

Slurring Exercise 1

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Slurring is a method of making your playing sound more fluid and smooth, it can also help to increase speed in your riff and lead playing. Guitarists from all styles use slurring techniques.

HAMMER ON

A hammer on is where, after picking a note, you hammer a fretting hand finger on to the same string without re-picking. In order to get the note to sound loud and clear, make sure you use the tip of finger [not the pad] and hammer on as close to the relevant fret as possible. At first you may find this technique easier on the thick strings. The exercise below is taken from the G major pentatonic scale.

Musical notation for Hammer On exercise 1. The top staff is in treble clef, key of G major (one sharp), and 4/4 time. The bottom staff is guitar tablature with strings T, A, B labeled. The exercise consists of three measures. Measure 1: Treble clef has a quarter note G4, followed by a slur over two eighth notes (A4, B4). Tablature shows a triplet of three 0s on the B string, followed by a slur over two notes (0, 2) on the A string, with an 'H' below. Measure 2: Treble clef has a slur over two eighth notes (B4, C5), followed by a slur over two eighth notes (D5, E5). Tablature shows a slur over two notes (0, 2) on the A string, followed by a slur over two notes (0, 2) on the B string, with 'H' below. Measure 3: Treble clef has a slur over two eighth notes (E5, F#5), followed by a slur over two eighth notes (G5, A5). Tablature shows a slur over two notes (0, 3) on the B string, followed by a slur over two notes (0, 3) on the A string, with 'H' below.

Musical notation for Pull Off exercise. The top staff is in treble clef, key of G major (one sharp), and 4/4 time. The bottom staff is guitar tablature with strings T, A, B labeled. The exercise consists of three measures. Measure 1: Treble clef has a slur over two eighth notes (A4, B4), followed by a slur over two eighth notes (C5, D5). Tablature shows a slur over two notes (3, 0) on the B string, followed by a slur over two notes (3, 0) on the A string, with 'P' below. Measure 2: Treble clef has a slur over two eighth notes (D5, E5), followed by a slur over two eighth notes (F#5, G5). Tablature shows a slur over two notes (2, 0) on the B string, followed by a slur over two notes (2, 0) on the A string, with 'P' below. Measure 3: Treble clef has a slur over two eighth notes (G5, A5), followed by a slur over two eighth notes (B4, A4). Tablature shows a slur over two notes (2, 0) on the B string, followed by a slur over two notes (2, 0) on the A string, with 'P' below. The exercise ends with a triplet of three 0s on the B string.

PULL OFF

A pull off is where you first fret a note then pick the same string, whilst the note is still sounding pull the fretting finger downwards until it plucks the string. Make sure you don't just lift your finger off, try to actually pluck the string with you fretting hand finger. At first you may find pull offs easier on the thin strings. The exercise above is also taken from the G major pentatonic scale.