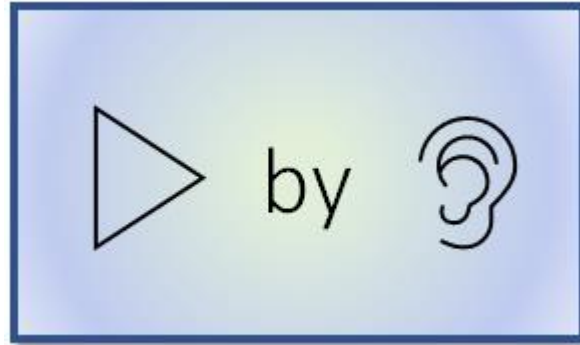


# Rhythm & Strum Patterns



Part II – Play What You Feel

# Introduction

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- Goal of this series of classes is to help you to add variety to your pick and strum patterns and have more fun with different rhythms.
- We will emphasize right-hand techniques
- Homework: Use the new strum patterns to play along with three of your favorite songs that have different rhythms.
- Important!: There are no “right” or “wrong” strum patterns! If you’re on the beat, and it sounds good to you, you’re doing fine.

# Review: Last Week

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- We played with some basic strum patterns for quarter notes, eighth notes and sixteenth notes.
- We learned some basic “pluck-strum” type of patterns.
- We learned the importance of the emPHAsis on the right sylLABLE.
- We learned about using “swing” to avoid sounding robotic.

# Review: Foundation Patterns & Counting

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- Strumming is all about rhythm
- Counting out loud will help you to hear rhythms the same way we sing out loud to hear chords and intervals.
- We'll count with patterns that mimic the rhythms:
  - "One – two – three – four "
  - "One-and Two-and Three-and Four-and"
  - "One-eee-and-a Two-eee-and-a Three-eee-and-a Four-eee-and-a "
  - It also helps to clap your hands on the downbeat ("one ,two, three, four")

# Review: Foundation Patterns & Counting

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- Simple Quarter Notes:
  - Down – down – down - down.
  - “One, two, three, four”
- Simple Eighth Notes:
  - Down/Up – Down/Up – Down/Up – Down/Up...
  - “One-and, two-and, three-and, four-and.”
  - This will be the foundation for almost all the strum patterns we use
- Now, change it up a little bit:
  - Down – Down/Up – Down – Down/Up
  - “One, two-and, three, four-and”.
  - Use an “air strum” on the missing “ands” – keep your wrist moving consistently
- Let’s flip that last pattern:
  - Down/Up – Down – Down/Up – Down.
  - “One-and, two, three-and, four”.
  - (what song does that remind you of?)

# Review: Basic Right-Hand Techniques

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- You don't have to strum all four/six strings at the same time, every time.
- These variations will give you some building blocks for your strum patterns:
  - “Pluck-strum”: pluck the single bass (root) note, then go back and strum all the strings. Use a down – down motion.
  - “Pluck strum-a”: Pluck the single bass(root) note, then pluck another note in that chord on the “Two-and”. Use a down – down/up motion.
  - Mix it up: Play pluck-strum for the first three measures of a section, then a pluck-plucka on the fourth – adds some shape to the song and tells listeners that a change is coming up.

# Review: Who Has Sample Homework

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- Homework assignment from last week: find two or three songs you like to play that have different strum patterns.



# This Week: Putting It All Together

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- This week we will play sample songs that sound good with different strum patterns.
- Example 1: A “Boom Chak” Ballad
- Example 2: Reggae – Emphasize the two and four
- Example 3: Irish Jigs - “Tick-it-a Tock-it-a”
- Example 4: Let’s go to NOLA – “Chanka – Chank”
- Example 5: Skip a beat – Calypso
- Example 6: Feelin’ the Blues



# Example 1: Ballad

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- “Boom-Chock”
  - **ONE**, two, **THREE**, four.
  - Down, down, down, down.
  - Pluck the bass/root note on the “Boom”, and strum the rest of the chord on the “Chock”
  - Try it on “Wreck of the Nancy Lee” Chords: I – IV – V
- “Boom-Chicka”
  - **ONE**, two-and, **THREE**, four-and.
  - Down, down/up, down, down/up.
  - Pluck the bass/root note on the “Boom”, then strum the rest of the chord on the “Chick” and again on the “-a” upstroke.
- Mix and match these two patterns up to add variety.

# Example 2: Reggae

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- Reggae rhythm:
  - one, **TWO**, three, **FOUR**
  - Pluck Strum - Down, down
  - ... and/or Pluck Strum-a – Down, down/up
  - Try it with “Nuh woman, no cry”
  - Chords: C – G – Am – F    C – G – C – C    ( I – V – vi – IV    I – V – I – I )

# Example 3: Irish Jig

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- Irish Jig Rhythm
  - “**ONE**, two, three, **Four**, five, six.”
  - **DOWN**, up, down, **Down**, up, down”
  - Try it with the Christmas Jig
  - Chords: D G | D D | A A | D D
  - D G | D D | A A | D D

# Example 4: NOLA Style

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- Some rhythms have common “names”
- In NOLA you’ll hear about “Chanka-chank” rhythm
  - **ONE**, two-and, **THREE**, four-and.
  - **Down**, down/up, **down**, down/up.
  - When the Saints go marching in
  - Notice that the missing “and” after the One is an upward “air strum” keep your wrist bouncing!

# Example 5: Calypso

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- Sometimes, the notes you DON'T play are as important as the ones you do.
- Sample Calypso rhythm:
  - Down, down/up, **(rest)**/Up, Down/Up
  - “One, two-and, ...-and, four-and”
  - Give it a bit of “swing”
  - Try it with “Don’t worry, be happy”

# Example 6: Feelin' the Blues

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- Slow Blues-y Rhythm
  - “One, two-and, three, four-and”
  - Loosen up on the precision of your beats – “Swing it!”
  - Try it with a basic 12-bar blues
  - Chords: G7 , C7 and D7
  - Try it with a basic “12-Bar Blues” progression

# Example 6: Feelin' the Blues

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G G | C7 C7 | G7 G7 | G7 G7  
C7 C7 | C7 C7 | G7 G7 | G7 G7  
D7 D7 | C7 C7 | G7 G7 | G7 D7

("turn around" on the 12<sup>th</sup> bar)

# Homework!

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- Pick two or three favorite songs of yours to play
- Find ones with different tempo's or rhythms
- Experiment with emPHAsis and strumming patterns