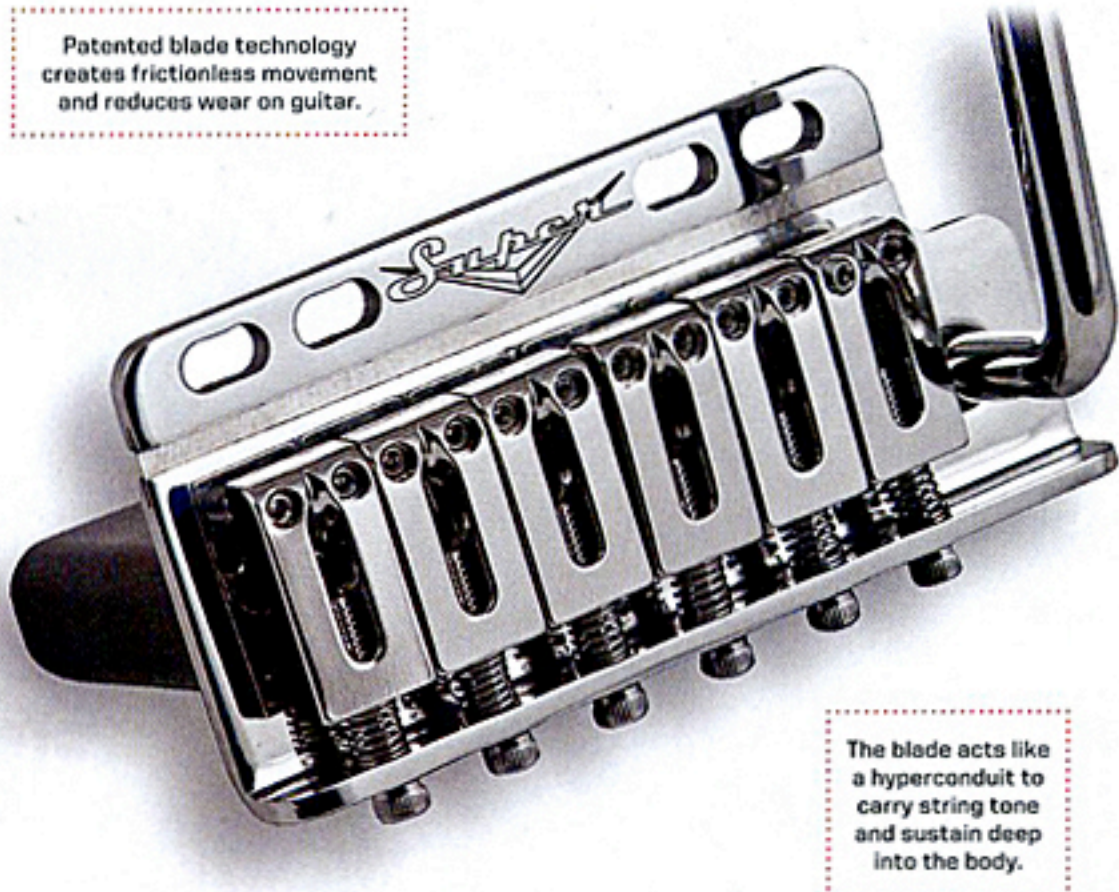


REPLI-CAN

Super-Vee BladeRunner bridge



Patented blade technology creates frictionless movement and reduces wear on guitar.

The blade acts like a hyperconduit to carry string tone and sustain deep into the body.

* BY ERIC KIRKLAND

FANS OF THE Fender Stratocaster have enjoyed a range of classic and modern factory tremolo bridge updates over the years. But that hasn't stopped guitar tech Jeff Lathrop and engineer Marc Caldwell from coming up with their own take on the Strat bridge. The two teamed up to create Super-Vee, a company that designs and builds direct replacement bridges for Stratocasters. Their current offerings consist of the double-locking Super-Vee and nonlocking BladeRunner tremolo systems, both of which further enhance string response,

sustain and tuning stability. Even the infamously picky Eric Johnson has been using a Super-Vee almost exclusively while performing on the latest Experience Hendrix tour. For this review, I tested the company's modern-looking BladeRunner bridge on a midgrade Stratocaster.

FEATURES

STANDARD SIX-SCREW Stratocaster bridges have a bridge plate that pivots in notches on the screws. This places pressure on the screws and, over time, can loosen the screw holes and wear down the shallow edge. Super-Vee's BladeRunner utilizes separate bridge and screw plates,

which are ingeniously connected by a piece of industrial-grade, stainless spring steel. The spring steel bends when you rock the tremolo, but there is zero friction and no pressure placed on the bridge mounting screws. The sustain block is made from a proprietary material and the trem bar has tension adjustment.

PERFORMANCE

THE BLADERUNNER MADE a convincing improvement to my Strat's tone. Notes were loud and distinct, and rang with a pleasant chime. Sustain was notably improved over any of my other under-\$3,000 Strats, and the guitar's dynamic abilities were exponentially increased. As for tuning stability, I dove and wiggled the bar on this nonlocking setup for hours and it consistently returned to perfect pitch.

THE BOTTOM LINE

IF YOU HAVE a Stratocaster with a six-screw bridge and want to hear everything that the guitar can offer, installing a Super-Vee BladeRunner will fundamentally enhance every detail of the guitar's tone and tuning stability. Two-post anchor plates, lefty versions and a gold model are coming soon. **BC**

•PRO	-CON
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMPROVED VOLUME, TONE, DYNAMICS AND TUNING STABILITY • DIRECT REPLACEMENT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NONE



SPECS

LIST PRICE \$149.00
MANUFACTURER Super-Vee, LLC., super-vee.com
BRIDGE & SCREW PLATES High-tensile-strength, industrial-grade tempered steel
SUSTAIN BLOCK Proprietary formula
ADJUSTMENTS Saddles: height and intonation; screw plates: screw alignment
TECHNOLOGY Bridge and screw plates are connected with industrial-grade stainless spring steel