P-SERIES Player's Guide

P-38 • P-38 STANDARD • P-40 • P-44

Dear Fellow Guitar Enthusiast:

Larry Fishman and I formed Parker Guitars in 1991. It continues to be a rewarding project and a great education for us. We're thrilled that you have chosen to make your music on our creation!

I designed the P-Series Guitars and Larry and I personally certified the production process in one of the finest guitar production facilities in the world. We're sure that you will be inspired by its versatility, tone, outstanding quality, and playability.

Thanks for your support. Play from the heart!

-Ken Parker

P-SERIES SPECIFICATIONS

BODY	
P-38, P-38 Standard & P-40:	Ash
P-44:	Mahogany with Maple top
Neck	Maple
Fingerboard	Rosewood
Neck Radius	12"
Scale length	25 ½"
Frets	22 medium jumbo nickel/silver
Bridge	Custom Wilkinson® vibrato bridge featuring Fishman® piezo pickups
Magnetic Pickups	Parker custom wound alnico pickups
	P-38, P-38 Standard & P-40: One Humbucker and two Single-coils
	P-44: Two Humbuckers
Magnetic Controls	P-38, P-38 Standard & P-40: Magnetic Pickup Volume, Tone, and 5-way Pickup Selector
	P-44: Magnetic Pickup Volume, Tone with push / pull coil-split switch, and 3-way Pickup Selector

SUPPLIED ACCESSORIES

- 3mm allen wrench (Bridge Stud Screws/Height Adjustment)
- 1.5mm allen wrench (Bridge Saddle Screws, Individual string height screws, Vibrato Bar rotation tension screw)
- Steel rod capstan wrench (Truss rod adjustment)
- Stereo Y-cable (15 feet)
- Vibrato bar (5.2 mm.)
- Vibrato spring

CONTROLS

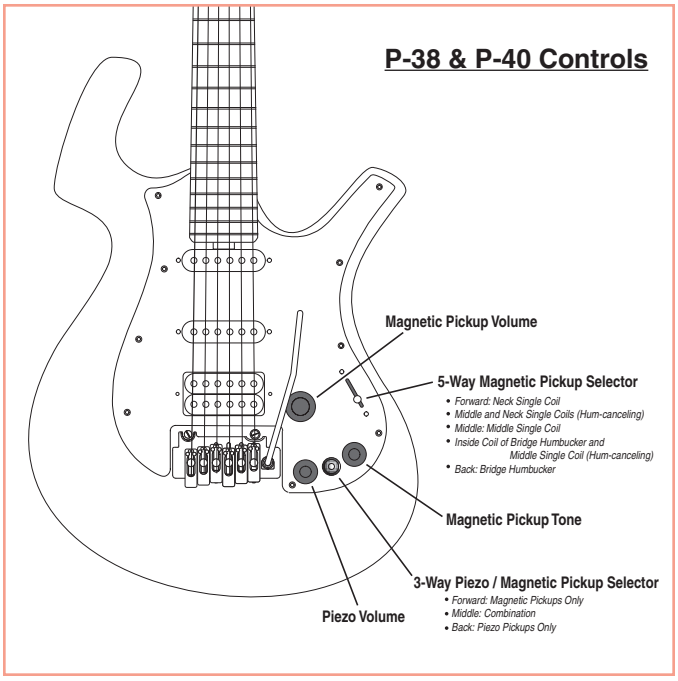
P-SERIES GUITARS (with piezo systems)

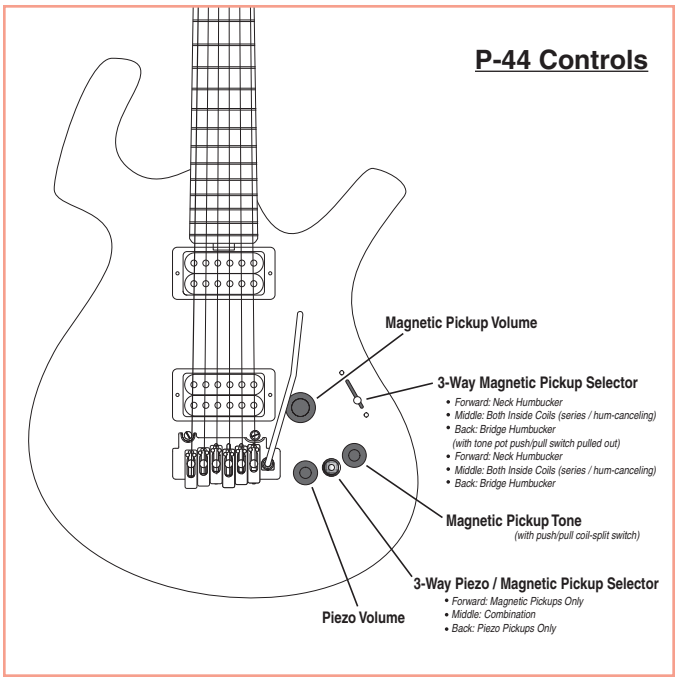
The Parker P-38, P-40 and P-44 are equipped with custom voiced Parker alnico magnetic pickups along with Fishman® piezo transducers mounted in a Wilkinson® licensed vibrato bridge. These piezo transducers, or acoustic pickups, are integrated into each bridge saddle and respond directly to the acoustic energy of your Parker guitar's strings, providing a full-range acoustic sound quality.

