

Legato

Artificial Intelligence on “How to Practice Legato on Guitar”:

Learning legato technique on guitar involves developing smooth and flowing lines by using hammer-ons, pull-offs, and slides. Here are some tips to help you get started:

Practice your scales: Legato technique requires a solid foundation of scales. Practice your scales with a metronome to ensure accuracy and consistent timing.

Start slow: Focus on accuracy and control rather than speed. Start at a slow tempo and gradually increase the speed as you become more comfortable with the technique.

Use proper finger placement: Place your fingers close to the frets to ensure clear notes and reduce finger fatigue.

Practice hammer-ons and pull-offs: These are the foundation of legato playing. Practice hammering on and pulling off with different combinations of fingers and across different strings.

Incorporate slides: Slides can add smoothness and fluidity to your playing. Practice sliding up and down the fretboard with different finger combinations.

Use a light touch: Legato technique requires a light touch to achieve a smooth, flowing sound. Use only as much pressure as necessary to fret the note.

Analyze and imitate: Study the playing of guitarists known for their legato technique, such as Joe Satriani, Steve Vai, and Allan Holdsworth. Analyze their playing and try to imitate their techniques.

Remember, learning legato technique takes time and practice, so be patient and persistent in your efforts.

My Notes:

- definition "one articulation followed by a seamless, smooth, rhythmically solid series of hammer-ons and pull-offs"
- people under-utilize legato (see Alan Holdsworth, Steve Vai, Joe Satriani)

- getting started:

play string 1 fret 8
hammer to 10
hammer to 12
don't move first finger, it stays for leverage
pick once plus two hammer-ons
play it slowly, letting each note ring
relax the finger behind the doing the hammer
rest pick on 2nd string

- move same exercise to frets 7, 8 & 10
- move same exercise to frets 5, 7 & 8
- pull-off is a flick-off, not just up and off
- use different backing tracks & match the rhythm
- for ideal hammer-on tension, find amount just above when string would buzz
- rest pick on string below
- for pull-offs keep wrist bent and thumb down so fingers have less distance to move
- keep 2 hands in sync (i.e. between picked notes and legato notes)
- don't have to play legato with fast notes, but do have move fingers fast so keep them close to frets; fast, not hard (like when you snap your fingers, you must move them fast and pressing harder will not help at all); so take 2 notes, once you decide to do it, do it fast
- have a light touch; pick lighter as well so your legato notes don't have to get to same volume as a note that's picked hard
- could practice pull-offs only, which are usually a little weaker than hammer-ons, and get the volume even between the picked and pulled-off notes
- can also alternate picking i.e. pick down 1 note plus 2 notes legato, pick up one note plus 2 notes legato (ex: string 1 frets 5, 7, 8 then 7, 8, 10)
- play 4-note sequences such as 8, 10, 12, 10 and take this sequence to any 3-note sequence in Am (ex: frets 7, 8, 10, 8 then 5, 7, 8, 7 etc.)

- can even try to do one sequence multiple times with only 1 picked note at the beginning
- lead with finger 1 when ascending and 4 when descending
- hardest part of legato is fatigue; ex: D string frets 5, 7 & 8 try to make them sound without picking at all as an exercise to how effortless it can be
- practice legato plus slides, legato plus bends, legato plus arpeggios, legato plus string skipping, legato plus pedal tone, etc.
- legato combined with slides: a very rapid slide between 2 frets can substitute for a trill; this is easier when elbow is out and thumb is off while picking arm holds guitar steady; use any finger you want; nice on 2 to b3 or 5 to b6 on minor chord; use an aggressive slide to get note started without picking, then continue

ex: top string:

play fret 7
 hammer to 8
 hammer to 10
 pull off to 8
 slide to 10
 slide to 8
 pull to 7

repeat in Am all over the neck

- integrate legato with slides, vibrato & bends ex: Bm slide on string 2 to fret 7, bend to fret 8 then continue with legato lines