

## Vibrato Page 1

Vibrato is the equivalent of fashion in music: It comes and goes in popularity and style.

Without any vibrato your tone becomes as boring and dull as pasta without salt. But if you can taste the salt, there is too much. Same with vibrato if it is too obviously out of style with the music.

Vibrato is made up of 2 parts:

1. Speed
2. Depth—sometimes referred to as width.

Current vibrato style is usually slow and shallow, and is especially useful in ballads.

### Terminal vibrato

- ♪ Another important concept to understand is that currently vibrato is most used on the last note of a musical phrase—hence terminal.

### How it's done

- ♪ Move the jaw up and down while playing, while forming the syllable “ya”.
- ♪ Work towards evenness in style and execution.

### Exercise 1

- ♪ Set the metronome to 60 bpm.
- ♪ Pick any note and play a triplet vibrato. This will take time and practice.



### Exercise 2

- ♪ Once you can do that, do the same thing using a 1/16 note vibrato.



- ♪ Once you can play both of these vibrato patterns slowly, gradually increase the speed until you can play them at 90 bpm.

## Vibrato Page 2

### Exercise 3

- ♪ Practice your major scales with vibrato to gain control, evenness, and consistency.
- ♪ I am not suggesting you play vibrato on all your notes, but learning to be able to do so evenly is critical if you want a good-sounding, even vibrato.
- ♪ Example using the G+ scale

The image shows two systems of musical notation for a piano accompaniment. The first system starts at measure 4 and ends at measure 5. The second system starts at measure 6 and ends at measure 9. The music is in 4/4 time with a tempo marking of quarter note = 60. The notation consists of a treble and bass clef staff. The right hand plays a series of quarter notes, each with a vibrato symbol (a wavy line) above it. The left hand plays a series of quarter notes, each with a vibrato symbol (a wavy line) below it. The notes in the right hand are G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, and the notes in the left hand are G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2.

### Important stuff to remember

- ♪ These rates are only intended for study purposes. The goal is to learn how to control the consistency and evenness of the vibrato tone. Once you have achieved that, then it becomes your job to learn how to apply it best to whatever tempo the music is.
- ♪ There is no rule that says a quarter note gets X pulsations of vibrato. Different players do different things. In some ways it is an individual trait that a player develops over time.
- ♪ These days less is more when it comes to vibrato.

To hear how vibrato has evolved over the decades, check out these players/bands:

- ♪ [Sigurd Rascher](#)
- ♪ [Gato Barberi](#)
- ♪ [Marcel Mule](#)
- ♪ [Boots Randolph](#)
- ♪ [Rudy Wiedoeft](#)
- ♪ [Rindy Ross](#)
- ♪ [Glenn Miller Orchestra](#)
- ♪ [Paul Whiteman & His Orchestra](#)
- ♪ [John Coltrane](#)