



## TAG LICKS

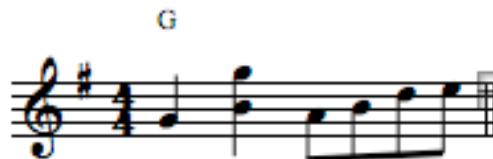
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Generally, there are two different kinds of chord runs. There are those that help to connect one chord to the next and are called *passing tones*. Other chord runs act as punctuation since they occur within a chord and stay in that chord. These are called *tag licks*.

A very familiar run in the key of G that most bluegrass guitarists know is:



It is best to use the tag when there are at least two measures of G and there is a long note in the melody as at the end of a vocal phrase. The A# gives this lick a bluegrass sound. If you want something that stays within the key of G try:



This second tag is an abbreviated one that occupies only the last half of the measure. Try to develop the ability to spontaneously add these tag licks in your backup. Playing them in different keys (C, D, and A) and also other octaves (especially the lower octaves) will give you added versatility. You need to become familiar with various chord progressions so that you get a feel for when and where to add them. Basically, insert a tag lick in your backup where you find holes in the melody. Not all tunes or songs will have an appropriate spot, such as two or more measures of one chord with a long melody note.

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