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Hakan İzzet Mola

Pull off

The pull-off technique is one of the fundamental methods used in guitar playing to create a legato expression. The term comes from the English words “pull” and “off,” and it refers to the action of removing the finger from the string in a sudden yet controlled manner while creating a slight pulling motion.

This motion allows the lower note to sound without striking the string again with the pick. In this technique, the initial note is played with the pick, after which the fretting-hand finger is deliberately released so that a lower fretted note on the same string, or an open string, can sound.

In this respect, the pull-off technique is functionally the opposite of the hammer-on technique.

Pull-offs make it possible for notes to sound connected and fluid, especially in fast melodic transitions, riffs, and solo passages. As a result, your guitar playing becomes cleaner, more expressive, and more impactful.

In addition, by combining hammer-ons and pull-offs, you can create legato runs, meaning sequences of connected notes. This is one of the fundamental elements of dynamic solos, particularly in genres such as rock, blues, and metal.

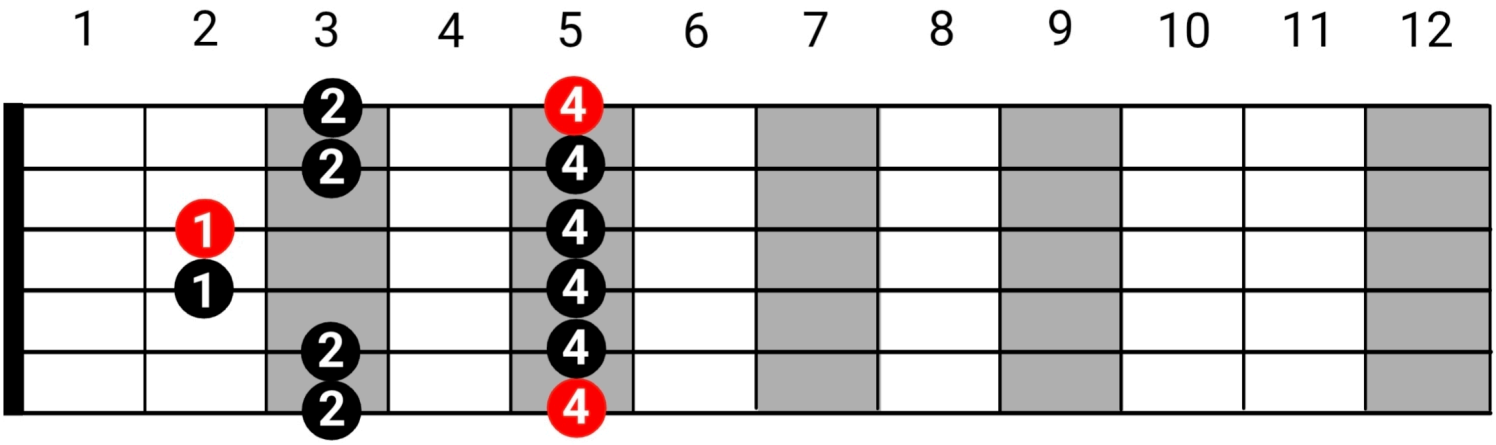
Hammer-ons are relatively easier to execute compared to pull-offs. The main difficulty with pull-offs is that the finger involved must perform a more complex motion than in a hammer-on.

A good pull-off can be identified as follows:

