

Phrasing

Vibrato

Vibrato with the hand is one of the absolute critical elements you must master to some degree to be able to make anything sound good on the guitar. One thing that also needs to be said about Vibrato is that to a large extent Vibrato is quite personal and not all agree as to how Vibrato should be played, that being said different situations and different styles calls for a specific kind of Vibrato and then it still is up to the player what he wants to express with what he plays. So Vibrato is to a large extent a way you can express yourself on the guitar. Some people play very aggressive Vibrato all the time no matter what the music situation is and in my opinion that is simply because the player wants to express a certain feeling with this. Then again you have players like Steve Vai who plays Vibrato in a myriad of ways, for example Steve's song For the love of God from he's album Passion and Warfare is a study in Vibrato and I suggest that you check it out if you have not already done so

Of course there's more to phrasing than Vibrato, like slides, hammer on's and pull off's and the pick can also be used in several different ways to create the sound you want but in the accompanying video we will mostly talk about Vibrato, both with the hand and with the whammy bar.

Hand Vibrato

As I explain in the accompanying video I use the whole under arm to play Vibrato, this way the fingers becomes part of what creates the momentum together with the underarm. The under arm can create massive force and therefore in most situations I prefer to use as many fingers in the fretting hand both when I bend and play vibrato or a combination of the two. This way and technique is basically the same that creates both Vibrato and Bends so you could see the Vibrato as little individual bends if this helps you understanding.

In the video I also explain a large variety of ways you can play Vibrato but I use the same basic technique to create the fundamental sound whether I want to play a soft subtle Vibrato or a crazy aggressive Vibrato. Remember to experiment with the different ways to create Vibrato and see what suits you the best

Whammy bar

I believe that using the whammy bar is what I would call a "feel thing" and not so much technique, of course you have to learn to get used to holding the whammy bar and there can be a few different aspects to the whammy bar that seem a little weird in the beginning, like pre dipping and then playing the note which is you press the bar down without playing the note first, then once you have dipped you play the note and release the bar, so this means that you don't first hear a little dip and then the release. I believe much of learning this is just to get used to "use" the whammy bar, most people just press it down a little here and there and as I also explain in the video what really helped me getting started was just holding the bar in the hand while playing and making sure that I don't accidentally manipulate the bar in any way.