

# String Bends, Lesson 5: 'Quarter Tone' Or 'Blues' 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 two tones higher (an F# 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, labeled 'D'. A slur covers the next two measures, which contain a quarter note on the G string at the 7th fret, labeled 'F#'. An arrow points from the 7th fret note to the 8th fret note, labeled '1/4'. Below the staff is a tablature with three lines labeled 'T', 'A', and 'B'. The 7th fret is marked on the top line (T).

Ex. 2) Now we need to work on your pitching! Play a D# note at the 8th fret of the G string. Remember what it sounds like, and then bend the 7th fret note (D) up a quarter tone. This is the equivalent to half a fret! If you reach D#, you have gone too far, and need to bend the string less. 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, labeled 'D#'. A slur covers the next two measures, which contain a quarter note on the G string at the 7th fret, labeled 'D', and a quarter note on the G string at the 7th fret, labeled 'D#'. An arrow points from the 7th fret note to the 8th fret note, labeled '1/4'. Below the staff is a tablature with three lines labeled 'T', 'A', and 'B'. The 8th fret is marked on the top line (T) and the 7th fret is marked on the middle line (A).

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