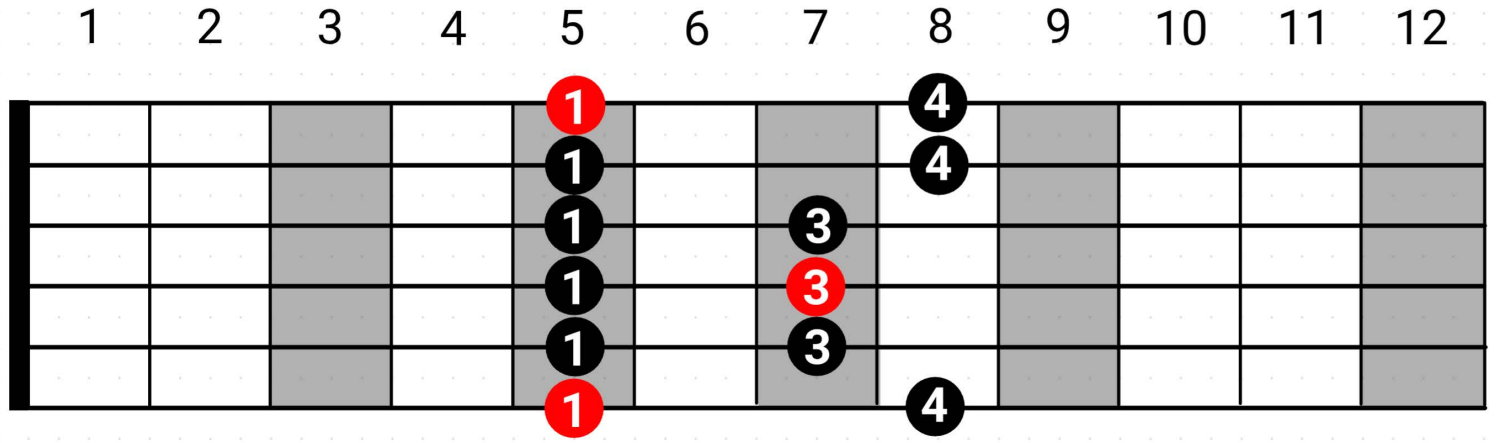
- Play the two notes separately in sequence.
- Then play the second note using a pull-off.
- If the notes sound equally clean and remain consistent in rhythm, the technique is being applied correctly.

The nine exercises below are prepared using the same approach as the previous hammer-on exercises. Practice slowly and with a metronome.

A Minor Pentatonic Second Position

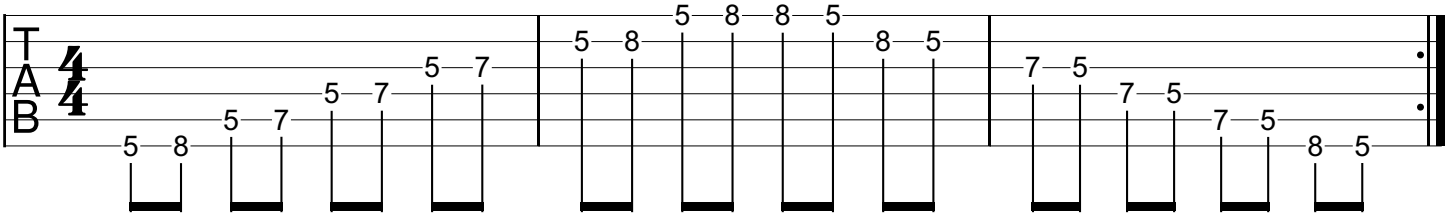


A Minor Pentatonic Third Position



Exercises

1.Exercise



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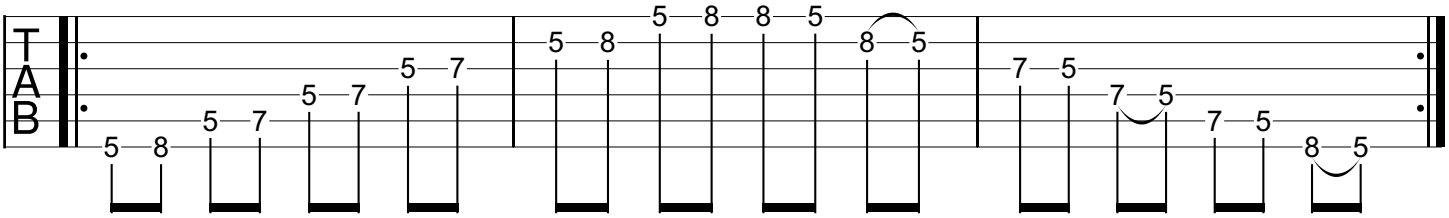

