

SAGA PRS-style electric guitar kit HT-10-PRS

Jan De Swert, Brecht, The Netherlands

Kit received on 25.04.2007

Procedure: Body

- routing the control cavity for extra switches and booster



- drilling holes for extra switches and pots



- Body: 3 x paint (purple red, pure white & white green)



- Bad spraying: white layer with dust



- sanding the paint for wear-marks (could be done more extensive on arm-resting place: improved ergonomic-feel)



- scraping paint out of control cavity



- sanding body for sealing
- sealing body



- drilling hole for earth-wire to bridge-stud hole



Procedure: head + neck

- head: shaping with fretsaw and wood-drill



- Assembly tuners:



- no finish coat on head or neck
- TO DO: Ratax logo on head

Procedure: coil-split pick-ups

- Opening pick-ups (de-solder cap)
- To solder the coil-split on the connection wire between the two parts of the humbucker

Procedure: assembly

- Assembly of the neck to the body (note: the two rear screws are too long for the thickness of the heel).



- Wires of the pick-ups with coil-tap through holes



- Assembly of the switches
- Soldering of the wires :
 - Three-way switch
 - Coil-split switch
 - Switch on/off booster (to be built in later on)
 - Pot-meter for booster
- Assembly of the bridge (with earth wire)
- Assembly of the tailpiece
- Assembly of the strings (not the delivered, but Dean Markley Reg (10-46)
- Setting intonation of strings (see “first test”)



Procedure: first test

- Height of nut made playability very poor
- Neck humbucker sounds very wooly (even in coil-split) wrong placing of pick-up?). not much sound difference between neck and bridge pick-up
- Some tuners work very stiff
- Volume pot does not work (only on-off in lowest position)
- Tone pot functions hardly noticable
- Light torsion of neck around fret 14 to treble side
- Position of bridge (pre-drilled holes) on treble side too much to the front (all intonation saddles must be positioned to the back-side of the bridge, some saddles had to be turned around to gain place), over-all intonation NOT OK! (Re-drilling of the bridge-holes is necessary to cope with the bad intonation)
- Pick-ups “over-wound”: good for rock, but no subtlety. Even split-coil sounds very heavy! (P-90)

Procedure: adaptations

- Height of nut: nut has been removed and sanded of for +/- 0.9 mm. Playability has improved enormously!



- Phase-switch wiring for neck pick-up (on switch foreseen for on/off of booster) to improve sound-quality of neck pick-up.

Over-all remarks:

- Easy assembly (all parts are available + fit on each other)
- Easy "coil-split" of pick-ups. Pick-ups are not the highest quality... (you get what you pay for..)
- Enough space (with a little routing) in the control-cavity to build in "extra's" (an active booster will be built in later)
- Possibilities to shape the head to own design!
- Good accessibility of highest frets! (due to shape of heel en body)
- Neck-body connection is "very good"! (very nice routing) body and neck are equally numbered (will be produced for each other)
- Sealing of the body is good when only finished or thick painted, but not when the maple "top" is being colored to taste ("tiger-striping").
- Extra hole for earth wire has to be drilled separately....
- Bridge-holes are, according to me, not in the right position.