On their own, the piezo pickups produce a subtle and intimate acoustic guitar-like sound, but the true power of the P-38 is the ability to blend the piezo and magnetic signals together. A special Fishman® active circuit allows you to mix the two types of signals right on the guitar! You can blend the piezo pickups with clean magnetic sounds to create bright percussive tones or with your favorite distortion settings for fat, two-guitar-like, mixes. You can even send the piezo and magnetic signals to two different amplifiers for an amazingly lush split sound.

However you choose to blend (or split!) the sounds on your Parker P-Series guitar, the results are an exciting new range of hybrid clean and dirty tones!

Along with the familiar Volume, Tone, and Magnetic Pickup selector found on the P-38 Standard, the P-38, P-40 & P-44 are piezo equipped models and feature additional controls for Piezo Volume and a Magnetic / Piezo Pickup Selector switch.

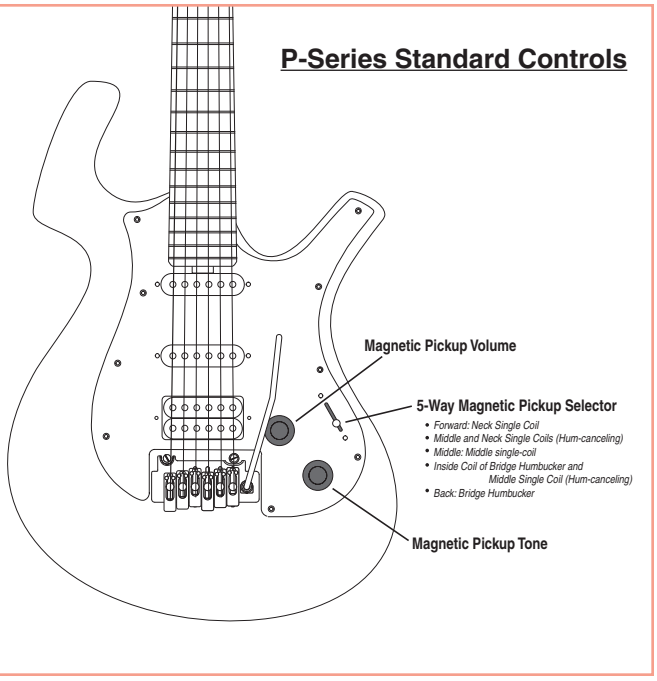




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P-SERIES STANDARD MODELS (without piezo systems)

The P-38 Standard features Custom Parker Alnico pickups along with volume, tone and a 5-way pickup selector switch.



ADDITIONAL FEATURES AND CONTROLS

Stereo / Mono Operation "Smart Switching" Output Jack

A special active circuit featuring a Fishman® "Smart Switching" output jack, automatically senses whether a stereo or mono jack is inserted. This circuit makes it possible to mix (sum) the piezo and magnetic pickup signals, by automatically sensing the output cable, and play both sounds through a single amp, or split them to two separate amps or mixers.

1. Mono Guitar Cable

When a standard mono guitar cable is inserted, the guitar's two signals (magnetic and piezo) are automatically mixed (summed). Both sounds can be played through a single guitar amplifier or mixer.

2. Stereo Cable

When a stereo guitar cable is inserted, the guitar's two signals (magnetic and piezo) are automatically split into stereo. The special stereo Y-cable provided with the guitar allows you to send the two signals to two separate amplifiers. The buffered piezo pickup signal (Ring) will sound its best through a PA, an acoustic guitar amp, a keyboard amp, or some other high-fidelity unit. Send the unbuffered magnetic pickup signal (Tip) to a traditional electric guitar amplifier. Switching between the two signals (or blending) is done with the 3-way Piezo/Magnetic pickup selector.

