

Purple Rain

Prince / Christian Little cover arrangement



STANDARD TUNING

E A D G B e

SETUP

No capo / Original pitch

Play the sections in the order below. Repeat signs describe the full cover; you do not need to replay the introductory chords between lead cycles.

PERFORMANCE ORDER

Intro > A1 + A2 + A3 > A1 + A2 + A3

Lower figure x3 > Drop > Upper figure x3 > Finale

01 Intro - descending power chords

Eb5

D5

C5

Bb5

e				
B				
G	8	7	5	3
D	8	7	5	3
A	6	5	3	1
E				

Keep the three-note shape together as it moves down the neck. Mute the unused strings. Finish with the downward slide/rake demonstrated before the first lead bend.

HOW TO READ THIS EDITION

18b20r18 Bend fret 18 to fret-20 pitch, then release to fret 18.

h / p Hammer-on / pull-off.

**/ ** Slide up / slide down. A trailing \ is a slide out.

~ Sustain with the vibrato shown in the performance.

br A small expressive bend and release; target not specified.

Free-time tablature: spacing shows sequence, not exact note duration. Follow the cover and tutorial for rhythm, phrasing and dynamics. Low E is the bottom line; high e is the top.

The main melody

Play A1, A2 and A3 twice in total



A1 Opening bend

e	
B	18b20r18
G	18
D	16\15
A	17b19~
E	

Open with a whole-step bend on B18. Release, re-pick B18, then slide B16 down to B15. Finish with the sustained G17 bend.

A2 Answering phrase

e	
B	16b18r16
G	15\13~
D	
A	
E	

Start the second bend on B16. After releasing, play B15 and slide down to B13. Let the ending note breathe before the next phrase.

A3 Sliding continuation - first half

e	13
B	13/15
G	15\13
D	11
A	13/16
E	15
	13

Move briefly to high-e 13, then return to the B string. Keep the connecting slides smooth. Continue A3 on the next page.

Slides & the lower figure

Finish A3, repeat the main melody, then continue here



A3 Sliding continuation - ending

e									
B				15/16\15			13		
G	15							15~	
D									
A									
E									

Make B15/16\15 a quick slide out and back, then land on B13 and G15. After the first A3, return to A1. After the second A3, use the final G15 as the first note of the lower figure.

02 Lower figure - three cycles

e									
B									
G	15	14	15	14	15	14	15/17~		
D									
A									
E									

After cycles 1 and 2, play G12 then G14 to lead into the next G15. After cycle 3, play G15 and hold before the drop. Do not double-pick the shared G15 when entering this figure from A3.

RESET BETWEEN CYCLES

e									
B									
G			12				14		
D									
A									
E									

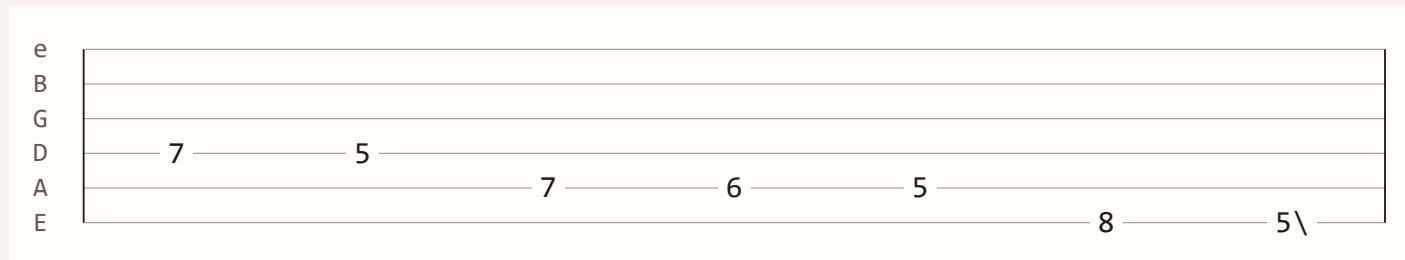
Repeat the complete alternating figure three times. The reset belongs between cycles; the third cycle resolves to G15 instead.

NEXT / Descend through the low strings, then repeat the figure an octave higher.