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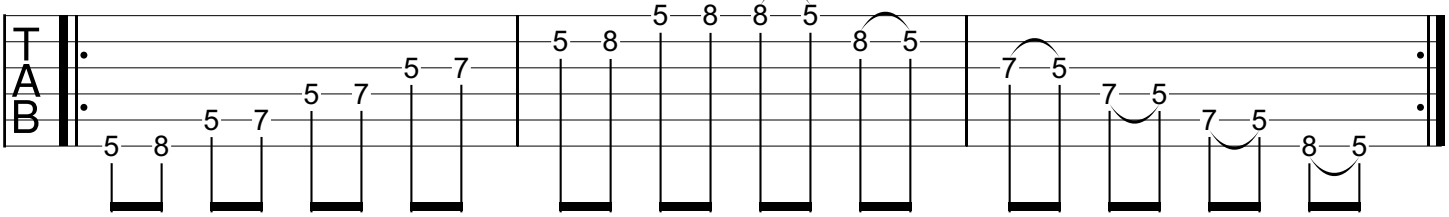

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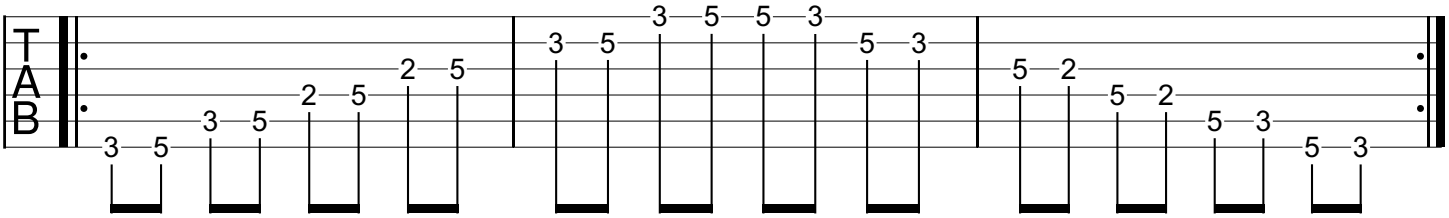

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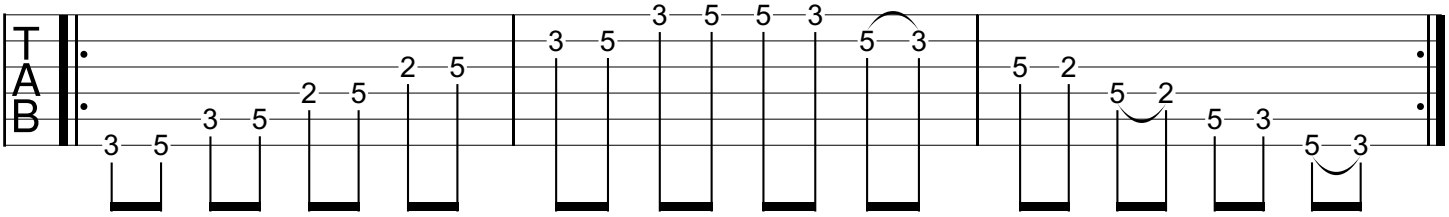

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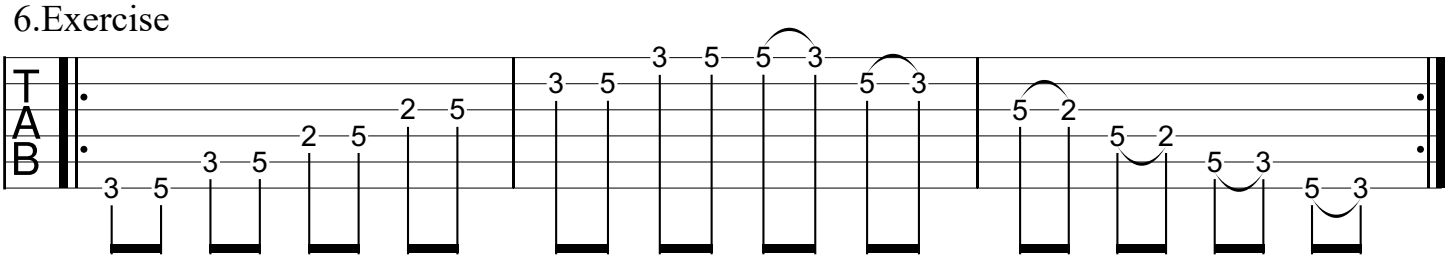

