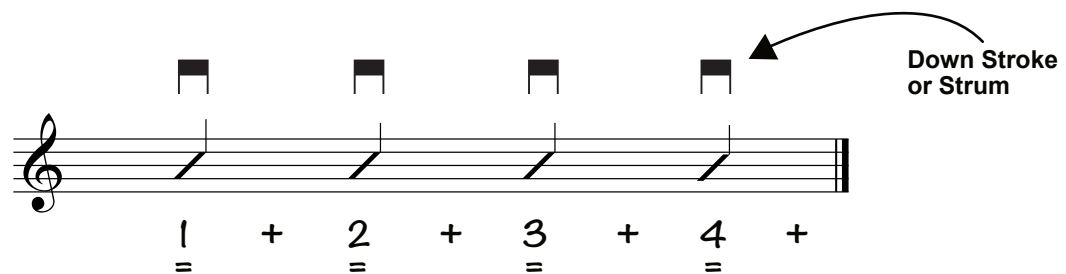


Quarter Note Strum

Chords and music are organized into bars or measures. For the **Basic “Four” Beat, Quarter Strum**, the number of beats per bar or measure is *four*. This is the most common number of beats per bar or measure used in songs.

One of the most basic strumming patterns you can do, and the foundation for future patterns is the **Quarter Note Strum**. As the name implies this strumming pattern is one quarter note per beat. For songs in common **4/4** time where there are four beats per measure or bar. This is one down stroke per beat.

Counting evenly, count the down beats using **1 2 3 4** and the up beats with “and”, Each “and” is shown with a plus (+) sign.

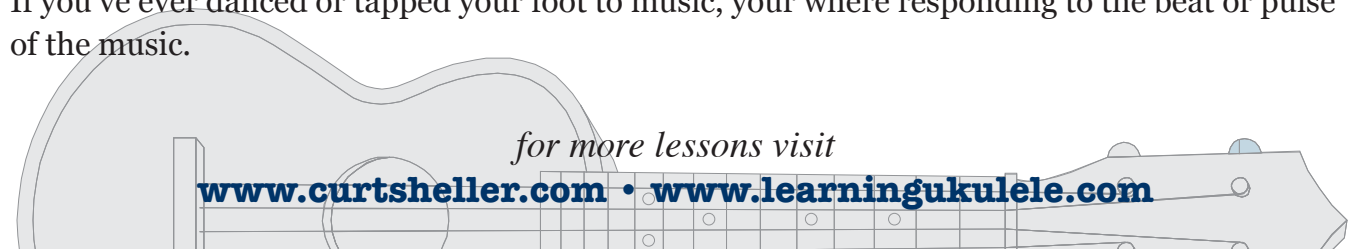


Remember to count evenly. This ensures you’ll be playing in tempo. It’s critical to be always be playing in time, at any tempo.

The = is where you would strum the strings, this is the attack. This allows us to learn or recreate the strum separate from the standard music notation.

When using this count be sure to always your count is even. If your tapping your foot to the count, the foot taps down on the numbers, the downbeat and resets on the upbeat for the next downbeat. When tapping your foot the downbeat is the only audible part of the beat.

If you’ve ever danced or tapped your foot to music, your where responding to the beat or pulse of the music.



Importance of Proper Strumming Stroke Direction

When using combinations of down and up strokes, the up stroke needs to be used for the up part of the beat, the “and”. The down stroke can be used on the down or up part of the beat.

A common problem when learning strumming patterns is strumming up on a down beat. The rhythmic pattern will be technically correct, but just doesn’t quite sound right. The down beat is the strong part of the beat and always takes a down stroke or strum.

A general principle is, ALWAYS a down stroke on the down beat, the numbers and down or up stroke on the up beat.

3/4 Time

For songs in **3/4** time there are three beats per measure and the count is:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 1 & + & 2 & + & 3 & + & \\ = & & = & & = & & \end{array}$$

Other Time Signatures

For songs with a time signature with a **4** as a bottom the number, adjust the count to reflect the top number of the time signature.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccc} 5 & 1 & + & 2 & + & 3 & + & 4 & + & 5 \\ 4 & = & & = & & = & & = & & = \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccccccc} 6 & 1 & + & 2 & + & 3 & + & 4 & + & 5 & + & 6 & + \\ 4 & & & & & & & & & & & & \end{array}$$

You get the idea...