Battery

The 9-volt battery that powers the Fishman® piezo pre-amplifier has a life of approximately 150 hours. The circuit switches on when a cable is plugged into the guitar, so to conserve batteries, unplug the cable when you're not playing your piezo equipped Parker guitar.

NOTE: To replace the battery, unscrew the small battery cover on the back of the guitar.

Piezo Frequency Response

Piezo pickups have a far greater treble response than magnetic pickups. Some amps have no trouble with the additional high frequency output, but others may distort. If this happens, either lower the piezo volume at the guitar or amp, or try lowering the treble control of the amp.

Ground Loops

Sometimes when using two amps, there may be a loud hum when the guitar is plugged into the second amp. This hum is caused by a ground loop. This ground loop isn't the fault of the guitar (or the amps for that matter), but rather the result of essential electrical safety code requirements. Ground loops can occur whenever two pieces of electronic equipment are connected.

***NOTE:** Do not disconnect or otherwise attempt to defeat ground connections on your electrical equipment !!*

There is ONLY ONE safe way to rid yourself of ground loops: Use a Direct Box with a ground lift to isolate the two amps. Plug the magnetic end of the stereo "Y" cable into one amp and the piezo end into the Direct Box. Plug the Direct Box's output into a balanced input on the second amp.

ADJUSTING YOUR GUITAR

If you're unfamiliar with adjusting instruments, we suggest that you take your guitar to a qualified guitar technician. He or she can help demonstrate these adjustments and you can decide which ones you are comfortable making yourself and which ones you might prefer to have made professionally.

Action

Action (bridge / string height) is adjusted by the two bridge post screws located at the front edge of the bridge (illustration). Using the larger 3mm allen wrench, turn the screws clockwise to lower the bridge, and counterclockwise to raise it. Also, it's a good practice to alternate between the two screws, taking no more than ¼ turn at a time.

Individual string height is adjusted by the two small Allen screws on each of the six bridge saddles. First loosen the saddle screw and then, using the smaller 1.5mm allen wrench, turn the screws clockwise to lower the saddle, and counterclockwise to raise it.

***NOTE:** P-Series guitars are shipped from the factory adjusted to a very low action of .070" on the treble side and .080" on the bass, at the 14th fret (string open, not fretted). If you lower your action even further, be aware that some buzzing may occur.*

Intonation

To set the intonation (string length), loosen the screws that hold the bridge saddles using the smaller 1.5mm allen wrench supplied with the guitar.

- **If a string plays sharp:** Insert the same 1.5 mm allen wrench into the back of the saddle. Turn the screw clockwise to move the saddle back to make the string length longer.
- **If a string plays flat:** Turn the screw counter-clockwise to move the saddle forward to make the string length shorter.

Once the strings are intonated re-tighten the saddle screws. Do not over-tighten the saddle-screws. The piezo-electric elements in the bridge are delicate, so be careful.

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Truss Rod Adjustment

If you're unfamiliar with adjusting a truss rod, we STRONGLY suggest that you have this adjustment made by a qualified guitar technician.

The truss rod adjuster wheel is easily accessible. To adjust the truss rod, use the steel rod capstan wrench supplied with your guitar. Rotate the wheel towards the high E string to tighten the truss rod and towards the low E string to loosen it.

NOTE: *Over tightening WILL result in damaging the truss rod.*

Vibrato Bar Rotation Adjustment

To set the rotation tension of the vibrato bar (or to prevent the bar from falling out), adjust the Allen screw, located on the rear of the vibrato bar socket, using the smaller 1.5mm Allen wrench supplied with the guitar.

To do this: Insert the vibrato bar into the socket and push down so that the back of the bridge lifts, allowing better access to the screw with the Allen wrench. Adjust the screw to the preferred tension.



LIMITED WARRANTY

There is a 1-year limited warranty beginning on the date of first customer purchase on all unmodified and properly cared for Parker Guitars.

Any Parker Guitar found to be defective within the 1-year warranty period set forth above will be repaired or replaced at the option of Parker Guitars provided the guitar is promptly delivered (freight and insurance prepaid) directly to Parker Guitars for service.

Please contact Parker's Product Support office at (978) 988-0102 for information, return authorization, and a Parker Work Order Number. Please visit the Parker Guitars website at www.parkerguitars.com for more detailed warranty information.

Warranty Repairs Outside the U.S.

For warranty repairs outside the U.S. please contact either the dealer from whom you purchased the guitar, or the Authorized Parker Distributor in your country for information and assistance.

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