

String Bends, Lesson 1: 'Whole Tone' Or 'Full Step' Bends

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Ex. 1) Fret the G string at the 7th fret, with your 3rd finger. Place your 1st and 2nd fingers on the same string, on the 5th and 6th frets. The note you are playing is a D. Pick the string, then push it string up, using the strength of all three fingers, until it sounds a tone higher (an E note).

The diagram shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. The first measure contains a quarter note on the 7th fret of the G string (D). A slur covers the note and an upward-pointing arrow labeled 'full' indicates a whole tone bend to the 9th fret (E). The second measure contains a whole rest. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with a '7' on the G string line.

Ex. 2) Now we need to work on your pitching - out of tune bends are not much use to you! Play your target note (E) at the 9th fret of the G string. Remember what it sounds like, and then bend the 7th fret note (D) up a tone until it sounds like the target note. Repeat until you get it in tune every time. Make sure you LISTEN!

The diagram shows a musical staff in 2/4 time with a treble clef. The first measure contains a quarter note on the 9th fret of the G string (E). The second measure contains a quarter note on the 7th fret of the G string (D) with an upward-pointing arrow labeled 'full' indicating a whole tone bend to the 9th fret (E). The third measure contains a quarter note on the 9th fret of the G string (E). Below the staff is a guitar tablature with a '9' on the G string line and a '7' on the G string line.

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