



The image shows two systems of musical notation for guitar. The first system, measures 14-16, is in the key of C major. Measure 14 has a C chord and a melodic line starting on the open string (0), moving to the 2nd fret (2), then back to the open string (0). A blue circle highlights the pull-off from the 2nd fret to the open string. Measure 15 continues the melodic line with notes on the 2nd fret (2), open string (0), 2nd fret (2), and open string (0). Measure 16 has a C chord and a melodic line starting on the open string (0), moving to the 2nd fret (2), then back to the open string (0). The second system, measures 17-18, is in the key of G7. Measure 17 has a G7 chord and a melodic line starting on the open string (0), moving to the 1st fret (1), then back to the open string (0). A blue circle highlights the pull-off from the 1st fret to the open string. Measure 18 continues the melodic line with notes on the 1st fret (1), 2nd fret (2), 3rd fret (3), and 2nd fret (2). The guitar tablature below each system shows the fret numbers for each string (T, A, B) and includes pick attack symbols (picks and 'v' for vibrato).

When you do these pull-offs, do them sharply and cleanly and within the timing of the song.

A pull-off is best done this way:

Pick the first note of the pull-off in the normal way.

Allow for the full timing of the first note to finish - At first this may seem like a delay to you. To clarify how this should sound, play the notes without the pull-off, in other words, pick both notes. When you know what it is to sound like, try it with the pull-off and make the pull-off sound just like the picked notes.

Pull-offs are done in 2 ways. The first, which I use is to pull your finger off the string toward the palm of your hand.

The second is to push the string with your finger away from the palm of your hand. It is a matter of personal preference which way you do this and boils down to which way works best for you and your playing style.

A hammer-on is done this way:

Pick the first note of the hammer-on in the normal way.

Allow for the full timing of the first note to finish - At first this may seem like a delay to you. To clarify how this should sound, play the notes without the hammer-on, in other words, pick both notes. When you know what it is to sound like, try it with the hammer-on and make the hammer-on sound just like the picked notes.

Hammer-On's and Pull-off's Look Alike to me, What do I do?

It's true that in most notation you will see no hint, at least directly that a double note is a hammer-on or a pull-off.

The easy way to detect this is that with a hammer-on the second note is always higher in pitch than the first note.

With a pull-off the second note is always lower in pitch than the first note.