



# Beginners Bible



## Beginners Bible™

Dear Student,

First of all let me congratulate yourself on taking action to learning the guitar! This is a lifelong skill that will bring you years of enjoyment and music appreciation. This book is designed for a complete beginner to open up to use as a high-quality reference. Even if you know a bit and just want to brush up on the basics then this book is for you. This book is best used in conjunction with our online video guitar lessons and a teacher. Feel free to pass on this book to your friends and lovers, who are also on a quest towards Guitar Excellence.

Have fun!

Rock and roll.  
Tyrone Mayer



Founder of Guitar Excellence



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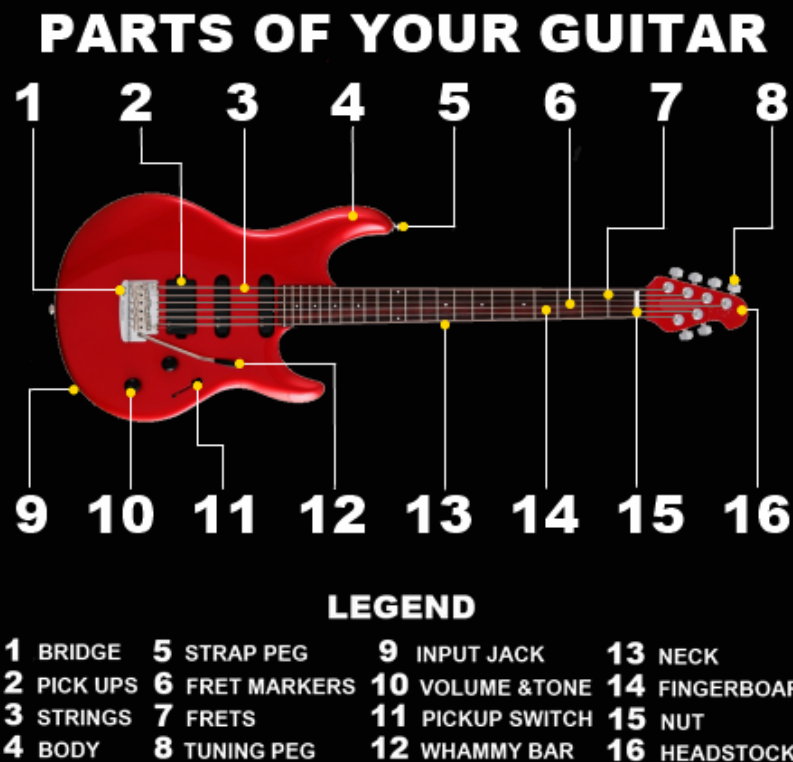
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## Part 1: The Guitar

### Parts Of Your Guitar :

These are the various parts of the electric guitar as seen on your electric guitar. Your acoustic will have some elements that are the same. Can you tell which ones they are? This diagram of an electric guitar shows it's main composite parts.





## 1. Bridge

Where the strings are pulled through and basically sit on a saddle for each string. You get two types of bridges: Tremelo and Non-Tremelo bridges. Tremelo bridges have the whammy bar attached and generally tend to float on the guitar and are not fixed flat like a non-tremelo bridge. Tremolo bridges tend to give more hassles than what they are worth especially when it comes to changing strings and tuning.

## 2. Pick Ups

This is where the sound is transferred from the guitar out to the amp. The pick-ups have magnets in them and literally pick up the vibration of the strings and send the sound through the guitar via your lead to the amp and boom – you have awesomeness all over your living room! You get two types of pick-ups, namely humbuckers or single coils. Humbuckers generally suit Rock/Metal and Jazz and produce a heavier, thicker, meaty sound. Single coils generally give a better all-round sound for pretty much everything. They produce a thinner, crystalline bell like sound.

