

The Fundamentals of String Bending

Steve Stine

Intro Jam

♩ = 156

The first part of the Intro Jam consists of two measures. The treble clef staff shows a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure and a quarter note in the second. The guitar TAB staff shows the fretting: 15-15 (full bend), 12-15-13-12-13 (triplet), 12-12 (1/2 bend), 13-12-14-12-14-12 (triplet), 14-12-14 (full bend), and 14-14 (full bend).

The second part of the Intro Jam consists of two measures. The treble clef staff shows a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure and a quarter note in the second. The guitar TAB staff shows the fretting: 8-5 (full bend), 8-5-8-7-5-7-5 (triplet), 7-7-7-5-7-5 (1/2 bend), 5-5 (full bend), 5-7 (1/4 bend), 7-5-3-5-3-5 (triplet), and 5-3-5 (triplet).

A Minor Pentatonic Scale

The A Minor Pentatonic Scale is shown in two measures. The treble clef staff shows the scale ascending and then descending. The guitar TAB staff shows the fretting: 5-8-5-7 (ascending), 5-7-5-7 (descending), 5-8-5-8 (ascending), and 5-8 (descending).

Whole Step Bends

Whole Step Bends are shown in three measures. The treble clef staff shows whole notes on the 7th, 8th, and 8th frets. The guitar TAB staff shows the fretting: 7 (full bend to 8), 8 (full bend to 9), and 8 (full bend to 9).

Slow Bend

Fast Bend

Up & Down Bend

Slow Bend, Fast Bend, and Up & Down Bend techniques are shown in five measures. The treble clef staff shows whole notes on the 8th, 8th, 8th, 7th, and 8th frets. The guitar TAB staff shows the fretting: 8 (full bend to 9), 8 (full bend to 9), 8 (full bend to 9), 7 (full bend to 8), and 8 (full bend to 9).

Connecting Notes using Bends

Other Options

Musical notation for guitar. The top staff shows a sequence of notes with bends. The bottom staff shows the corresponding fret numbers (TAB) with arrows indicating 'full' bends. The first section is labeled 'hold bend---|' and the second section is labeled 'hold bend--|'.

Musical notation for guitar. The top staff shows a sequence of notes with bends. The bottom staff shows the corresponding fret numbers (TAB) with arrows indicating 'full' bends. The first section is labeled 'hold bend---|', the second 'hold bend-----|', and the third 'let ring----|'. The bottom staff also includes 'let ring---|' for the final measure.

Musical notation for guitar. The top staff shows a sequence of notes with bends. The bottom staff shows the corresponding fret numbers (TAB) with arrows indicating 'full' bends. Both sections are labeled 'hold bend-----|'.

Towards the Floor Bends

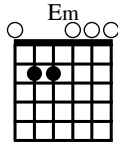
Unison Bends

Musical notation for guitar. The top staff shows notes with arrows pointing down, labeled 'Lower Note'. The bottom staff shows the corresponding fret numbers (TAB) with arrows indicating 'full' bends. The first section is labeled 'Towards the Floor Bends' and the second section is labeled 'Unison Bends'.

Guitar Notation Key

STANDARD NOTATION is written on a five-line staff.

TABLATURE represents the six strings of the guitar. The first string (thinnest) is on the top.



CHORD DIAGRAM
It illustrates how to form a chord. The 6th string (thickest) is on the left.

RIGHT HAND FINGERINGS
t (thumb) m (middle) i (index) r (ring)

ACCENT
Play this note louder

STACCATO
Play this note short

UPSTROKE
DOWNSTROKE

Hammer-On

Pick the first note then sound the second by fretting it without picking.

Pull-Off

Pick the first note then sound the second by pulling the finger off without picking.

Vibrato

Bend and release the note continuously and smoothly.

Wide Vibrato

Bend and release the note continuously and widely to alter the pitch.

Whole Step Bend

Pick the note then bend the string up one step.

Half Step Bend

Pick the note then bend the string up a half step.

Grace Note Bend

Bend the string up immediately.

Blues Bend

Pick the note then bend the string up slightly.

Bend and Release

Pick only the first note then bend the string up one step. Finally release the bend.

Pre-Bend

Before picking the note, bend the string up.

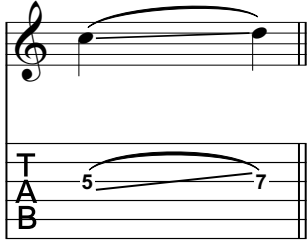
Pre-Bend and Release

First bend the string up then pick the note and finally release the bend back.

Unison Bend

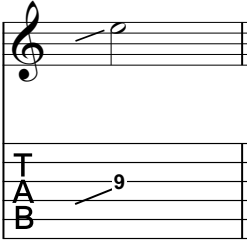
Pick both notes at the same time, immediately bend up the lower to the pitch of the higher.

Legato Slide



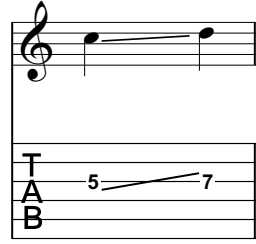
Pick the first note, then slide to the next without picking the last note.

