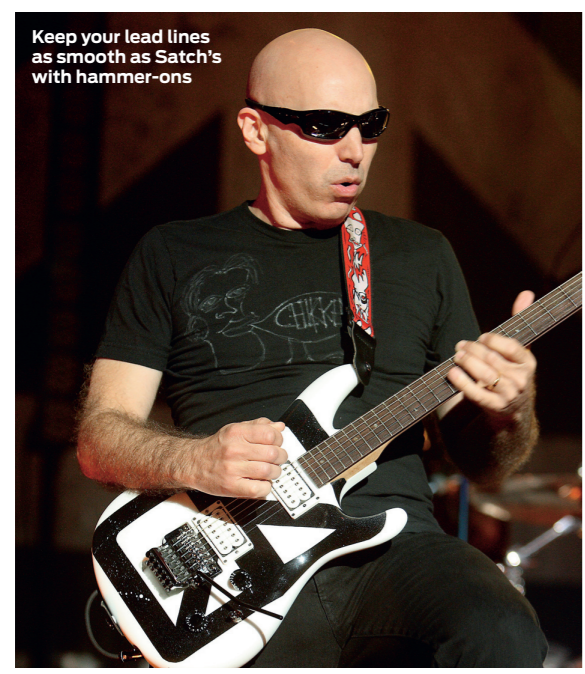


BEGINNER'S ON YOUR TG CD

Electric Guitar

Easy video lessons to get you started on the electric



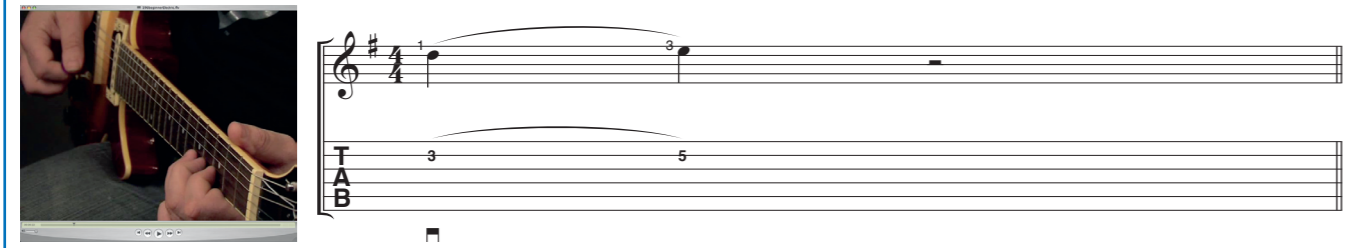
Keep your lead lines as smooth as Satch's with hammer-ons

Hammer-ons

Learning hammer-ons is a vital approach to master if you want to play lead guitar solos. It's a common technique that pretty much everyone who's ever played a guitar solo has used at some point. The idea behind hammer-ons is that you pick one note and then use a fret-hand finger (the finger you use depends on the distance between the frets you are playing) to hammer down on to the note that follows, instead of picking the string again. The force of your finger impacting on the string creates the second note. You need to develop strength and dexterity in your fret hand fingers to play effective hammer-ons. Examples 1 to 4 below will help train you up so that your hammer-ons are powerful and accurate. Remember that you only pick the first note of each pair. This means the first note will be dying out by the time you play the hammer-on. A good hard thwack on the string helps your hammer-ons ring out. Make sure that you hold your finger down firmly to help the hammered note ring out. If you play timidly or lift off a little bit then your hammer-ons will die out. Make sure you place your hammering finger just behind the fretwire too. The further back you place your finger, the more likely you are to fluff the hammer-on. ■

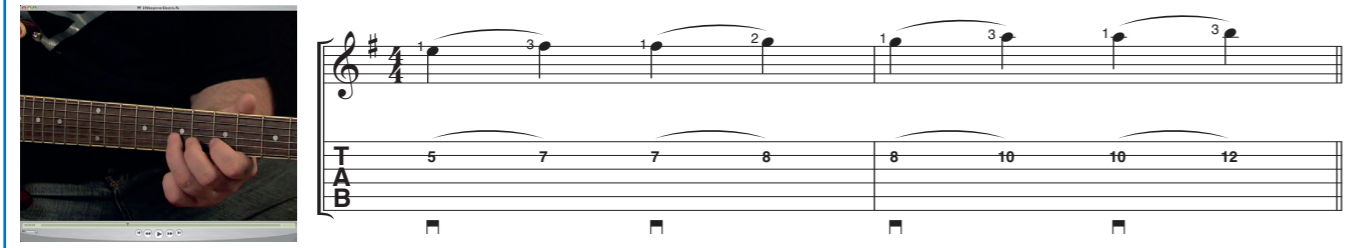
- AFTER THIS LESSON YOU'LL KNOW HOW TO**
- ✓ Play a simple hammer-on
 - ✓ Play hammer-ons using any finger
 - ✓ Play a four-bar solo that makes use of hammer-ons