## 3. Strings

The strings are generally made out of a combination of steel and nickel. There are several brands and types of strings to choose from. Electric and acoustic strings are different. Strings come in several gauges. String gauge is thickness of the string. The thicker they are the harder they are to play. If you plan to play mainly rhythm guitar you may want something above a light string gauge. If you like to solo then you might like lighter strings. If you are a beginner start with some lighter strings then experiment if you want. It is a good idea though to find what you like in string gauge and stick with it. So, what else does string gauge mean?



The thicker the string the longer it can sustain a note. Therefore, heavier gauges can hold notes longer. Lighter strings tend to lose their tuning much easier than heavier strings. Also the lighter the gauge the easier it is to press down on the fret board. Heavier strings tend to give a more solid tone.

#### **4. Body**

The body is the main block of wood and the “meat” of the guitar. This is where all the components and electronics are stored. The body is usually made out of Alder wood but you can get different types of woods like mahogany, ash etc. The wood type does affect the sound of the guitar.

#### **5. Strap Peg**

This is where you can attach your strap to play standing up and look like a real rockstar!

#### **6. Fret Markers**

This is where the guitar frets are marked off for easy location when playing. They are usually marked off on the 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 12th, 15th, 17th, 19th and 21st frets. It will also help you get to chords and scales quicker and this is often used as a reference point for guitarists.

#### **7. Frets**

This is the part of the guitar with the steel bits in between each note. When you place your finger in the middle of the fret it will produce a sound/pitch. The frets gradually get smaller the higher you go up on the fret board to accommodate the higher pitches.

#### **8. Tuning Peg**

This enables you to adjust the pitch higher or lower for each string. Essentially this helps you adjust the string pitch to the tuning you require.



## 9. Input Jack

This is where you can insert your lead that is connected to the amp. This socket is located on the front corner or on the side of the guitar.

## 10. Volume and Tone

These knobs are usually separate from each other. The volume helps increase or decrease the sound coming from the guitar to the amp. Your neighbor is usually a good indicator if you are playing to loud. Your tone knob affects your sound in a bright or dull manner.

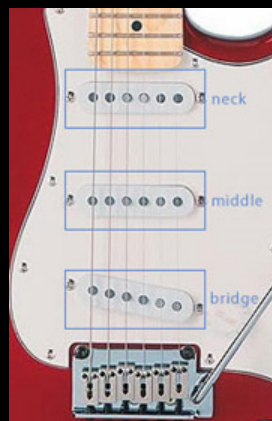
All the way up increases the brightness and treble of the guitar. All the way down reduces the treble. It almost sounds like the guitar has a blocked nose when you listen to it all the way down, and then when you crank it all the way up sounds more open and bright. The tone of your guitar is entirely up to you so experiment with this knob as well as with your volume.

## 11. Pick Up Switch

Depending on the type of guitar you have you will either fall into one of the two categories:

A Strat type of guitar usually has 3 single coils (Left Picture)

A Les Paul usually has 2 humbuckers (Right Picture)



Each pickup has a different tone and sound to it. As a general rule, the closer to the bridge, the brighter and more trebly your sound will be. The closer to the neck, the more full and bassy your sound will be. It is a matter of personal preference on which pickup you like to use, and also the kind of sound you want to achieve.

Most guitarists tend to use the bridge pickup if they play on distortion the majority of the time. The other pickups sound too muddy when using distortion. However for cleaner, undistorted sounds the middle or neck pick-ups can have a wonderful clean bell-like effect.

### **12. Whammy Bar**

This is a narrow bar attached to the bridge of an electric guitar that is depressed or raised to lower or raise pitch by changing the tension or length of the strings. Also called tremolo arm, tremolo bar. It's a bit of a lazy mans way to do vibrato but gives you the option of adding vibrato to open strings, which is pretty cool.

### **13. The Neck**

The neck is the part of the guitar that protrudes from the main body and is the base of the fingerboard. Like the body of the guitar it can be made from many different types of wood. Different brands have different types of necks namely a set-in and bolt-on neck. Bolt-on necks give a thinner, crystalline sound. A set-in neck is glued to the guitar instead of screwed on and, produce a thicker, warmer sound.

