

Hybrid picking is the name of the technique where you combine a pick and fingers. Country pickers use the technique all the time in country rhythm guitar. The technique is also used in improvisation, to make certain harder-to-pick note combinations or more intervallic lines easier to play. You definitely want to check out Brett Garsed, who adopted hybrid picking as a major part of his soloing technique. Notice when you check out videos of his playing how much he switches between pick and middle finger. Other notable guitarists who use this technique in their guitar solos are Guthrie Govan, Carl Verheyen, Wayne Krantz, Tommy Emmanuel, and Danny Gatton.

Stevie Ray Vaughan plays a magnificent hybrid picked chordal phrase in “Mary Had a Little Lamb” at 1:23.

### **50) Try slide guitar.**

It’s a testament to how amazing and versatile guitar is that you can even play the instrument sliding a bottleneck or metal tube over the strings. Some notable slide players to check out: Duane Allman, Bonnie Raitt, Sonny Landreth and Derek Trucks.

One of my favorite slide guitarists and slide solos is Chris Rea and the fiery solo he plays in “Road to Hell”.

One of the ways I really like slide being used is when it is used not to play the whole solo, but as part of a solo, as Jimi Hendrix did in “All Along the Watchtower” at 1:59.

For some impressive, creative, advanced slide guitar, listen to Jeff Beck’s “Angel Footsteps.” Jeff plays a melody with a slide way up past the range of the guitar neck.

### **51) Switch pickups more often.**

Top guitarists like Steve Vai, Steve Morse, Guthrie Govan or Joe Satriani switch pickups often during live performances. Most guitar players get so wrapped up in the minutia of notes, and fingerings, and patterns, and so on, that they forget to take advantage of all the sounds they have readily available at the flick of the pickup selector switch. Why would you want to play a whole solo with exactly the same pickup sound, if you could make your solo much more expressive by switching sounds for different solo sections or phrases? Steve Morse and Eric Johnson are especially known to be really attentive to switching pickups during solos as a means to create different textures and moods.

Even Stevie and Jimi creatively switch pickups to enhance their solos. Stevie Ray Vaughan switches from neck to bridge pickup at 0:59 in “I Wanna Testify,” then again at 1:16 and then again two bars later. And for a really creative use, listen to Jimi Hendrix’s “Voodoo Child (Slight Return)” at 4:55, where he switches back and forth between pickups while slowly releasing a bend.