EXAMPLE 1: hammer-on ON YOUR TGCD



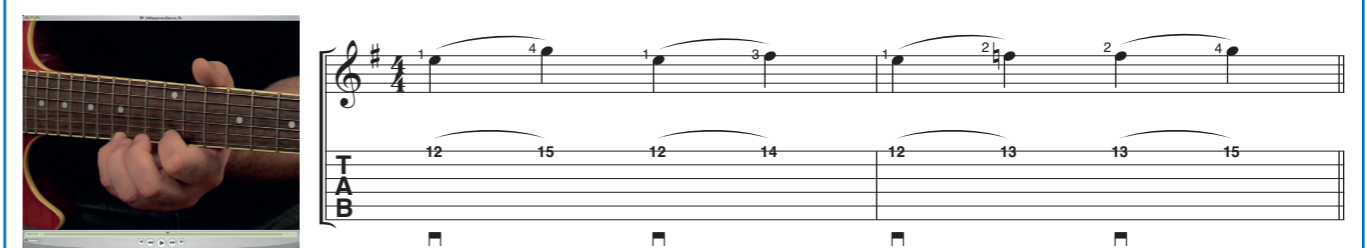
This example is a hammer-on from the 3rd to the 5th fret on the second string. Play the 3rd fret D note with your first finger and use your pick to pluck the string. As the 3rd fret D note rings out, 'hammer' down on the 5th fret E note with your third finger.

EXAMPLE 2: moving hammer-ons ON YOUR TGCD



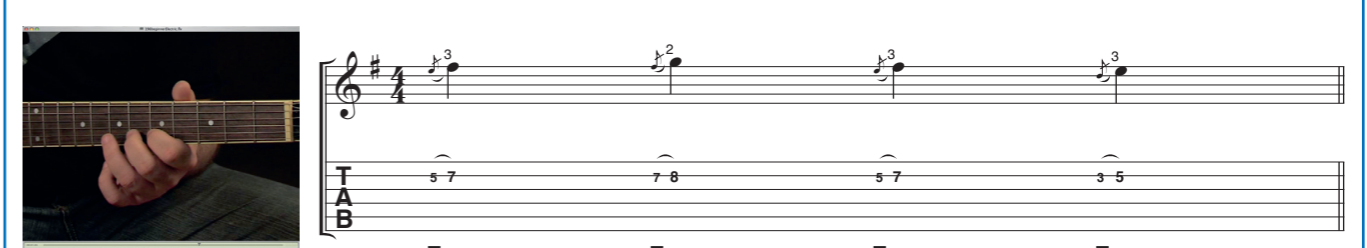
Play the hammer-ons just as you did in Example 1 – by picking the first of each pair of notes, then hammering on to the next note. Notice that the second hammer-on here is only a one-fret gap not two, so hammer on from your first to your second finger.

EXAMPLE 3: using all your fingers ON YOUR TGCD



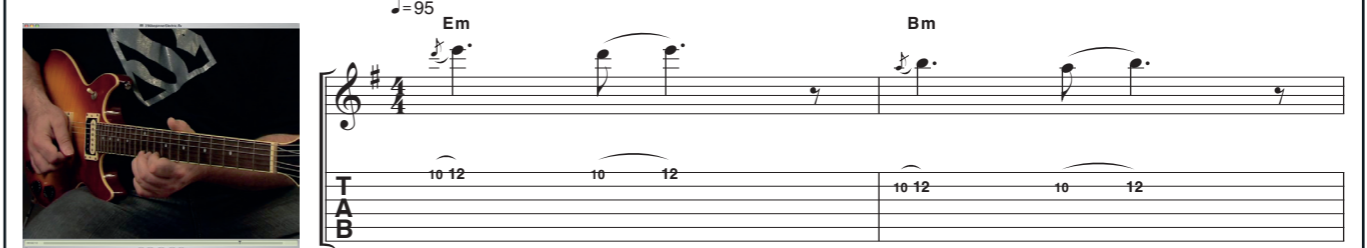
The first three hammer-ons all involve your first finger plus one other. If you like, try repeating these first three hammer-ons over and again before you try the final one. This is a good exercise and it's quite easy to get into a groove as you repeat the sequence. The last hammer-on involves your second and fourth fingers. Don't worry if you struggle with this hammer-on – it takes most guitarists a while to develop fourth finger strength so just persevere and spend a few minutes on this every day.

EXAMPLE 4: fast hammer-ons ON YOUR TGCD



The small note in the standard notation (called a 'grace note') tells you that the first note of each pair is meant to be played as quickly as possible. This might sound like a challenge but sometimes it's easier to play hammer-ons quickly because the speed involved helps you generate a really strong hammer-on. Practise this exercise and try to hammer on to the second note as quickly as possible. As you gain confidence with speed, go back to Example 3 and play each hammer-on as quickly as you can.

EXAMPLE 5: backing track ON YOUR TGCD



This issue's track involves a few hammer-ons in different places on the fretboard. Some are slow and rhythmic (like Examples 1 to 3) and some are played more quickly (like Example 4). You should remember that the small 'grace notes' in the notation tell you to play quick hammer-ons – the first hammer-ons in bars 1, 2 and 3 are all played this way. It's not too important whether you pick with downstrokes or upstrokes here, just remember that you *must* pick the first note of each pair.