

# String Bends

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The image shows a musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of four quarter notes: G4 (7th fret), G4 (8th fret), G4 (7th fret), and G4 (7th fret). The final note is a semitone bend, indicated by a curved arrow labeled '1/2' pointing upwards. Below the staff is a tablature with three lines labeled T, A, and B. The fret numbers are 7, 8, 7, and 7, corresponding to the notes above. The piece ends with a double bar line.

The example above shows a semitone bend [one fret]. It is very important that you can perform this bend in tune before moving on to the next example.

Play the G string at the 7th fret, followed by the G string at the 8th fret and listen to the two notes. Then play the G string at the 7th fret and push the string up to the pitch of the 8th fret without re-picking. Use your 3rd finger at the 7th fret to execute the bend, with your 1st and 2nd fingers at the 5th and 6th frets on the same string to support the bend. Try to bend from the wrist and keep your 3rd finger as close to the fret wire as you can. It is very important to support the bend and always bend with your 3rd finger until you have mastered the technique.

String bending is used in many styles of guitar playing, but it can sound horrible if the intonation [tuning] is inaccurate, so regular practice is essential.

The image shows a musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of four quarter notes: G4 (7th fret), G4 (9th fret), G4 (7th fret), and G4 (7th fret). The final note is a full tone bend, indicated by a curved arrow labeled 'full' pointing upwards. Below the staff is a tablature with three lines labeled T, A, and B. The fret numbers are 7, 9, 7, and 7, corresponding to the notes above. The piece ends with a double bar line.

The example above shows a tone bend [two frets]. The method is exactly the same as before, however, you are now trying to bend the 7th fret note up to the pitch of the 9th fret. As before play the two notes to get the sound in your head, then try bending the 7th fret to the pitch of the 9th fret. Don't forget to bend from the wrist and support the bend with your other fingers.

When you can achieve accurate bending in the A blues scale, try the same technique all over the fingerboard as the pressure required to execute tone and semitone bends varies depending on which fret you are at.