

Beginner Uke Lesson • Strum Patterns - Syncopation -

(By Suz Doyle • www.SuzDoyle.com • Aug 13, 2011)

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
>			

Listen to how it sounds when you put the emphasis on a beat OTHER than the first one:

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
			>

(Pretty cool, huh? Now try changing which beat is accented in the basic strums in handout 1.)