

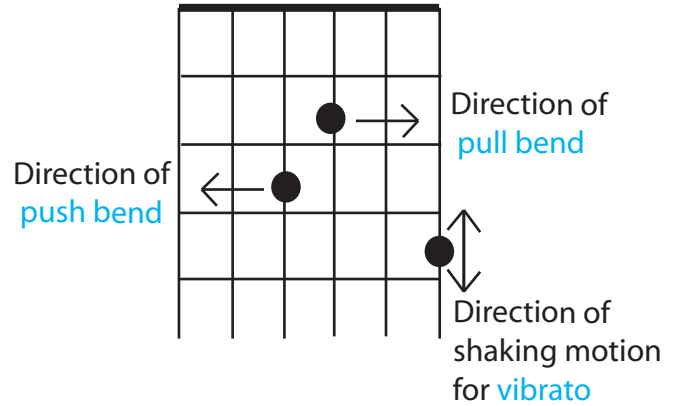
Guitar Techniques

Lesson 26

Some styles of guitar playing, particularly blues and rock, often **bend the pitch** of a note by pulling or pushing the string to the side with the left hand finger while playing it. The motion for bending is perpendicular to the string.

Some styles, particularly classical, add **vibrato** to the note by shaking the left hand rapidly while playing the note. The motion for vibrato is in the same direction as the string.

There are many styles of bending and ways to notate it, depending on the genre of the music. Vibrato is normally not notated, just added as the performer likes.



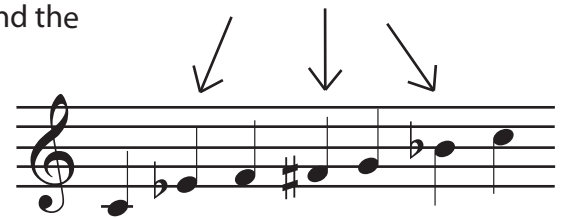
Music Theory for Guitar

Bends are often used with blues, and blues-influenced genres such as rock.

The blues originated with African traditions brought to the U.S. These traditions used different scales and tuning than the European major-minor-equal-half-step tradition associated with common notation. So blues musicians often bend the "blue" notes (for example, a third that is in between the major and minor) in order to get a more authentic blues sound.

To get accustomed to this tuning and technique, watch famous blues guitarists, and listen to good blues musicians on any instrument (including voice).

Blue Notes use a specific non-equal-temperament tuning*



Chords

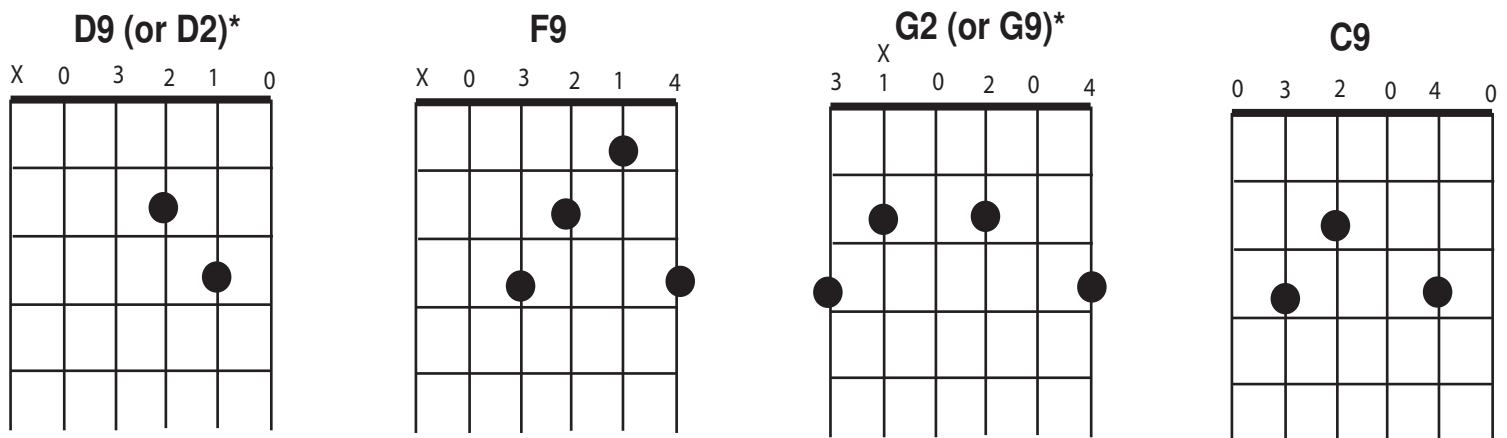
When the second note of the scale is added to the chord (the note that's two half steps higher than the chord root), the number 2 or 9 is added to the chord symbol.

As much as possible, a "2" should be added lower in the chord than a "9", but should not replace the root bass..

Both may be labelled a **suspension (sus)**, which means the note should be resolved downward (2 followed by 1, 9 followed by 8).

Picking pattern 5: p i m p a m i m

The first p should be the chord root, the second a different string.



*A lower 2 would interfere too much with the bass/root D.

*If you're picking, you can make this chord easier by leaving out the fifth string.

*learn more about different tuning systems: <http://cnx.org/content/m11639/latest/>