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Lead Guitar Techniques

Bendings

Bending is one of the main techniques in most guitar playing. It's used in nearly every song and you can hear it everywhere! With bending it's possible to raise the note you play a semitone or a whole-tone. But you have to practise a little bit to get a clear, good bend. You can support the finger which does the bending with your other fingers to get a good bend. E.g. if you pull a string upward with your ring finger, you can support it with the middle and index finger!

DIFFERENT BENDINGS:

With the "**NORMAL**" Bending you simply hit a note and during the sound of the note, you begin to bend the string up- or downwards to reach another note.

PRE-BENDS: Here you pull up the string, before you hit the string. That means that you only hear the bent note.

RELEASE-BEND: Here you play a normal bend, but during the sound of the bent note, you slowly let the string get back into the normal position without interrupting the sound!

PRACTISE 1 - Half-tone-Bending: We want to bend the G-string on the 7th fret a half-tone higher. To know how the sound of the destination note sounds, you hit the G-string on the 8th fret. Listen to the tone. Then bend the the G-string on the 7th fret until you hear the sound of the note you heard before!

PRACTISE 2 - Whole-tone-Bending: Now we bend a string a whole-tone. Hit the G-String on the 9th fret and listen to the sound of the note. Then you bend the same string on the 7th fret until you hear the same note again that you heard before.

PRACTISE 3 - Bend-and-Release: Play a bend like you've done in Practise 1 or 2 but let the string get back into normal position without interrupting the sound



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Half-Tone Bending

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

7 8 7 7 9 7 7

Full-Tone Bending

Bend-Release

Bend-Release-Bend

10 11 12 1

7 7 7 7