

Strumming Exercises

To Developing Timing and Rhythm



Tenthumbspro.com
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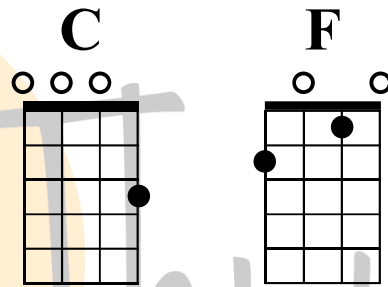
Key: C

Chords: C, F

BPM: 60, 80, 100, 120

Video Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jyeIyxERK3I>

Chord Shapes:



Creating these exercises, you have to determine 3 elements

- The chords used
- The strum pattern
- The BPM of the strum pattern
 - o You can go to YouTube and search "Dream Beat xx BPM" and will find drums for all the BPMs you can imagine.
- After watching this video you should be able to develop your own exercises that built towards your level of learning
- The goal is the learning zone, you have three zones
 - o The comfort zones
 - You've already mastered this exercise; it is too easy and you are not learning
 - o The Learning Zone
 - This is where progress is being made
 - o The Panic Zone
 - The exercise is much too difficult, you feel over whelmed and you start to shut down
 - o When creating exercises, you should do your best to put them in your learning zone.

Find the Beat

- When you are in the car, at work, wherever there is music playing, tape your feet to the rhythm

- Develop this foot pattern as tapping your feet and using your body is the best way to maintain tempo when playing an instrument.
- The snare plays on the 2 and 4, that helps mark the time and you should tap your feet to the 1 2 3 4, the strong beats

Strum Pattern 1

```
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
C                | F                |
D  D  D  D  | D  D  D  D  |
```

- When strumming in 8ths the strong beats are numbers, over these you strum down.
- The &s would be up strums.
- Make sure you count the strum out loud and use the count, not down down, say "one two three four"

Strum Pattern 2 "Rock'n'Roll"

```
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
C                | F                |
D  D  D  D U | D  D  D  D U |
```

- We have added our first up, note how it is on the 8th
- To count this one out loud you would say "One Two Three Four And"

Strum Pattern 3 "The Campfire"

```
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
C                | F                |
D  D  D U D U | D  D  D U D U |
```

- To count this one out loud you would say "One Two Three And Four And"

Strum Pattern 4 "Old Faithful"

```
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
C                | F                |
D  D U  U D U | D  D U  U D U |
```

- The count is "One Two And And Four And"
- If that is too tricky you can also count the 3, just remember you are counting a rest and you shouldn't strum it

Strum Pattern 5 "Blues Shuffle Strum"

```
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
C                | F                |
D U D  D U D  | D U D  D U D  |
```

- The count is "One and Two Three and Four"

Strum Pattern 6 "Mixing Rock and Old Faithful"

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
C | F |
D D D D U | D D U U D U |

- The count is "One Two Three Four And One Two And And Four And"
- You can think of this as mixing two strum patterns or as a more elaborate two measure strum pattern

Strum Pattern 7 "Changing Mid Measure"

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
C F | C F |
D D U U D U | D D U U D U |

- There is no rule to when you can or cant change chords
- Songs that change chords mid measure, or even multiple times in just one measure.
- In theory you could change chords 8 times if you were strumming every 8th note, it wouldn't sound great, but it is possible
- This is a great way to add interest towards the end of a verse or in a bridge, experiment with this idea in your song writing and you will create new and fun ides that will keep the listener on their toes.

Strum Pattern 7 "Introducing 16ths"

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
C | F |
D D D D DU | D D D D DU |

- In 16th note strumming you strum down on the downbeats as well as all the &s, the up strums happen on Es and As
- The count is 1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a
- This count would be "one two three four and a"
- This is the only 16th we will do in this tutorial, if you want more let me know in the comment section on youtube or Patreon

Strum Pattern 8 "Complicated 2 bar"

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
C | F |
D U D U D U D U | D U U D D |

- This one is tricky as the two measures are very different
- It was has a rest on the 2 which isn't very common
- It goes "one and two and three and four and one and and three four"
- When creating your own try to listen to the kick pattern and see if it can inspired you

Now experiment with the faster tempos and create your own exercises!