### **14. Fingerboard**

This is where the fingers are placed on different frets and strings to produce different notes/pitches. It can also be made from a variety of woods but most common are maple and rosewood.





## 15. Headstock

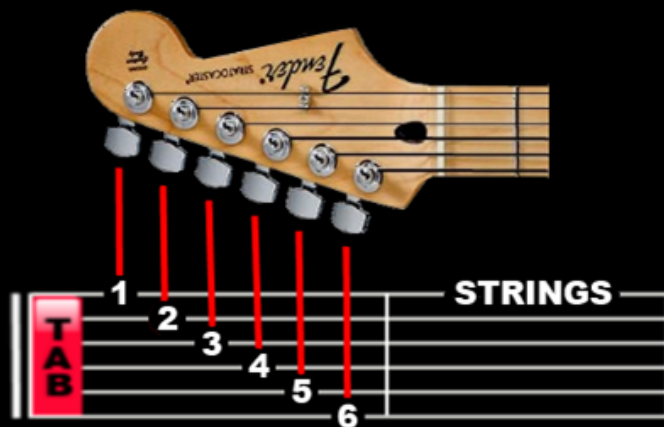
This is where your tuning pegs are located. Different brands have different types of headstocks and they are typical the “signature” look of a particular brand from a visual point of view. Fender Stratocasters have a different type of headstock compared to a Gibson Les Paul.

## Names Of Your Strings

There are 7 and a-half strings on your guitar. Made you look :) You do get guitars with more than 6 strings but let's just focus on 6 for now. The order goes from high E (1) to low E (6). The high string (1) is called the high E as it produces a high pitch and the low E (6) produces a lower sound. So basically it is the opposite of what most people think as the high E (1) string is not the first string you hit on the guitar.

Here is the string order and a little riddle to help you remember:

- 1 = Easter
- 2 = Bunnies
- 3 = Get
- 4 = Drunk
- 5 = After
- 6 = Easter



## How To Tune Your Guitar

These days you can get various tuners on your smart phone or tablet. To our ears, and still the most reliable ones, are the tuners you plug into.

The microphone is not distracted by Muffy barking which doesn't help with exterior noises alter the sound and affects the tuning accuracy. You also get tuners that work on the vibrations of the guitar that attach themselves to the headstock which are also very good.

Your string is in tune when the light goes green or the middle. The order of strings has been discussed before and should match with the same letter or number on the string. If it does not then you are tuning your guitar wrong. EG 4th string is D and if it says E then you are tuned to high.

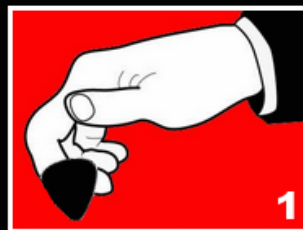


## How To Hold A Plectrum

You will use a plectrum or pick for most of your playing cause you don't like your fingers to bleed and various other reasons. You can also use your fingers and a combination of the two. The diagram below shows the "more" correct way to hold the pick for maximum efficiency. Use your index and thumb to hold the pick. Experiment with different sizes and shapes.

There are a few rules of thumb:

- Softer picks are better for strumming
- Harder picks are better for picking
- Bigger picks have a bigger area to grab onto hence a looser grip
- Smaller picks have a smaller area to grab onto hence a tighter grip
- The "pointy" side should point towards the guitar body If you are a player that would like to do everything on the guitar then we would suggest using a pick that is firm to hard.