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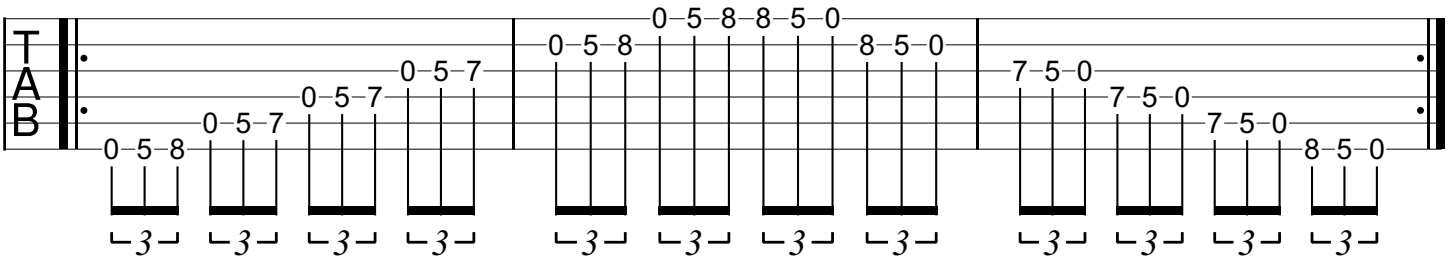
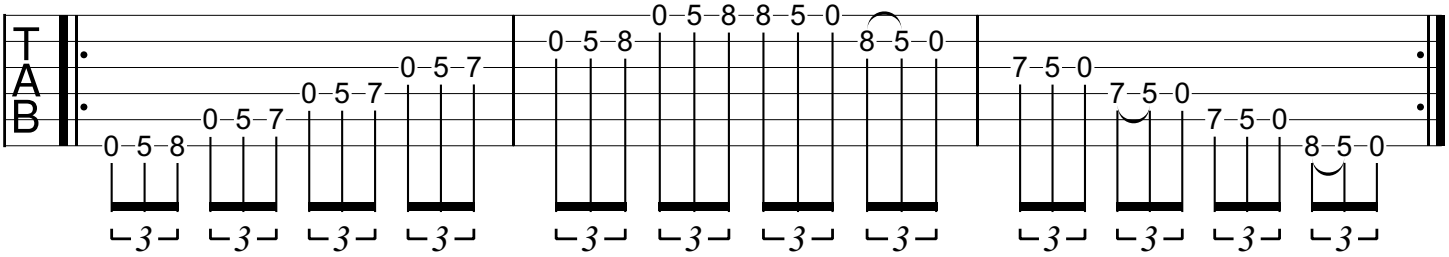
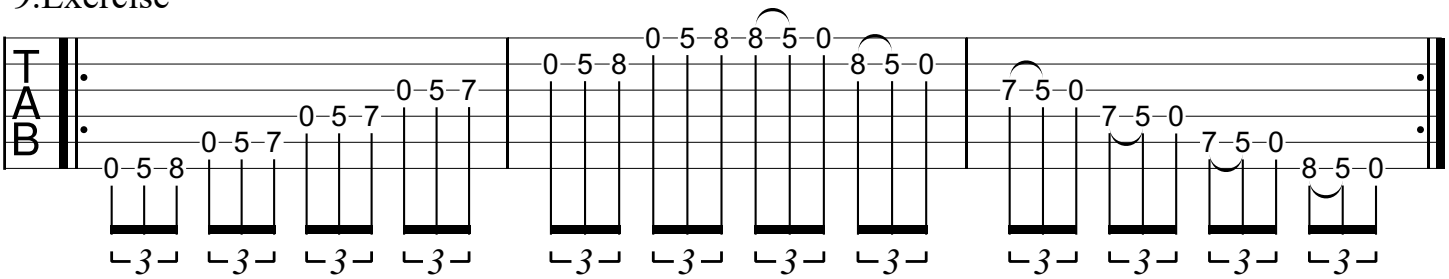


8.Exercise



9.Exercise