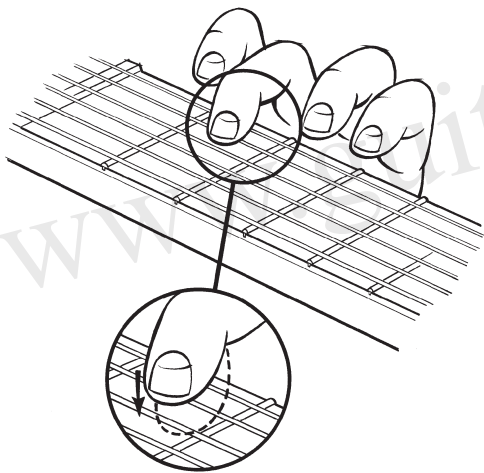


Slurs

The ‘Hammer-on’ Slur

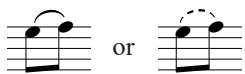


You have already learnt that a curved line joining two notes of the same pitch is called a tie. However, a curved line that joins notes of two *different* pitches is called a **slur** (or *ligado*). When you see this, play the first note as usual, but sound the second note using only your left-hand finger. For ascending slurs this is done by hammering the finger onto the string (see pic.). Descending slurs (see p35) are played by pulling the string downwards to sound the new note. The ascending slur is probably the easier of the two types, so we’ll begin with that. The effect of the slur is to make a smooth *legato* join between the two notes.

27 Slur Exercises

Technique

- Hammer down onto the string using the tip of your finger, not the side.
- Do not snatch at the note! The movement must always be controlled and in strict rhythm.



Slurs can also be notated with a broken curved line between the note heads.

1. 

2. 



28

Air

H. Purcell
(1659–1695)

This well known ‘Air’ (It. *aria* = a simple tune) by Purcell makes a great exercise for the ascending slur. The key is Dm, which means you must play all the Bs as B^bs.

