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Subject: Another \$2 tweak

Posted by [GarMan](#) on Mon, 21 Mar 2005 15:16:28 GMT

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I did a tweak on my Grounded Grid preamp this weekend that not only cost just \$2, but gave a noticable improvement. The tweak is nothing new and even has a name for it, but I'm too lazy to look up the name. Until I get my act together to order a good pot, I've been using the \$1 versions from a local surplus store. I reconnected the pot this weekend so that the input signal bypasses the cheap pot altogether. Material required: 2 high quality 50K resistors, 1 50K pot  
Connection: Input to one end of 50K resistor  
Other end of 50K resistor to wiper of pot (centre)  
Input of gain stage to wiper  
Ground prong 3 of pot  
Leave prong 1 of pot disconnected  
This as the effect of varying the input voltage without the signal going through the pot at all. Downsides are minor: Input impedance varies between 50K at no volume to 100K to full volume  
Full volume is -6dB attenuated (vs. 0dB)  
Improvement is most noticable when you're using cheap crappy pots. This may not be as good as using a high quality stepped attenuator, but it's a hell of a lot cheaper. Gar.

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