?

I had already successfully tested them on the active HazLabs EQ board, so the next project was mounting them on a passive board of a 1986 Steinberger GL-4T. The length of the bushing is a critical factor there. This is how to replace the pots on such a board:

1. Open the housing of the GL, take off the knobs, and remove the nuts and washers holding the two pots. The board comes loose now.
2. Unplug the two connectors. Do NOT just pull on them, they have a locking mechanism you have to press down before removing them.
3. Remove the nuts (usually two per pot) which hold the pots on the board (see right hand pic on top).
4. Now to the difficult part: you need to unsolder the three pins of each pot.

CAUTION:
If the soldering pads get too hot, they will separate from the board. Be careful not to apply too much heat or mechanical force with the tip of the soldering iron!

I've used a mechanical desoldering pump to remove the solder from the pads. If you don't have such a pump, use solder wick to get the pads (or better: the holes) solder free. You can also cut the pins of a defective pot before using the soldering iron, in order to remove the pins individually from the board. This is less difficult than desoldering the whole pot with all three pins at once.

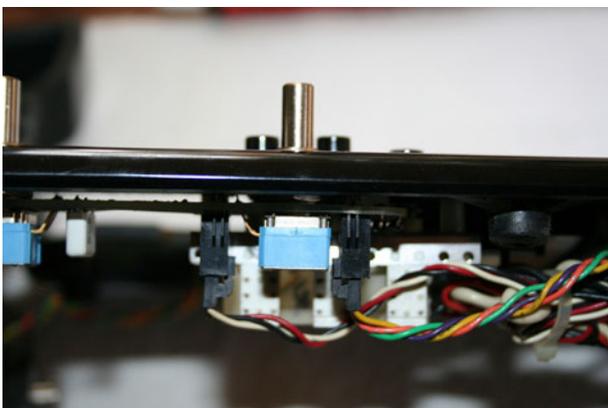
5. Mount the new pots. Stick the pins through the holes on the PCB and fasten the pots with **one toothed washer** and **one nut**.
6. Solder and cut the pins. Again, take care not to overheat the pads.
7. When done, mount the board on the faceplate of the guitar. The remaining length of the bushings should be about 8 mm, which is sufficient for the GL faceplate.



8. Fasten the board using the corresponding washers and nuts.



9. Plug in the two connectors.



10. Mount the knobs and re-attach the faceplate.

11. This list has only 10 steps. Done :-)



Bernd Meissner • be.em@headless-europe.eu

http://www.headless-europe.eu/Bernds_Guitar_Pages/Parts_2.html