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Lead Guitar

LEVEL 1 • Guitar Skills

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Essentials Part 4

UNIT 4 • **LESSON 2** << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

Bends

Bends can be an extremely challenging technique for most beginners, but once you get them they can bring your lead playing to life! Firstly, let's talk about how to perform the bends:

Top tips

-  Use your third finger to start with, place it on the note (7th fret G string)
-  Position your 1st & 2nd fingers on the same string behind your 3rd finger
-  Pick the note to make sure it is sounding properly
-  Whilst keeping the note sounding, push the string up with all 3 fingers.

We will be looking at the tab for the exercise below, but it is important to know the symbols for bends when reading the tab. They look like this:

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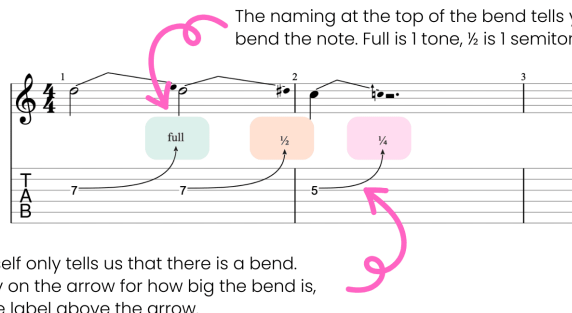
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In this final unit for the essentials course, we will be developing your pentatonic playing even further by adding bends, looking at another solo using all the techniques you have learnt so far, and finally learning a Foo Fighters style rock song!

Lessons:

- **Pentatonic Sequence**
- **Bends**
- **Bends Solo**
- **"Foo Rock"**
- **The Main Riff**
- **The Verse**

The naming at the top of the bend tells you how high to bend the note. Full is 1 tone, $\frac{1}{2}$ is 1 semitone, and $\frac{1}{4}$ is a nudge.



The arrow itself only tells us that there is a bend. We don't rely on the arrow for how big the bend is, that is for the label above the arrow.

We are currently learning a full bend, half bend and quarter bend, each of which is pictured above. The full bend, indicated by the number '1', bends the note up a whole tone (2 frets). The half bend, indicated by the fraction '1/2', takes the note up a semitone (1 fret) and the quarter bend, indicated by the fraction '1/4', simply nudges the note up a little bit before stopping it dead.



“

Your job here is simply to play round with these bends. Do them all over the neck, trying to get them as smooth as possible. In the next lesson we'll put

them into
a more
structured
practice
session!

Dan

”



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