

Get on the good foot – Struming practice

Listen to how others are playing and get in the groove – practice with left hand lightly muting the strings

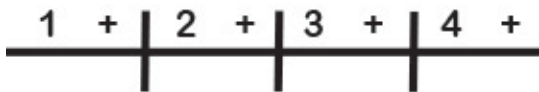
If you are not “getting” a strum, count it out and diagram it – that way you know what you are after

Count 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and - tap your toe down on each number – notice your toe is up on the ands

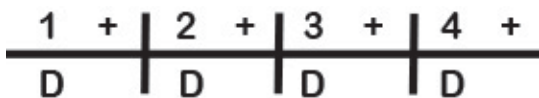
Tapping your toe will also help with keeping on the beat as well as fingerpicking. Musicians tap their toe.

The template - empty for now

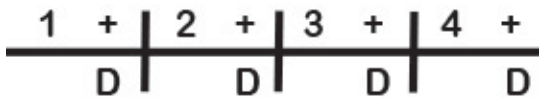
This line is meant to represent a measure. 4/4 time D=downstrum U=Upstrum d=partial downstrum



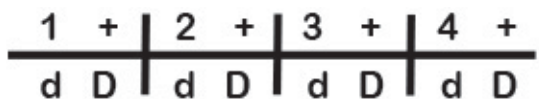
If you were simply to strum on the beat, you would count - down and down and down and down and ...



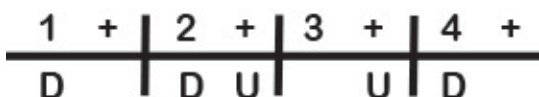
If a reggae beat were best for the song, still tap your foot on 1 but strum on + 's (the ands) If you have trouble getting there, try tapping on the uke on the 1 then strum up . 3 Little Birds is a good practice song



A variation of the reggae strum could be to strum only the 4th string on the downbeats (1,2,3,4) and all strings on upbeats (the ands). This can also be used with bluegrass or old time songs – this is best with Low G tuning



An incredibly versatile strum that is a bit more complex is used in Peaceful Easy Feelin' and thousands more



A variation is to add an upstrum on the last beat - Somewhere Over the Rainbow is a good example seen below on R Iz also uses a partial strum on beat 1 and mutes (x) the strings by placing his right palm on them for the downbeat

