



STRUM PATTERN CHEAT SHEET

3 Strum Patterns That Can Be Used For Most Popular 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 up strum 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. The 1st note of the chord is plucked alone for the 1st beat of each measure.

Swing Pattern

1	&	2	&	3	&
↓		↓		↓	↑

A 3 beat pattern often used for swing & waltz style music. Emphasis is on the 2nd & 3rd beats, and the 1st note of the chord is often plucked alone for the 1st beat of each measure. The only up strum is at the end of the measure, after beat 3.