

Lesson 3 Double Stops

Double Stops is guitar terminology for playing two strings simultaneously. It is just two notes being played at the same time. They are typically played on adjacent strings but not always. They can be played up, down, and across the neck. Double stops sound good because they add harmonies. They are used in all different types of music. They sound really good because they generally add harmony to a single string. You can play double stops many different ways. I use a couple different pick techniques when playing double stops. Often I use my pick and middle finger than other times I use middle and ring fingers. Let's look at a few different examples.

This lick uses hammer on licks mixed with harmony. You may recognize this classic rock intro.

Lick 8 Hammered On Harmony

The musical notation for Lick 8 is in 4/4 time with a treble clef and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The notation includes a staff with notes and a tablature staff with fret numbers for strings T, A, and B. The lick consists of four measures, each starting with a double stop on strings 8 and 10, followed by a hammer-on on string 8. The fret numbers for the double stops are 8-10, 7-9, 6-7, and 5-7. The fret numbers for the hammer-ons are 8, 7, 5, and 8.

Here is a lick using classic country double stops. This is a combination of single notes and double stops. I used middle and ring finger to play the double stops in this lick.

Lick 9 Classic Country Double Stops

The musical notation for Lick 9 is in 4/4 time with a treble clef and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The notation includes a staff with notes and a tablature staff with fret numbers for strings T, A, and B. The lick consists of two measures. The first measure has a double stop on strings 14 and 15, followed by a double stop on strings 13 and 14, and then a double stop on strings 12 and 11. The second measure has a double stop on strings 8 and 9, followed by a double stop on strings 7 and 5, and then a double stop on strings 7 and 7. The fret numbers for the double stops are 14-15, 13-14, 12-11, 8-9, 7-5, and 7-7.

Here is a lick you could hear in a more modern country song.

Lick 10 Modern Double Stop

The musical notation for Lick 10 is in 4/4 time with a treble clef and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The notation includes a staff with notes and a tablature staff with fret numbers for strings T, A, and B. The lick consists of two measures. The first measure has a double stop on strings 1 and 2, followed by a double stop on strings 3 and 3, and then a double stop on strings 4 and 6. The second measure has a double stop on strings 5 and 5, followed by a double stop on strings 6 and 7, and then a double stop on strings 7 and 8. The fret numbers for the double stops are 1-2, 3-3, 4-6, 5-5, 6-7, and 7-8.