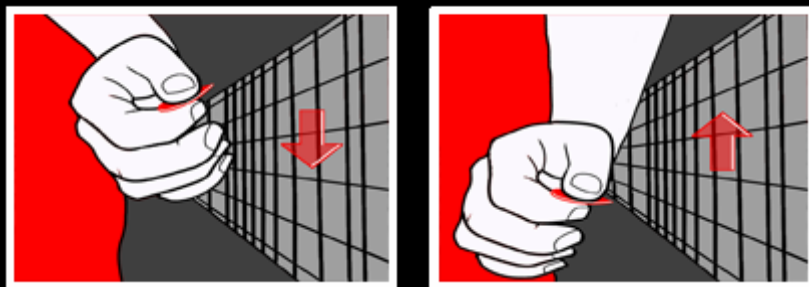
**HOLD THE PLECTRUM IN THIS MANNER FIRMLY BETWEEN THE THUMB AND FIRST FINGER**

### DIFFERENT TYPES OF PLECTRUMS



## Strumming

A strum is a sweeping action where a fingernail or plectrum brushes past several strings in order to set them all into motion and thereby play a chord. Strumming is executed by your dominant hand, while the other hand holds down notes on the fret board. The basic down and up motion across all the strings is the general term to “strum a few chords”. Playing all the strings in a downward and upward motion directly after one another and changing chords produces music and is how most songs are played.



## Notes On The Fretboard

These are all the notes on the fret board. An easy way to learn this other than memory is to learn a simply formula. There is a gap of a fret between all the notes EXCEPT B and C and E and F. A gap meaning a whole fret apart or whole tone. You can see that between A and B is an A#/Bb. This occurs for all the notes with the exception of B/C and E/F – they simply follow each other directly with no sharps or flats in between them. If you can learn all the names of the open strings in the lesson above and this simply formula then you will know all the notes on the fret board without having to spend hours memorizing the fret board. Boom! Notes that have two different names but are located on the same fret are called enharmonic equivalents. EG: A# and Bb are the same note. It's a fancy musical term that you can use to impress your dinner guests. In layman's terms it's a synonym in music.





	1		3		5		7		9		12	
E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb	B	C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E
B	C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb	B
G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb	B	C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G
D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb	B	C	C#/Db	D
A	A#/Bb	B	C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A
E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb	B	C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E

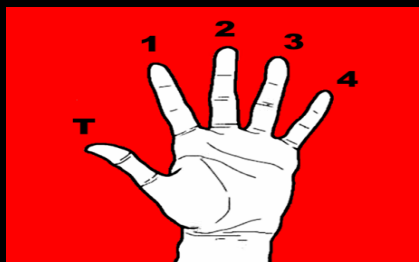
## Part 2: Basic Chords

### Your Fretting Hand

Your fretting hand is numbered with the following fingers below. These numbers are usually indicated in chord diagrams so you can see what fingers you need to correctly fret the chord you want to play. You also need to place your fingers in the middle of the fret to produce the best and most accurate sound.

Index:

T = Thumb  
 1 = Index  
 2 = Middle  
 3 = Ring  
 4 = Pinky



### MECHANICS OF FRETTING

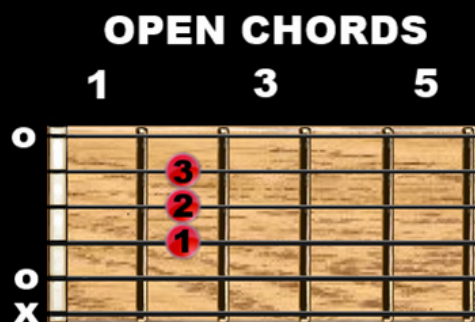


**PRECISE PLACEMENT OF THE FINGER  
 IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FRETS IS  
 REQUIRED AS THE FRETS GET  
 SMALLER FURTHER UP THE NECK**



## Major

Major chords have a “happy” quality sound to them. These are the chords you play when you get a raise, win the lotto and take delivery of your new Louis Vuitton limited edition moon bag. The following chords are the most common “cowboy campfire” chords that can equip you to literally play thousands of songs. Score! Lets look at the first chord A major. Play the chord slowly and make sure that all the notes ring out cleanly. The X on the sides indicate a muted string aka don’t play this string. The O indicates an open string, so that string must be played and rung out but not fretted with your finger. In other words an open string rung out. This is the first chord in the rock n’ roll classic “Highway To Hell” by AC/DC.



