

## Adding a Wire Grommet to Your Pedalboard

By Doug Knight

This is the first revision to the Guitar-Muse pedalboard. Instead of building slots in the board, we are going to add a wire grommet to it. It's clean and neat, and works perfectly. There is, however, no requirement that you do this. You're good to go if you don't need it.



Figure 1

This is what I bought, at the only place in town I have to buy this type of stuff. They come in three sizes and will handle lots of cords. They also come in colors. Buy enough to do multiples if you need them.

A Wire Grommet is the little cover you put through a desk top for computer cables and such. I have installed thousands of these... why we were messing with slots for the pedal board I'll never know.

I can't take credit for the idea, either. My friend Nick came up with it while we were looking over the boards at the music store the other day. My first thought when he suggested it (yeah... you got it), "why didn't I think of that?" My second thought was to make it an addendum for the board article, before people got their boards done. It's a little easier to drill or cut the hole before the carpet is installed

You'll notice that I'm installing mine on my small Microboard, which I use to carry around. My bigger double decker board stays home. Since the carpet is already on the Micro, the instructions show installation after carpet. I'll cover the other in the text.

Take your grommet out of the package and figure out where you want it for best results. If you have a bigger board, The Standard from the build, or bigger, you might want a couple of grommets. Once you have the spots located, move on to figure 3.



Figure 2

Put the grommet on your board and find the spot you want to install it.



Figure 3

A 2" hole saw is perfect for the one I used. See the text for other ways to cut the hole.

I used a 2" hole saw to cut the hole for my grommet. You could use a paddle bit, but that's a pretty big bit for the average homeowner to have on hand. It's also an expensive one to buy for one project. You could drill a hole and cut out the 2" with a power jig (saber) saw, or a manual keyhole saw. Some work but not extensive and it isn't expensive to buy one if you need to.



Figure 4  
I was worried about the hole saw grabbing the carpet and pulling a run into it so I outlined my grommet with a marker and...

Cutting out the carpet eliminates causing any runs in the finished product.



Figure 6  
Peel the carpet out and toss it

Figure 7 only applies if you're using a hole saw or a paddle bit as they tend to make a mess on the back side of plywood.



Figure 5  
...and I cut it out with my utility knife.



Figure 7  
Drill the hole 1/2 way through from the top, then turn the board over and finish up from the bottom. Doing it this way will prevent the big breakout of the plywood on the bottom of the hole.



Figure 8  
Test fit your grommet. You want it to fit snugly so it doesn't fall out when you pick up the board. In case it's too big...

If your carpet isn't installed already, do the same thing as shown in figure 4, on the plywood top. Drill, cut, blast, whatever, the hole and continue on with the build. When you get to the carpet installation, just proceed as directed. Once the carpet is on you can flip the board over and cut the carpet out through the hole. Then just pick up the installation of the grommet at figure 8.

As figure 8 says, you don't want the grommet to fall out if you pick up the board, yet if you need to remove it, it shouldn't be a hassle.



Figure 9  
...wrap it with a couple of rounds of tape. I'm using electrical here but you could use your blue tape from the building project.

If you sawed you hole, it probably isn't perfectly round (even I can't do that). but the tape should make it work. If it doesn't seem to work, trim the hole a little to make it more round.

Be careful not to cut the hole larger than the lip on the grommet. You don't want the hole exposed.



Figure 11  
Perfect fit!

You can see why I say to drill 1/2 from the top, then the other 1/2 the bottom in figure 12. That wood around the grommet is clean whistle.

The fix is to wrap the grommet with tape.



Figure 10  
Two wraps was just right for mine. Wrap a couple of times and test the fit. Add or remove some tape to make the fit just snug enough to stay in, but easily removeable.

I lucked out! Two wraps and it fit just right. \$10 says I couldn't do that again!



Figure 12  
Here's the bottom view. Notice that there is no chipping of the wood.

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That does it. It's neat and clean, and better looking than slots would be. The slot for cables is adjustable and you can remove the whole center cover for maximum room if you need it. You could also add another grommet for more cable room.