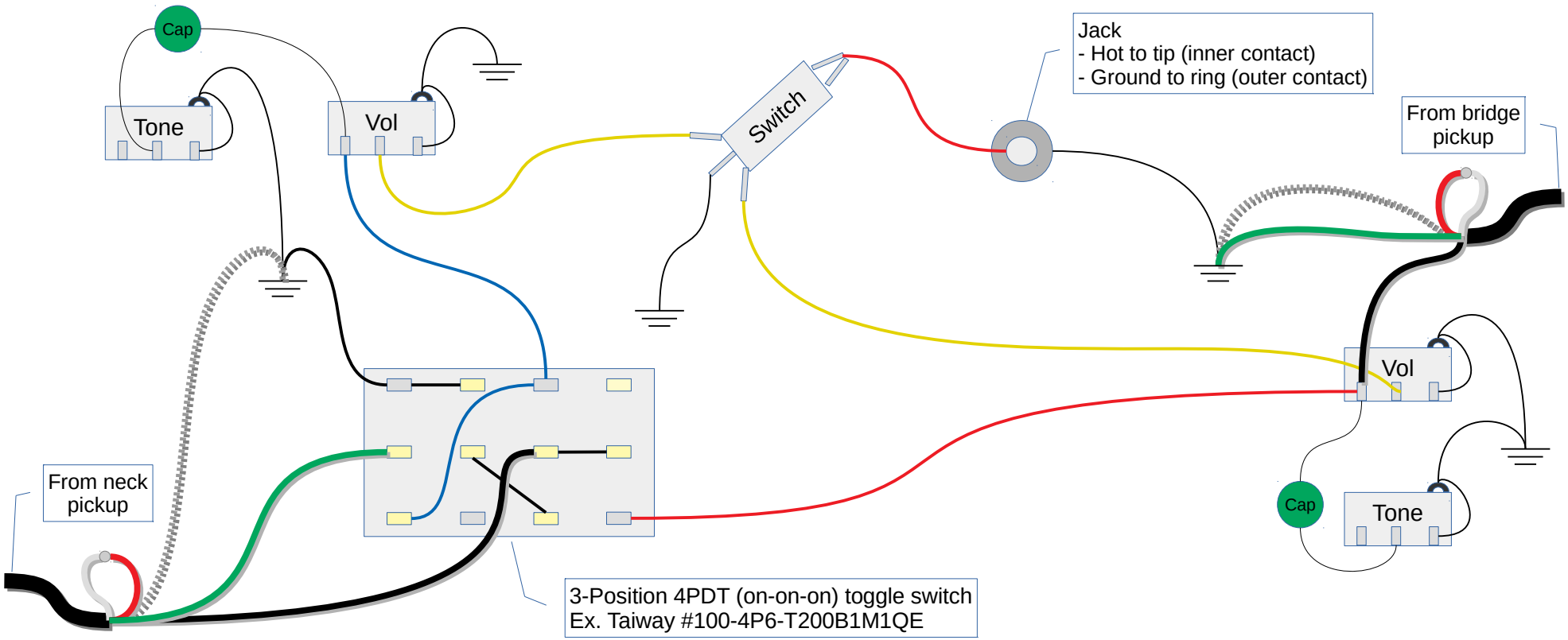
“Albert King tone” - Humbuckers Out-Of-Phase + Serial

3-position toggle switch (4PDT on-on-on)

DOWN: **normal** - *CENTER:* **OOP** - *UP:* **OOP + serial**



Indicates lugs engaged when switch in *CENTER* position: green goes to neck vol pot. Black goes to ground. This is OOP.

Up & down operate like ordinary 2-pos switch:

- *UP:* Each center lug connects with its counterpart beneath: OOP + series humbuckers.
- *DOWN:* Each center lug connect with its counterpart above: normal in-phase + parallel humbuckers.

Seymour Duncan wire colors (north/stud start, finish, south/screw finish, start)

NOTES:

- See Page 2 of this PDF for the original (2-position) “Albert King tone” diagram.
- Bridge/tailpiece ground wire not shown. It must be grounded inside the cavity.
- Typical pot is 500k ohm; typical cap is 0.022uf.
- Diagram shows “standard volume” & “modern tone.” (It’s possible to use “independent volume” and/or “50’s tone.” See my “dual-concentric 2-vol/2-tone mod” linked at this diagram’s source for a diagram showing how to wire those.).
- This wiring works with one-conductor pickup leads too (ex. Epi Special-II humbuckers have only a hot wire and bare ground.). However, in that case the coil’s green wire (south-start) goes to ground at the pickup. So, in OOP, more than the green wire is being used as hot (the shield will be part of hot too). It works, but you’ll have some hum when you touch the strings. (You can convert your leads. See my “1-cond to 4-cond mod” linked at this diagram’s source.).

