

String Bends, Lesson 2: 'Semitone' Or 'Half 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 the string up, using the strength of all three fingers, until it sounds a semitone higher (a D# note).

The diagram shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. The first measure contains a quarter note on the G string at the 7th fret, which is a D. A slur is placed over this note and a second note, a D# (one semitone higher), which is also a quarter note. An arrow labeled '1/2' points from the D note to the D# note. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with three lines labeled T, A, and B. The 7th fret is marked 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 (D#) at the 8th fret of the G string. Remember what it sounds like, and then bend the 7th fret note (D) up a semitone 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 and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first measure contains a quarter note on the G string at the 8th fret, which is a D#. A slur is placed over this note and a second note, a D# (one semitone higher), which is also a quarter note. An arrow labeled '1/2' points from the D# note to the second D# note. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with three lines labeled T, A, and B. The 8th fret is marked on the G string line, and the 7th fret is marked on the G string line.

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