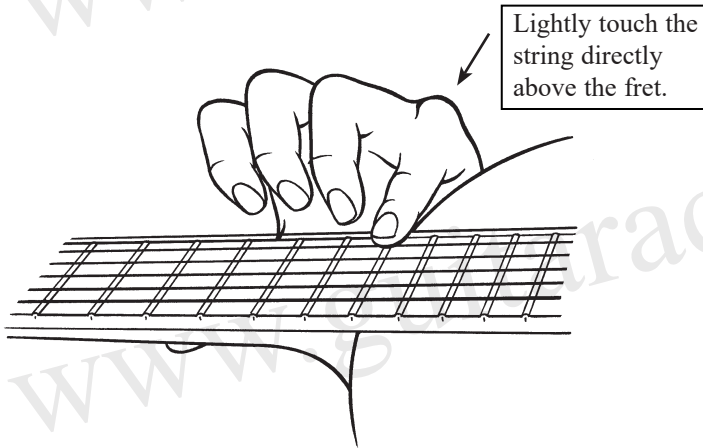


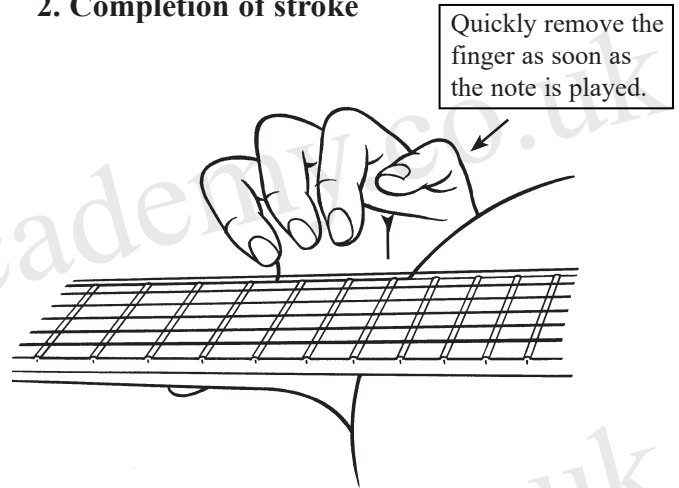
Natural Harmonics

There's a particular type of note on a guitar called a **harmonic**. This has a delicate, bell-like sound. The pictures below show you how to play a harmonic: Touch the string lightly with the left-hand finger (do not press down) directly over the fret (the best place to begin is the 12th fret), pluck the string with the right hand, and then quickly remove the left-hand finger to allow the harmonic to ring out. The strongest sounding harmonic is found at the 12th fret, the next strongest is at the 7th fret, and after that the 5th.

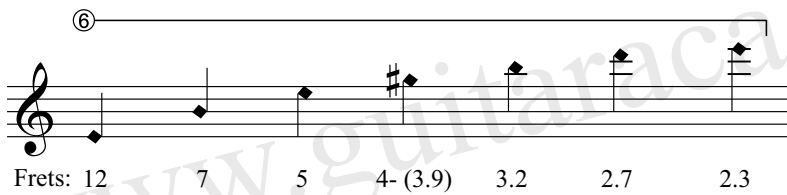
1. Preparation of stroke



2. Completion of stroke



Harmonic Series



The harmonics shown here are all played on the 6th string and make up a **harmonic series**. The first three harmonics are played exactly over the fret, while the others can be found at various fractions between the frets, as indicated. Producing a clear sound for the higher harmonics becomes progressively more difficult – plucking closer to the bridge should help.

How Harmonics are Written

There are, rather confusingly, several ways to notate harmonics. They are usually indicated by a diamond-shaped note head, but the way in which their pitch is shown varies. One method is to write them an octave below their sounding pitch. An alternative method in common use (and my preferred method) is to write the pitch as it sounds, and add accompanying instructions to show the string and fret number, as notated below.



Big Ben Chimes

You learnt the tune *Big Ben* in GA Bk 1. In this version the use of harmonics gives an appropriate bell-like quality to the sound.

