

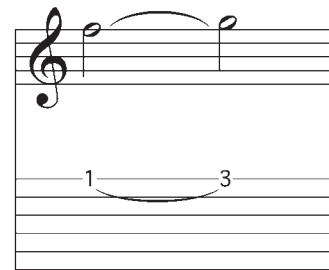
Lesson 34: Slurs (hammer ons and pull offs)

When ever two or more different notes are connected by a bow (slur), only the first one will be plucked by the right hand. The other notes will actually be played by the left hand. When the notes go up in pitch it is called hammer-on. When the notes go down it is a pull off.

Hammer On

For this upward slur, you would play the F first and then place the 3rd finger of the left hand on the 3rd fret with enough speed and force to make the note sound, even though you are not plucking it.

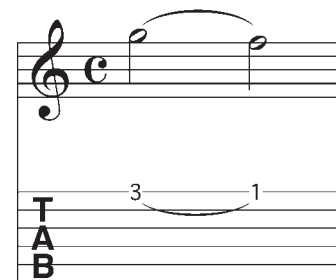
Upward slur (hammer-on)



Pull Off

For the pull off both the first and the 3rd finger have to be on the string. First you play the G, and then you pull the 3rd finger off the string, which will let the F sound.

Downward slur (pull off)



Note:

Slurs will take a long time to perfect. When practicing, be sure not to ruin the rhythm because of left hand difficulties. The 2 exercises on the right should become part of your daily warm up routine.

Lesson 35: Exercises for slurs

The following exercises are shown on the high E-string, but you can replicate them on each string. It is a little harder on the other strings but well worth it. Make this part of your warm up routine.

Lesson 35.1 Pull Offs

Exercise 1

Exercise 1: Pull Offs. The exercise is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of eighth notes: F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4. Slurs are placed over pairs of notes: (F#4, G4), (A4, B4), (A4, G4), and (F#4, E4). Below the staff is a guitar tablature with five lines. The notes are represented by fret numbers: 4, 3, 3, 2, 2, 1, 1, 0. Slurs are placed over pairs of fret numbers: (4, 3), (3, 2), (2, 1), and (1, 0). The tablature is labeled 'TAB' on the left.

Exercise 2

Exercise 2: Pull Offs. The exercise is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of eighth notes: F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4. A slur is placed over the entire sequence of notes. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with five lines. The notes are represented by fret numbers: 4, 3, 2, 1, 0. A slur is placed over the entire sequence of fret numbers.

Lesson 35.2 Hammer Ons

Exercise 1

Exercise 1: Hammer Ons. The exercise is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of eighth notes: F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4. Slurs are placed over pairs of notes: (F#4, G4), (A4, B4), (A4, G4), and (F#4, E4). Below the staff is a guitar tablature with five lines. The notes are represented by fret numbers: 0, 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4. Slurs are placed over pairs of fret numbers: (0, 1), (1, 2), (2, 3), and (3, 4). The tablature is labeled 'TAB' on the left.

Exercise 2

Exercise 2: Hammer Ons. The exercise is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of eighth notes: F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4. A slur is placed over the entire sequence of notes. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with five lines. The notes are represented by fret numbers: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4. A slur is placed over the entire sequence of fret numbers.