Source: http://www.mylespaul.com/threads/special-ii-wiring-mod-albert-king-tone-coil-cut-parallel-coils.421224/

Origin

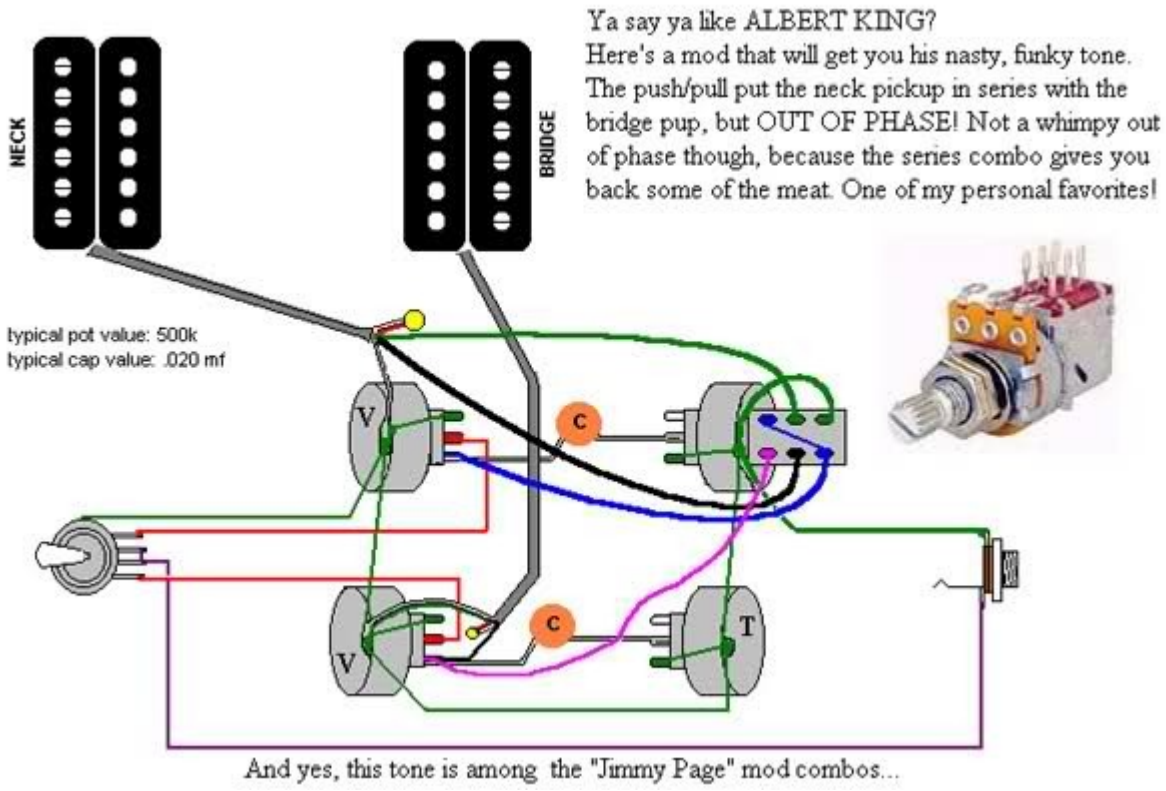
I was inspired by the diagram below. I don't recall where I found it. Tineye (reverse image search) produces no meaningful results.

It's a simple DPDT on-on switch (two positions: normal wiring / OOP + serial humbuckers). I don't completely understand how the serial wiring works. It appears to be completely serial when the neck pickup is selected (causing the bridge pickup's signal to pass through the neck pickup). When both pickups are engaged, it appears to be variably serial (depending on how the volume knobs are balanced).

I created my diagram (3-position 3PDT on-on-on) because I wanted an additional option: OOP by itself.

One thing I like about this mod: it doesn't require 4-conductor pickups. In fact, the less-expensive starter guitars with single/hot conductor and a shield/ground can work (They will have some hum in OOP when you touch the strings. It's not bad.). It's easy to convert those to 4-conductor. See: www.mylespaul.com/threads/special-ii-convert-650r-700t-pickup-leads-from-one-conductor-to-four.417004/

3-position 4PDT (on-on-on) toggle switches are uncommon. I used *Taiway #100-4P6-T200B1M1QE*. The diagram below could be implemented with a *#100-DP1-T200B1M1QE* (short-lever, 2-position DPDT, on-on) instead of a push-pull pot.



Note: It's not easy to see. The bridge's green wire goes to the top of the volume pot's ground (with the bridge pickup's bare ground wire).

Source: http://www.mylespaul.com/threads/special-ii-wiring-mod-albert-king-tone-coil-cut-parallel-coils.421224/