The drop & the octave lift

The low-string transition leads into the upper figure

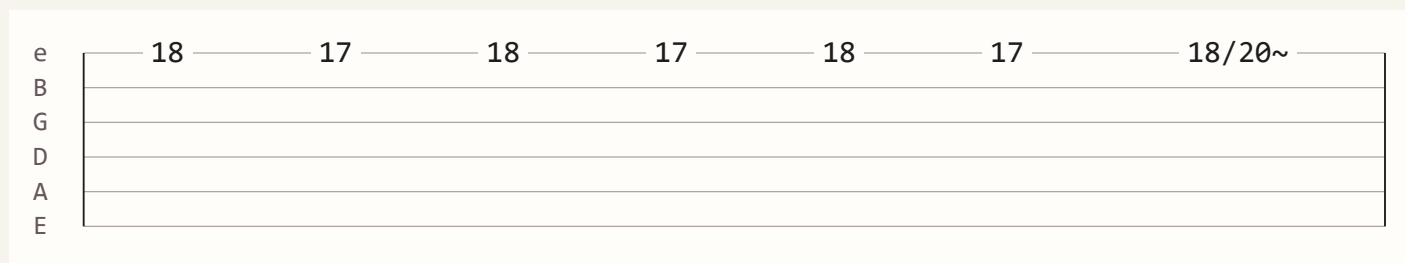
03 Low-string drop



A guitar tab for a low-string drop exercise. The strings are labeled e, B, G, D, A, E from top to bottom. The notes are: 7 on the D string, 5 on the D string, 7 on the A string, 6 on the A string, 5 on the A string, 8 on the E string, and 5\ on the E string.

Descend D7 to D5, cross to A7-6-5, then finish on low-E 8 and 5. Keep the transition fluid as you move between strings.

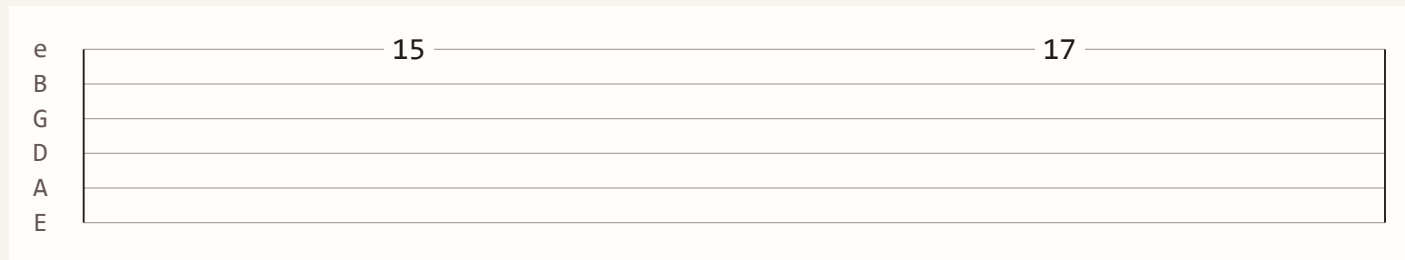
04 Upper figure - three cycles



A guitar tab for an upper figure exercise. The strings are labeled e, B, G, D, A, E from top to bottom. The notes are: 18 on the e string, 17 on the e string, 18 on the e string, 17 on the e string, 18 on the e string, 17 on the e string, and 18/20~ on the e string.

Use the same alternating movement as the lower figure, now on high e. After cycles 1 and 2, play e15 then e17 to lead into the next e18.

RESET BETWEEN CYCLES



A guitar tab for a reset between cycles exercise. The strings are labeled e, B, G, D, A, E from top to bottom. The notes are: 15 on the e string and 17 on the e string.

After the third cycle, resolve to e18 and sustain. Then move to the finale on the next page.

The finale

Legato cascade, expressive bend and slide out



05 Hammer-on / pull-off cascade

e	16h18p16		
B		18	16h18p16
G			18
D			
A			
E			

Barre the top three strings at fret 16. Hammer from e16 to e18 and pull off to e16, then land on B18. Repeat the hammer-on/pull-off movement on B16-18-16, then land on G18.

06 Bend, release & finish

e			
B	17br17p16		
G		18	15\
D			
A			
E			

Keep the barre in place. Use the middle finger for the small B17 bend, release it, then pull off to B16. Land on G18, finish on G15 and slide down to end.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The small closing bend is written without a fixed target because the tutorial describes it expressively. Bend targets are shown only where the musical pitch was established. This is a complete section-based tab, not a rhythmically engraved score.

Music: Prince / Cover arrangement: Christian Little