### A MAJOR

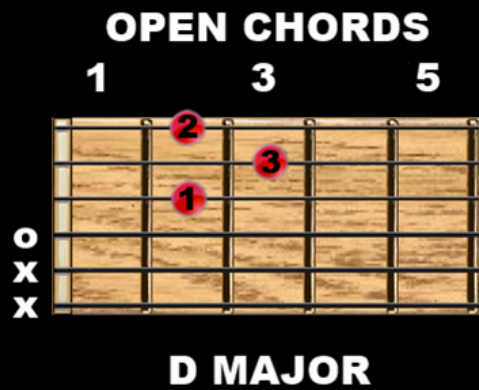
The second chord is an E major



### E MAJOR



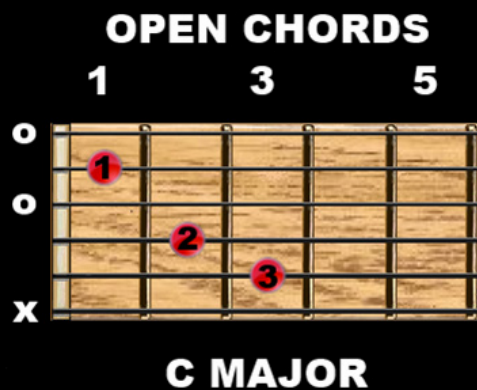
The next chord is D Major. With these 3 chords (D A E) you have learnt you can play a few tunes. Boom!



*Songs:*

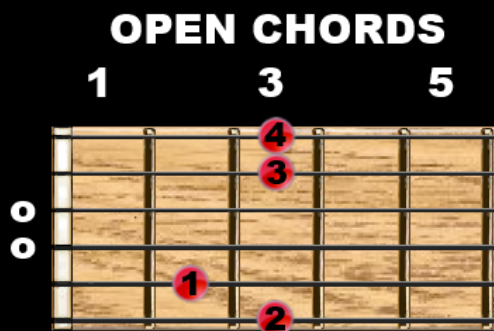
Wild Thing by The Troggs – A D E D  
In The Jungle by Token aka Lion King - A D A E  
Desire by U2 – D A E A E

The C major chord is also a useful chord but requires a bit of a stretch. Don't worry you will get it and just make sure that the chord is rung out clearly to hear all the strings and notes.





The G chord is probably the most common open chord you will play as a lot of keys in the open position are in the key of G. This chord requires the pinky, which is the only open chord that requires this little guy. You can play quite a few tunes now by adding this chord to your chord arsenal. This will be the most uncomfortable chord in the beginning for you.



## G MAJOR

*Songs:*

Knockin on Heaven's Door by Bob Dylan – G D C

First Cut Is The Deepest by Cat Stevens– D A G A

Shook Me All Night Long by AC/DC –G C G C G D G D G D (Verse)

Summer Of 69 by Bryan Adams –D A (Verse)

## Minor

As major chords have a “happy” quality sound to them, minors have the opposite “sad” sound. These are the chords you play when you get fired and your partner dumps you for your younger, firmer sibling of the same sex and keeps your puppy. First up is a relatively easy E minor.



## E MINOR





*Songs:*

About A Girl by Nirvana– Em G (Intro & Verse)  
Run To You by Bryan Adams – Em G D A (Chorus)

Now we have an A Minor



**A MINOR**

*Songs:*

Man On The Moon by REM – G Am C D (Chorus)  
Closing Time by Semisonic – G D Am C (Chorus)

Here is the D minor chord which we would say is the least played open chord out of the ones we will show you but that doesn't mean it won't get used.



**D MINOR**



## Root 6 Barre Chords

Barre chords are moveable chord shapes. Meaning that you can take the same shape and play them anywhere on the fret board and you will still get either a major or minor sounding chord. The only thing that will change is the name of the chord.

The root note is what dictates the name of the chord. If you play a major root 6 barre on the 3rd fret this will give you a G major chord 3rd fret note on the 6th string is G. If you play it on the 5th fret then you will play A major, as the 5th fret note on the 6th string is A.

