

Slurring "from" or "to" Open Strings

The slurs are marked with a "tie" between two notes of different pitch. Some publications mark the slur below or above the "note beams" as shown in the 2nd measure. I prefer the slur between notes.

"Ascending" slurs from the open string: performed with a "hammer-on" technique. Strike the first note and then hammer the finger for the following note on to the desired fret. When you have read the study once or twice you will notice that there indeed is a pattern to the exercise.

String 1: 0 1 0 2 0 3 0 4 | 0 4 0 3 0 2 0 1

String 2: 0 1 0 2 0 3 0 4 | 0 4 0 3 0 2 0 1

String 3: 0 1 0 2 0 3 0 4 | 0 4 0 3 0 2 0 1

"Descending" slurs are performed with a "pull-off" technique. For all practical purposes, one might say that you are picking the note with the left hand. The "pull-off" technique is easy enough on the first string but is considerably more difficult on the inside strings. A teacher demonstration may be the best here.

String 1: 1 0 2 0 3 0 4 0 | 4 0 3 0 2 0 1 0

String 2: 1 0 2 0 3 0 4 0 | 4 0 3 0 2 0 1 0

String 3: 1 0 2 0 3 0 4 0 | 4 0 3 0 2 0 1 0

Yes, it is the same pattern on each string.

Here, the ascending and descending slurs are performed in sequence.

String 1: 0 1 1 0 0 2 2 0 | 0 3 3 0 0 4 4 0 | 0 4 4 0 etc

String 2: 0 1 1 0 0 2 2 0 | 0 3 3 0 0 4 4 0 | 0 4 4 0 etc

String 3: 0 1 1 0 0 2 2 0 | 0 3 3 0 0 4 4 0 | 0 4 4 0 etc

Now the descending and ascending slurs are played in sequence. (Much more difficult for some reason.)

String 1: 1 0 0 1 2 0 0 2 | 3 0 0 3 4 0 0 4 | 4 0 0 4 3 0 etc

String 2: 1 0 0 1 2 0 0 2 | 3 0 0 3 4 0 0 4 | 4 0 0 4 3 0 etc

String 3: 1 0 0 1 2 0 0 2 | 3 0 0 3 4 0 0 4 | 4 0 0 4 3 0 etc

Practice the last two patterns on all six strings. Picking can be all down or all upstrokes and alternating. To say that these studies are somewhat unmusical would be absolutely correct. The main purpose of the slur is to place the accent on the struck note. The struck note is usually louder than the slurred note. Guitar players also use slurs to get out of difficult picking situations. Turn on the distortion and you might never have to actually pick any note.