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Track 2

## **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to *Acoustic Slide Guitar*. This book will guide you through the long and varied history and technique of playing acoustic slide guitar. The acoustic slide guitar has an ambiguous beginning that dates back to when the state of Hawaii became a U.S. territory and its popularity was bolstered by a Hawaiian music craze around the turn of the century. A major feature of Hawaiian music is the sound of the slide guitar. At the same time, musicians in the Mississippi Delta were molding their own technique on the guitar and were influenced by the Hawaiian trend. A “down home” sound materialized and it is the source of that sound that is the subject of this book.

## **ABOUT THE BOOK**

In this book we'll examine types of slides, left and right hand techniques, open tunings, phrasing, vibrato and intonation. The styles of Muddy Waters and Elmore James are featured with examples in tablature as well as standard notation to accommodate reading in open tunings. You can follow each example with the accompanying recording, which allows you to fully scrutinize and repeat each topic and technique as needed. Play and repeat as often as you wish. Enjoy!



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### Example 5d

If you play without a pick you actually have an advantage over “pick” players because of individual finger manipulation. Play this example and listen to the difference in tone. The result is a warmer and quieter sound and you have more control.

w/bare fingers



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### Example 6

A good way to develop a good solid damping technique is to play “bugle calls.” Bugle calls are derived from the notes in a triad. The E major triad in this example is a fine source for practice because most of the notes sit under the slide and you can concentrate on the right hand.

Bugle Calls



**BigHeart Coricidin  
Medicine Bottle**

*The traditional Coricidin  
medicine bottle slide with  
seamless glass.*



**BigHeart Real  
BottleNecks**

*Authentic recycled  
wine bottle bottleneck  
in the blues tradition.*



**BigHeart Porcelain**

*Dome-end glazed porcelain  
finish has a rich, clear sound.  
Domed top allows easy  
pin-pointing of notes.*



**BigHeart  
Handblown Glass**

*Dome-end glass slide. Hand  
blown glass provides the  
best and clearest highs.  
The dome-end allows easy  
pin-pointing of single  
note lines.*



**Marble Queen Bee**

*Traditional round design with  
flamed marble finish.  
Very smooth, like  
chromed steel.*



**Marble BigHeart**

*Heart shaped design with  
flamed marble finish.  
Very smooth, like  
chromed steel.*

## SECTION 7: OPEN D TUNING

Open G tuning is probably the most popular tuning for country blues but there is another tuning that is used primarily by “city-blues” and electric guitar players — the open “D” tuning (D A D F# A D).



### Example 26a

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The open D tuning is simply an open E chord tuned down one whole step. The open strings should match the sound of the D chord, the 1st and 6th strings are lowered one whole step to “D,” the 3rd string is brought down 1/2 step to F# and the 2nd string comes down one whole step to “A” (the 4th and 5th strings remain at “D” and “A”). The main difference between the open G and the open D tuning is that the highest note, on the 1st string, is different in relation to the chord. In open G the 1st string represented the 5th of the chord whereas in open D the 1st string is the root. The melodies and phrases will have a different sound because of the different combinations of notes and as a result you will be able to play stronger melodies on the high strings.

↓ ⑥ = D ↓ ③ = F#  
 ⑤ = A ↓ ② = A  
 ④ = D ↓ ① = D

D A D F# A D D triad

w/slide

T  
A  
B



### Example 26b

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The 2nd, 3rd and 4th strings have the exact same relationship to each other that the top three strings had in open G tuning. The A, F# and D strings in open D (5th, 3rd & root) are in the same order as the D, B and G strings (5th 3rd & root) but down a string. So, you can play the same shapes you learned in open G tuning and extend the lines onto the 1st string.

Freely  
Roots

T  
A  
B