The biggest obstacle with barre chords is a strength issue and NOT a talent issue. If you develop enough forearm and finger strength then these chords will be mastered in record-breaking time. Also the action on your guitar will determine how hard you have to push down.

Your action on your guitar is the height from your strings to your fret board. The higher it is the harder it is to press down and make a sound. The lower it is the easier it is to press down. We suggest taking your axe into a guitar store for them to look at and set-up if this is an issue. Lets get cracking with the root 6 major and minor chords.

### ROOT 6 MAJOR BARRE



### BARRE CHORD

● = ROOT



## ROOT 6 MINOR BARRE



### BARRE CHORD

● = ROOT

### Root 5 Barre Chords

The following barre chords follow the same principal as the root 6 barre chords. The only difference now is that the root note (name of the chord) will now be on the 5th string or A string. Learning these four chords along with the names of the fret board on the 6th & 5th strings you will now be equipped to play ALL major and minor chords on the guitar. Pretty cool! We have not presented all the different chords here because if you understand the tiny bit of theory behind it, this will make your learning process much quicker and enjoyable then trying to memorize 2186401287 chords and where they are.

## ROOT 5 MAJOR BARRE



### BARRE CHORD

● = ROOT



## ROOT 5 MINOR BARRE



### BARRE CHORD

● = ROOT

#### *Songs:*

Be With You by Mr Big – E A B (Chorus)  
Mr Jones by Counting Crows – Am F Dm G (Intro)  
500 Miles by The Proclaimers – E A B (Chorus)  
If It Makes You Happy by Sheryl Crow – Am C G D (Chorus)  
What's Up by 4 Non Blondes – A Bm D  
Last Kiss by Pearl Jam – G Em C

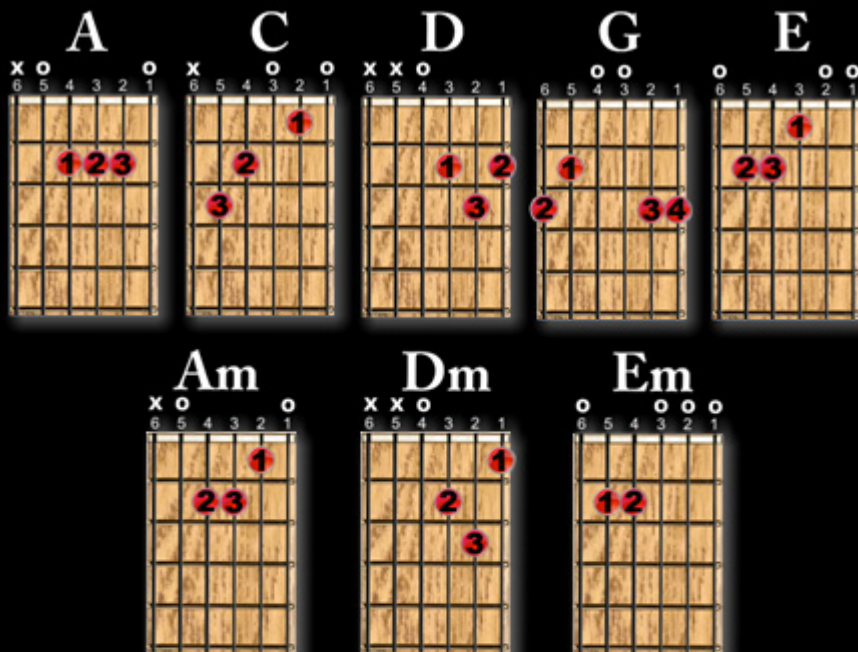
#### **Basic Chords Summary**

The basic chords that you have learnt are listed below in a nice summarized chart. You can use this as a quick reference. Save it on your phone for a quick refresh when you get asked to play for your mates!





