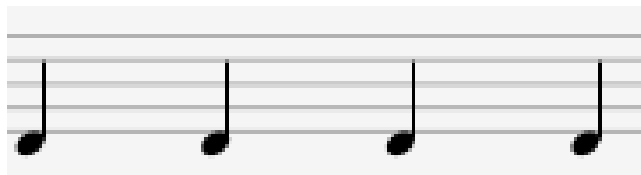


10 Essential Strumming Patterns

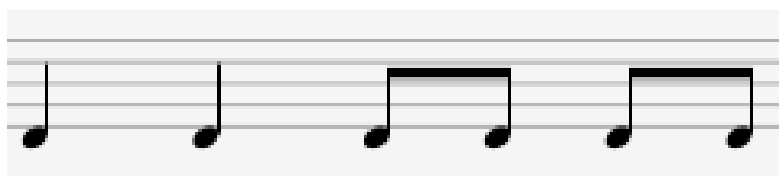
Here are **10 strumming patterns** you *definitely need to master*. These are some of the most frequently used patterns in popular music.

Remember to keep your right hand moving at all times, even if you're not hitting the strings. Your right hand is your metronome, it will keep you in time!



D D D D
1 2 3 4

The first rhythm is definitely the easiest to play and is the best place for beginners to start. We are strumming down on every beat, no up strums, nice and easy!



D D D U D U
1 2 3 + 4 +

This rhythm adds two up strums on the 3+ and the 4+.



D D U D U D U
1 2 + 3 + 4 +

For the third rhythm here, we'll be adding one more up strum to the 2 +.



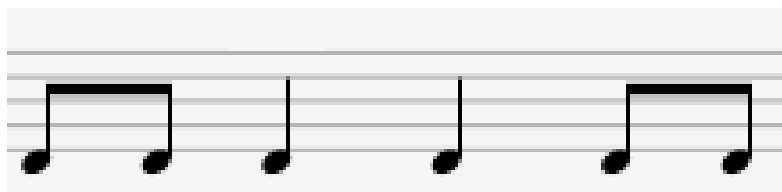
D U D U D U D U
1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

This pattern is strummed consistently up and down!



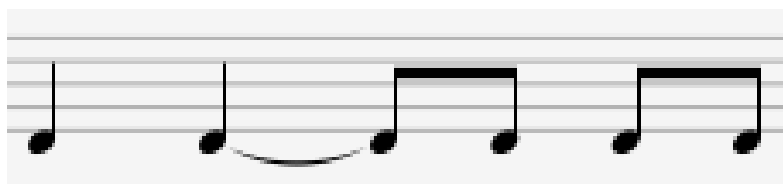
D U D U U D U
1 + 2 + + 4 +

Because the third beat is *tied* to the 2+ we don't strum down on the third beat, we simply let the strum from 2+ ring out whilst missing the down strum on 3.



D U D D D U
1 + 2 3 4 +

Another useful rhythm, here we miss the up strums on 2+ and 3+.



D D U D U
1 2 + 4 +

This one is my personal go to rhythm, it's used loads, so really take your time to nail it!



D D U U D U
1 2 + + 4 +

Another popular pattern, this one just misses the 1+ and the 3.



D D D D U D D D U
1 + 2 + a 3 + 4 + a

Strumming in 16th notes (*the notes with the double lines!*) can seem tricky at first but if you take it slow you'll soon be flying along with these patterns.

16 note patterns follow a different rule to 8th note patterns. Where 8th note patterns are generally strummed *down* on the beat and *up* on the off beat. 16th note patterns are strummed *down* on both the beat and the off beat, or the +. In between these beats we strum *up*, on what we call, the e and the a.

You'll need to count 1e+a 2e+a 3e+a 4e+a as you strum these patterns, take your time, it does take a little getting used to!



D	D	D	U	D	U	D	D	D	U
1	+	2	a	3	e	+	4	+	a

Here's another 16th note strumming pattern to get stuck into, this one is definitely the trickiest of all!

Good luck with these strumming patterns, study them well, they will be incredibly useful!