



DUNCAN TURNER Load 'N Lock

List Price: \$199 www.seymourduncan.com

I completely love inventions like the Load 'N Lock acoustic pickup system by Duncan Turner; it is useful, resolves a practical dilemma and is more space-efficient and aesthetically subtle than any option available for the acoustic guitar. Many times in the Tackle Box I have to figure out a way to describe an orange pick holder that mounts on your guitar to hold your picks. Find 200 words there. Seriously try it. The Load 'N Lock kinda speaks for itself.

In the constant chaos of live music, many technical dilemma's present themselves over and over. When you add the word amateur or open mic or whatever entry level performance setting is occurring, volume is always an issue. In this setting for an acoustic, mic-ing is an awful option, and in body pickups are the only solution.

With the pickup comes the power source. Almost every acoustic with a pickup runs on a battery. Most are in the body and that is a shame and a pain. Others are part of an electronic motherboard panel on the side of the guitar, which often changes the sound of the acoustic itself making the whole thing useless, electric or acoustic.

Exclusive to Guild guitars this year, the Load 'N Lock allows the user to load batteries through the tail pin piece which also conveniently contains the preamp. The visionaries over at Duncan Turner have developed a great option that integrates the preamp, battery holder and end-pin jack all-in-one. Based on a special version of the Wave-Length™ pickup system, the Wave-Length combines a thin, piezo transducer with an 18-volt, low-noise preamp. Eighteen volts translates to twice the headroom and dynamic range of a typical nine-volt system, allowing a player to strum extra hard without experiencing dreaded piezo "quack."

To derive its 18 volts, the Wave-Length merely requires two standard "AA" batteries and a proprietary voltage power booster. But perhaps the most striking innovation is the new, patent-pending, Load 'N Lock system, which allows quick and easy "AA" battery changes.

Simply unscrew the endpin "collar," remove the old batteries, and pop in the new ones. A quarter turn of the collar is all you need to lock them in place. The Wave-Length pickup, with Load 'N Lock battery access, is exclusively available on all Guild acoustic/electric guitars.

Two adjustable trim pots, one low-frequency shelving and one high-frequency shelving, allow you to fine tune and "set and forget" the bass and treble frequencies to optimize the Wave-Length Load 'N Lock for your instrument's size and shape, enabling you to transparently amplify the natural timbre of your acoustic guitar with minimal coloration. Includes 1/4" jack (jack 6,35) and detailed installation instructions.

Thanks to Even Skopp for the behind-the-scenes look at this development. For more info visit www.d-tar.com. Check out the Load 'N Lock system on the following Guild models while they're exclusive!

Guild is using the Wave-Length Load 'N Lock on all their USA-built models that use pickups, including the CV-1 and CO-1 in the Contemporary series; and the D-40, D-50, D-55, F-30, F-40 Valencia, F-50, F-412, and F-512 in the Traditional series.

Rating: Angus Swinging On A Wire