



## Lindy Fralin HIGH OUTPUT HUMBUCKERS BY BRETT PETRUSEK

Lindy Fralin is best known for his single coil, and low output vintage-style humbuckers. Needless to say, a high output humbucker seemed like quite a departure from his typical offerings. Being a high-gain enthusiast, I was very curious to check out these new pups. For our review, I loaded the high output zebra set into a Gibson Historic '57 Reissue (custom ordered with a black top). We ran it through a Diezel Herbert and a Budda Superdrive 80.

Although Lindy is delving into new territory with a high output model, he stayed true to his vintage/classic roots by using 43-gauge enamel wire and alnico magnets. The high output model ranges from 12.5K-13.5K DC resistance. The Historic Les Paul seemed to be a nice choice with its lightweight tailpiece and long neck tenon.

Through channels two and three of the Diezel, the pickups yielded great pinch harmonics and retained very nice highs; the sonic quality was like a wild horse begging to be tamed, best suited for players who have good handle on the guitar's volume knob and know how to control their guitars well, in the

physical sense, while playing. The mids were nice and throaty, especially on single notes in the low registers; this really struck me as a great solo or lead pickup. Low-end was present, but did not seem to stand out; but keep in mind the lightweight tailpiece and the construction of the '57 reissue, as a different tailpiece or guitar might produce a thicker sound. All that being said, these pickups produce a good tone to cut through the mix.

The Budda Superdrive 80 has less gain and a more classic sound than the Diezel, and was a better test for volume and tone knob riding. As I rolled down the volume and tone on the bridge pickup, the high output pickup really came off like a lower output vintage-style PAF pickup all the way up. The neck position produced a nice range of tones and works well with the tone knob to achieve brighter or darker sounds.

### Upside

I'd like to think of this high output set as a super, overwound, over-the-top PAF style set. It gets really nasty but

retains some nice musical qualities, including great snorting mids and ripping harmonics, especially shotguns or artificial pinch harmonics. The alnico magnets maintain a bright, clear sound in the high-gain settings.

### Downside

This simply may be too much pickup for some players. If you are looking for cleaner tones, or are after a classic vintage sound, you'll want to look to lower output humbuckers.

### Rating

A solid Silver M!



Lindy Fralin Pickups  
MSRP \$240.00 (uncovered set)

2025 W. Larburnum Ave. 2nd Floor  
Richmond, VA 23227  
804-358-2699  
fralinpickups.com