

# Beginner Uke Lesson • Strum Patterns

## - Basic Strums -





(From the Bellingham Uke Group Startup Pack & Brook Adams;  
 adapted and revised by Suz Doyle • www.SuzDoyle.com) Revised 8.13.11

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

*Emphasize the first beat in the below strum patterns:*





### # 1 - Basic Strum (4/4/ time)

(4 counts per group,  
 emphasize the first beat)





D	D	D	D
↓	↓	↓	↓
1	2	3	4
			

### # 2 - Common Strum

(Double Strum/ Basic Rock)




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

### # 3 - The "Horsie"

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




### # 4 - Waltz (3/4 time)

(3 counts per group)

D	D	D
↓	↓	↓
1	2	3
		

### # 5 - Waltz Variation (3/4 time)


(3 counts per group)

D	D - U	D
↓	↓ ↑	↓
1	2 (and)	3
		

... continued on next page ...


**# 6 - March/ Polka (2/4/ time)**

(2 counts per group)

D            D  
 ↓            ↓  
 1            2  



**# 7 - Nashville**

(4 counts per group)

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



**# 8 - Rock/ R&B/ 1950s**

(triplets - 3 strums/ beat)

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


**# 9 - Ragtime**


(4 counts per group)

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


**# 10 - Island**

(4 counts per group)

(accents on the up-strokes)

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


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 above, the accent is on the 1st note in each set of three. See our handout about Syncopation to practice moving the accent onto different beats.