



STRUM PATTERN CHEAT SHEET

4 Strum Patterns For Most Songs

Down strums will always be located on the beats, and up strums will always come between beats, no matter the pattern.

Driving Pattern

1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&
↓		↓		↓		↓	↑

A 4 beat pattern used often for songs with a “driving beat”. Emphasis is added on the 1st and 3rd beats with the only upstrum coming after beat 4, at the end of the measure.

Folk Pattern

1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&
↓		↓		↓	↑	↓	↑

A 4 beat pattern often used for folk songs. Emphasis is added on beats 2 and 4, with up strums added after beats 3 and 4.

Swing Pattern

1	&	2	&	3	&
↓		↓		↓	↑

A 3 beat pattern often used for swing music. Emphasis is on the 1st beat, with a soft, almost non-existent, 2nd & 3rd beats. The only up strum is at the end of the measure, after beat 3.

Waltz Pattern

1	&	2	&	3	&
↓		↓	↑	↓	↑

A 3 beat pattern often used for waltz style music. Emphasis is added on beats 2 and 3, with up strums following those beats as well.