





Beginner Lesson • Common Strum Patterns

(From the Bellingham Uke Group Startup Pack & Brook Adams;
adapted and revised by Suz Doyle • www.SuzDoyle.com) REVISED 3-24-2020

D ↓ = strum down U ↑ = Strum up 1 2 3 4 = beats in a group

1 - Basic Strum (4/4/ time)

(4 counts per group)

D	D	D	D
↓	↓	↓	↓
1	2	3	4
			

2 - The "Horsie"

D	D - U	D	D - U
↓	↓ ↑	↓	↓ ↑
1	2 (and)	3	4 (and)

3 - Choo Choo Strum

(Double Strum/ Basic Rock)

D - U	D - U	D - U	D - U
↓ ↑	↓ ↑	↓ ↑	↓ ↑
1 (and)	2 (and)	3 (and)	4 (and)

			
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4 - Nashville





(4 counts per group)

D	D - U	D - U	D - U
↓	↓ ↑	↓ ↑	↓ ↑
1	2 (and)	3 (and)	4 (and)

7 - Rock/ R&B/ 1950s

(triplets - 3 strums/ beat)




D D D	D D D	D D D	D D D
↓ ↓ ↓	↓ ↓ ↓	↓ ↓ ↓	↓ ↓ ↓
1 (and - a)	2 (and - a)	3 (and - a)	4 (and - a)

			
>	>	>	>

10 - Island

(4 counts per group)

(accents on the up-strokes)

D	U - U	D	U
X	↑ ↑	↓	↑
1	2 (and)	3	4
(slap)			
	> >		>

NOTE: The strongest accent usually occurs on the first beat in a group. Syncopation happens when the accent is placed on beats that are normally weak (e.g. beats 2, 3 or 4, or the "and" of a beat). In the Rock/R&B/ 1950s strum (previous page), the 1st note in each set of three is accented.

Strum Patterns - Syncopation

(by Suz Doyle • www.SuzDoyle.com)

D ↓ = strum down U ↑ = Strum up 1 2 3 4 = beats in a group

Syncopation is when a beat is emphasized on a beat OTHER than the first one in a set. For example, in a regular 4-beat strum, the first beat is usually louder/ stronger than the rest:

Emphasis on 1st beat:

# 1 - Basic Strum (4/4/ time) (4 counts per group)	D	D	D	D
	↓	↓	↓	↓
	1	2	3	4
	>			

Emphasis on 2nd beat:

# 1 - Basic Strum (4/4/ time) (4 counts per group)	D	D	D	D
	↓	↓	↓	↓
	1	2	3	4
		>		

Emphasis on 3rd beat:

# 1 - Basic Strum (4/4/ time) (4 counts per group)	D	D	D	D
	↓	↓	↓	↓
	1	2	3	4
			>	

Emphasis on 4th beat:

# 1 - Basic Strum (4/4/ time) (4 counts per group)	D	D	D	D
	↓	↓	↓	↓
	1	2	3	4
				>