Airplane Slide



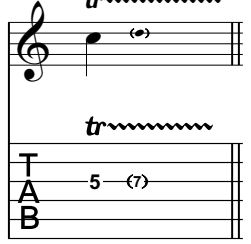
Quickly slide into the note.

Shift Slide



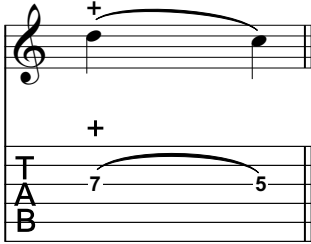
Pick the first note, then slide to the next, then pick the last note as well.

Trill



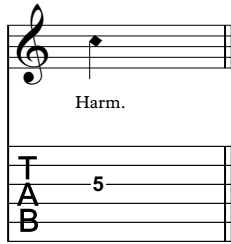
Quickly alternate between the two notes by continuously hammering on and pulling off.

Tapping



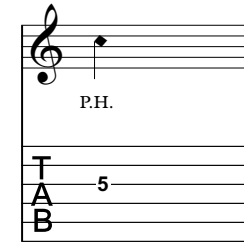
Fret the first note by tapping it with a finger of your picking hand, then pull off to the second note.

Natural Harmonic



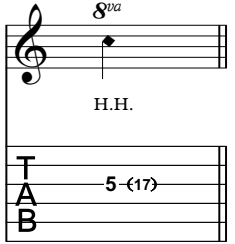
Gently touch the string above the fretwire without pressing it. Pick it. Finally bring your finger back immediately.

Pinch Harmonic



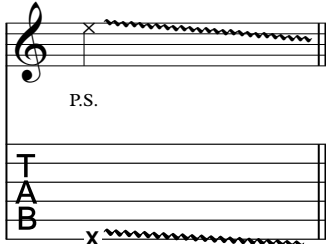
Pick the note normally, immediately touch the string with the thumb of your picking hand.

Harp Harmonic



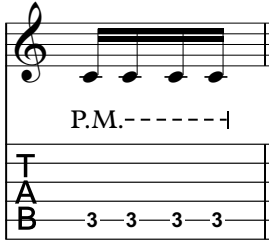
Gently touch the string above the indicated fretwire (in brackets) with your picking hand's index finger while the pick strikes the fretted note.

Pick Scrape



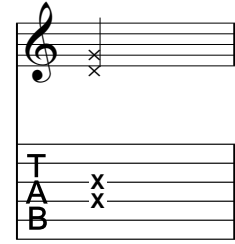
Scrape the edge of the pick along the wound strings.

Palm Muting



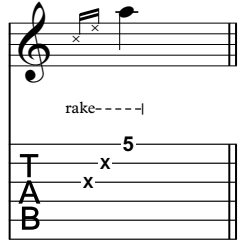
Gently rest the palm of your picking hand near the bridge to partially mute the notes.

Muffled Strings



Gently rest your fret hand across the strings to obtain a percussive sound by striking them with your picking hand.

Rake



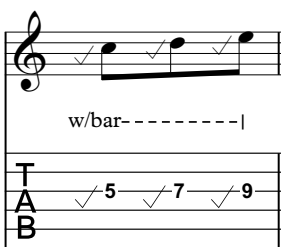
Quickly drag the pick across the strings. Mute the first two strings.

Tremolo Picking



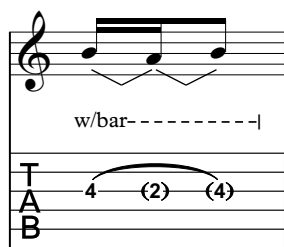
Continuously pick the notes as rapidly as possible.

Vibrato Bar Scoop



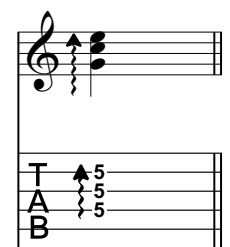
Pull the bar down just before tapping or picking the note, immediately release the bar.

Vibrato Bar Bend



Pick the first note, then pull the whammy bar down to the indicated pitch (in brackets), finally release the bar back.

Arpeggiate



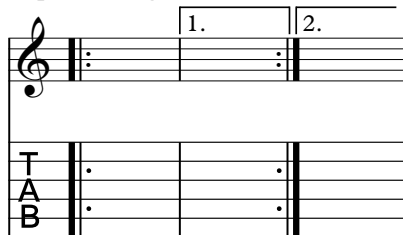
Roll the pick across the notes as indicated by the arrow.

Repetition Signs



Repeat bars between signs

Repetition Signs



Repeat bars between signs. First time play the first ending, second time continue through the second ending.

D.C. al Fine

Go back to the beginning of the song, then play until the mark "Fine", that means "end".

D.S. al Coda

Go back to the sign (§), then play until the bar marked (To Coda ϕ), then skip to the section marked (ϕ Coda)