

Funk String Popping

One of the best sounding and relatively easy techniques that make for great guitar sounds is string popping. Whether you're playing some Stevie Wonder funk or chickin' pickin' a country song, this technique will add a unique color to your playing and should be in every guitar player's bag of tricks.

Funk String Popping Lick

This two bar lick shown in the video is in the key of E. It utilizes several techniques besides the string popping including hammer-ons, pull-offs, and bends. Here is the basic lick. Embellish it as much as you want!

Funk String Popping Technique

Pop with your middle finger as shown in the video. When popping, the string should contact the string at the point where the nail meets the flesh of the finger. Then pull the string up and let the string pop back onto the frets and fretboard.

Growing the nail out a bit on your fingers helps grab the string to make for an effective popping action. Practice slowly until you get the motion down then gradually speed the motion up.

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Steve Krenz

As an educator, Steve is best known for the top-selling guitar instruction course, **Gibson's Learn & Master Guitar** that received the 2011 Acoustic Guitar Magazine Player's Choice Award for Best Instructional Material. As a professional guitarist in Nashville, Steve's broad playing experience includes playing guitar with a symphony orchestra, to jazz big bands, to performing with numerous Grammy-winning artists like Donna Summer, Michael W. Smith, Bryan White, The Fifth Dimension, Israel Houghton, Tommy Sims and American Idol finalist Melinda Doolittle.

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