# OPEN CHORDS



# BARRE CHORDS

ROOT 6th STRING



MAJOR MINOR

ROOT 5th STRING



MAJOR MINOR

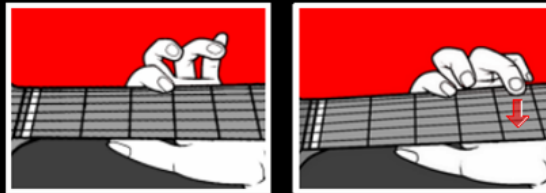
● = ROOT



## Part 3: Basic Techniques

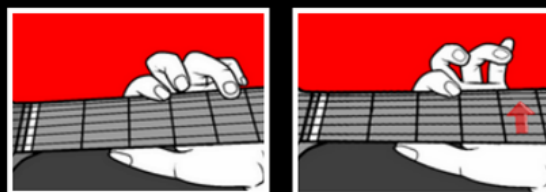
The following techniques are lightly touched on here. The Lead Cheat Sheet book will go in depth with each, and in addition to that, we have video lessons that cover each technique.

### HAMMER - ON



**STRIKE THE FIRST NOTE WITHOUT PICKING THE STRING AGAIN, PLACE A DIFFERENT FINGER ONTO THE SECOND NOTE IN THE RHYTHM INDICATED WITH ENOUGH FORCE FOR THE NOTE TO SOUND.**

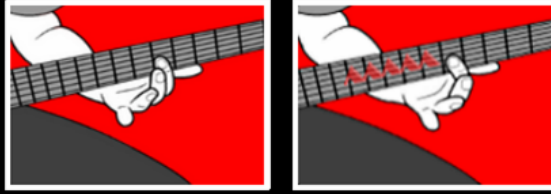
### PULL - OFF'S



**PLACE A FINGER ON THE NOTE TO BE SOUNDED. PICK THE STRING TO PLAY THE FIRST NOTE AND WITHOUT PICKING AGAIN, PULL THE FINGER PLAYING THE FIRST NOTE OFF TO SOUND THE SECOND NOTE.**

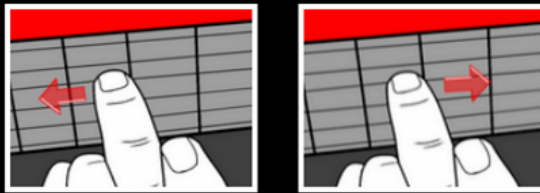


## VIBRATO



**VIBRATO IS A MUSICAL EFFECT CONSISTING OF A REGULAR, PULSATING CHANGE OF PITCH. IT IS USED TO ADD EXPRESSION. VIBRATO IS TYPICALLY CHARACTERISED IN TERMS OF TWO FACTORS: THE AMOUNT OF PITCH VARIATION ( EXTENT OF VIBRATO ) AND THE SPEED WITH WHICH THE PITCH IS VARIED ( RATE OF VIBRATO )**

## SLIDING



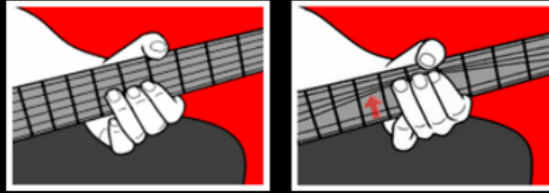
**SLIDING UP**

**SLIDING DOWN**

**SLIDING OCCURS WHEN YOU PLAY A NOTE, EITHER SLIDE UP OR DOWN WITHOUT RELEASING THE NOTE SO, IT WILL SOUND TO THE FRET YOU LAND UP ON. THE SECOND NOTE IS NOT PICKED**



## BENDING



**BENDING IS ONE OF THE MOST UNIQUE TRICKS YOU CAN DO ON THE GUITAR. THEY GIVE YOUR PLAYING A MORE VOCAL AND EMOTIONAL QUALITY. USE THEM AND ABUSE THEM.**

### Bending

There are many ways to bend and are beyond then scope of this book. Experiment but have a look at our lessons explaining bending notes the proper way and also the different types of bends. It's the one thing that makes us guitarists unique, as we are the only instrument that can do this







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