

# Slides in G major

In this lesson we will be further developing our ability to play slide in lead phrasing and soloing. The exercises in this lesson integrate (combine) the use of slides and picking to create horizontal licks.

These exercises will help you in the following ways;

- 1) It will take your slide guitar skills to an infinitely higher level. Some musical pieces only use a slide very sparingly, this exercise is all about slides and forces you to concentrate on using the technique often. This will make you more confident when using slides in your own soloing.
- 2) It will help you to visualize the fretboard and see where all the notes of the A Minor Pentatonic are on the fretboard.
- 3) Play horizontally and break out of the pentatonic box patterns we have previously worked on. Fretboard freedom is important so that you aren't stuck in one position. Playing cover songs, improvising and creating solos will be much easier if you know how to navigate the fretboard.

## **Depending on your skill level I want you to practice this in different ways.**

### **1. New to slides**

Do not play to the recordings, practice applying enough pressure with your finger to slide to another note and go through the exercises very slowly.

### **2. Some experience with slides but not much**

Do not play to the recordings. Practice the exercises slowly and focus on developing your skills to do slides on one string and then moving to another string without stopping.

### **3. Comfortable with slides**

Use the 70 BPM recording and practice playing tight to the rhythm.

### **4. Slide master**

I want you to go for an Olympic record. Get a metronome and push your max speed and consistency to new heights and record yourself for your next lesson.

There are three exercises, each should be practiced separately. I want you to practice the following exercises for 10-15 minutes every day;

# Slides in G major

In this first exercise we are going to play triplets, three notes for each beat, to ascend a G major scale starting on the E note (second fret D string). To get the timing right for the triplet, think of the word pine-ap-ple. Each syllable represents a note and you simply start each triplet to the beat of the music. Have a listen to the recording provided to hear this exercise.

## Ascending G major triplet slides

The musical notation shows an ascending G major scale starting on E2 (second fret D string) in 4/4 time. The scale is divided into two measures. The first measure contains three triplets of eighth notes: E2 (sl.), F#2 (sl.), G2 (sl.). The second measure contains three triplets of eighth notes: A2 (sl.), B2 (sl.), C3 (sl.). Below the treble staff is a guitar fretboard diagram for strings T, A, and B. The diagram shows fret numbers for each note: E2 (2), F#2 (4), G2 (4), A2 (5), B2 (7), C3 (5), D3 (7), E3 (9), F#3 (10), G3 (9), A3 (10), B3 (12), C4 (11), D4 (12). Slashes indicate slides between notes.

On the first note (second fret D string) you should use your ring finger to fret. Pick this note and then slide by keeping the pressure down on your ring finger while sliding your finger up to the fourth fret while the note is still ringing. For the third note (second fret G String) use your index finger to fret and pick this third note.

Notice that we used the index finger for the third note because it was 2 frets back from the second note (fourth fret D string). Remember this for later in the exercise.

In the second triplet, you start by using your ring finger again, picking the note and sliding up to the fifth fret. This time when we pick the third note (fourth fret D string) we are going to use the middle finger.

Notice that we used the middle finger for the third note because it was 1 fret back from the second note (fifth fret D string).

As you continue this scale the ring finger will play the first note for each triplet pattern and you will have to choose the appropriate finger, index or middle, for the last note.

# Slides in G major

## Descending G major triplet slides

In this second exercise we are going to play triplets, three notes per beat, descending the G major scale starting on the G string this time.

On the first note use your index finger to fret the note and slide down to the second note (11<sup>th</sup> fret G string). The third note is picked and should be played with the middle finger.

Notice that we used the middle finger for the third note as it is one fret higher than the second note (11<sup>th</sup> fret G string). Remember this for later in the exercise.

For the second triplet, use the index finger for the first note. Slide down to the second note (9<sup>th</sup> fret G string) and then use your ring finger to play the third note and pick it.

Notice that we used the ring finger for the third note of this triplet as it is two frets lower than the second note (9<sup>th</sup> fret G string).

As you continue this scale the index finger will play the first note for each triplet pattern and you will have to choose the appropriate finger, middle or ring, for the last note.

# Slides in G major

**Etude in G major**

The image shows a musical score for an etude in G major. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff with a 3/4 time signature and a guitar tablature staff below it. The first system contains six measures. Measures 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 each feature an ascending triplet of eighth notes with a slide ('sl.') above the first note. Measure 4 features a descending triplet of eighth notes with a slide ('sl.') above the first note. The second system contains five measures. Measures 7, 8, 9, and 10 each feature an ascending triplet of eighth notes with a slide ('sl.') above the first note. Measure 11 features a descending triplet of eighth notes with a slide ('sl.') above the first note. A note in measure 11 is marked with a note head and a sharp sign, and a text annotation 'You can use legato or pick this note' points to it. The guitar tablature shows fret numbers and slide directions (upward and downward arrows) for each note.

In this exercise we are going to combine ascending and descending patterns to play an etude, a short musical piece made for practicing.

The techniques for this exercise are the same as the last two exercises however you will want to use the ring finger for the first note in every triplet, including the descending slides.

In the last triplet in the last bar there is no slide, you can simply pick these three notes or you can use a pull off from the first note to the second note.