

Tuning Down a $\frac{1}{2}$ step

How and Why



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Key: None

Tempo: None

Chords needed: None

Video Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmdStpEjbVM>

Standard Tuning:

A|
E|
C|
G|

Down a half step - note three of the notes are flat

Ab|
Eb|
B|
Gb|

Why?

1. Makes the sound lower

For many male voices (and some female voices), especially people who are less naturally gifted, older, or just have a lower voice naturally, screaming to hit those higher tones can be unpleasant. It is much easier for many people to play and sing tuned down a half step.

2. It makes the key of E easier.

The shapes you played for the F chord, have now become the E chord. Why? Well because everything is lowered by a note. The notes in F are the F, A, and C notes, when tuned down a half step they become E, G#, and B, which are the notes that make up an E chord. So even though you are using the same shape, you are still playing a different chord.

F shape = E Chord

Gm shape = F#m Chord

Am shape = G#m Chord

Bb shape = A Chord

C shape = B Chord
Dm shape = C#m Chord

Comparing the chords on left it right it is much easier to play in the key of F than E, but tuend down a half step you can do both! The shapes of F but the key of E (the key of E has two really hard chords in E and G#m, F has only one medium in Bb)

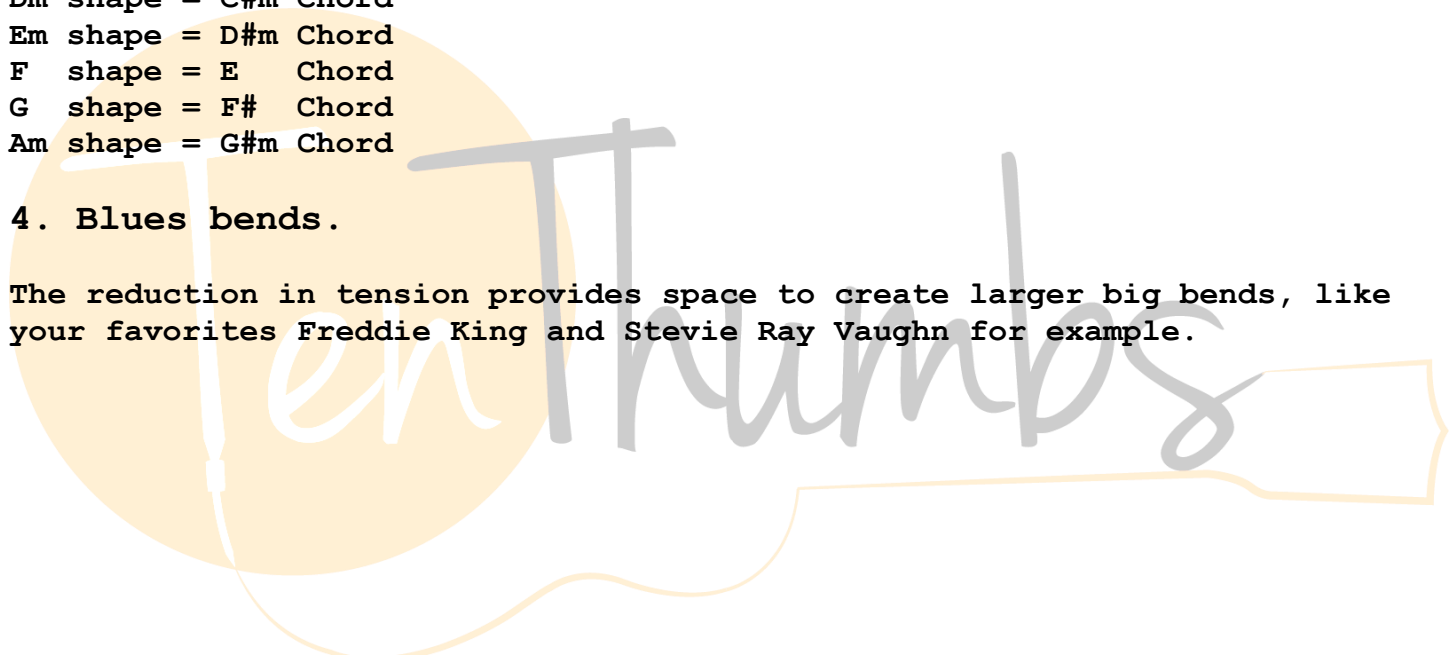
3. It makes the key of B easier.

This happens for the exact same reasons. Look at all those chords on the left, none of them in the key of B are easy!!!! But, look at the right, nice. So in this tuning the shapes on the left produce the sounds on the right.

C shape = B Chord
Dm shape = C#m Chord
Em shape = D#m Chord
F shape = E Chord
G shape = F# Chord
Am shape = G#m Chord

4. Blues bends.

The reduction in tension provides space to create larger big bends, like your favorites Freddie King and Stevie Ray Vaughn for example.



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