

The following example demonstrates how a country guitarist might play a progression in the key of G major. Note the use of simple open-position chords and the presence of the root on beats 1, 2, 3, and 4. Hammer-ons are also employed throughout to embellish the basic chord shapes.



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Bending

Accuracy

String bending in country guitar differs from that found in blues and rock in two important ways: accuracy and oblique motion. Accuracy refers to the pitch and stability of the string being bent. Because many country licks involve bending in and out of chord tones it is critical that the string being stretched stay in tune. Oblique motion refers to the technique of playing one or more strings while a bent note is held in place. These bends must be properly intonated as well. To better develop precision and accuracy we will first examine unison bends. In the example below, the note on the third string is pushed up a whole step (two frets) by the third finger (reinforced by the second finger behind). Once the desired pitch is achieved, it is held in place and the same (unison) tone is played by the first finger on the second string. This process is repeated up the neck, outlining a D major pentatonic scale. Listen closely to the bent note and be sure it is identical to the pitch on the second string. Your first finger remains planted throughout, and your second finger is placed a fret below the third for support.



TRACK 39

Diagram illustrating a D7 unison bend exercise. The notation shows a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The exercise is marked with a D7 chord. The tablature (TAB) shows the following fret numbers: 5, 3, 7, 5, 9, 7, 12, 10, 14, 12, 17, 15. The fingering sequence is: 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1. The diagram shows the first finger (1) on the second string and the third finger (3) on the third string, with the third finger bending the note up a whole step (two frets) to match the pitch of the first finger on the second string.

The process is repeated on the first and second strings with slightly different finger spacing. This example outlines a G major pentatonic scale.



TRACK 39
(cont'd)

Diagram illustrating a G7 unison bend exercise. The notation shows a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The exercise is marked with a G7 chord. The tablature (TAB) shows the following fret numbers: 6, 3, 8, 5, 10, 7, 13, 10, 15, 12, 18, 15. The fingering sequence is: 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1. The diagram shows the first finger (1) on the second string and the third finger (3) on the first string, with the third finger bending the note up a whole step (two frets) to match the pitch of the first finger on the second string.