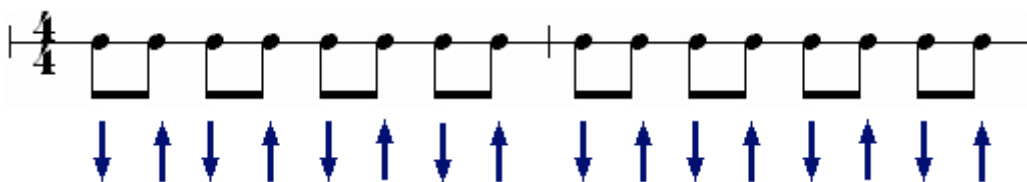# *Strumming Patterns for Guitar*

It seems that one of the most difficult techniques for beginners to grasp is coming up with a decent strumming pattern to play the chords to a song. I get frequent e-mails asking about the strumming pattern to a song. And I always tell them two things: either listen to the recording or work one out yourself. This page is designed so you will be able to work one out for yourself, after I give you a few basic ideas. I am going to give you an initial strumming exercise, then ten examples of possible strumming patterns, along with RealAudio files of those same patterns so you can hear what they sound like. I hope this page is useful to all who wonder about strumming! Good luck, and if you have any questions, please e-mail me! (rozzarenco@hotmail.com)

First, you will need a little background information. The notation I use will be standard musical notes on a single-line staff, so all you need to know is the rhythm.
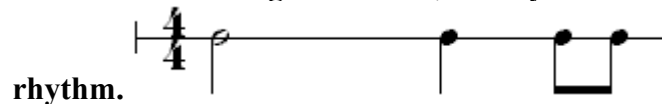

Strumming Exercise ＃1

Now, a word about strumming. It is much easier and more efficient to strum in both directions: up *and* down. The first exercise will teach you to strum in both directions. Basically, all you do after doing this exercise is learn *not* to strum on certain beats (you simply let the strings ring). The arrows in the diagram below tell you whether to strum up or down. This up-and-down movement is the key to the rest of the patterns, so practice it. Here is the pattern:

All right, now it's time to move on to some strumming patterns. We will start with some really simple ones and work up to some more complicated ones. It is up to you to decide which of these patterns will sound good with what songs. After this, you should also be able to invent your own patterns. A little practice should make this easy. After these exercises, you will never again look at a piece of music and say "How do I strum?" Good luck!
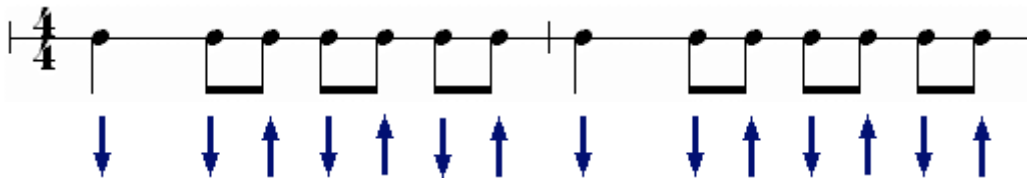
Strumming Pattern #*1*
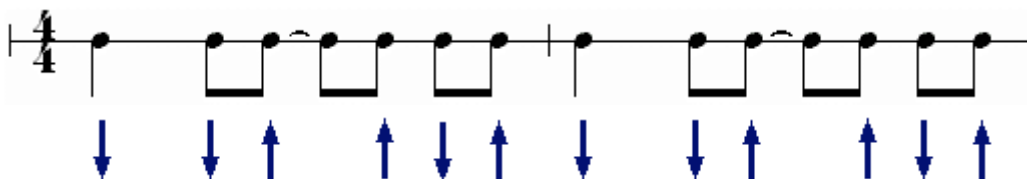**The first strumming pattern we will look at goes like this:**
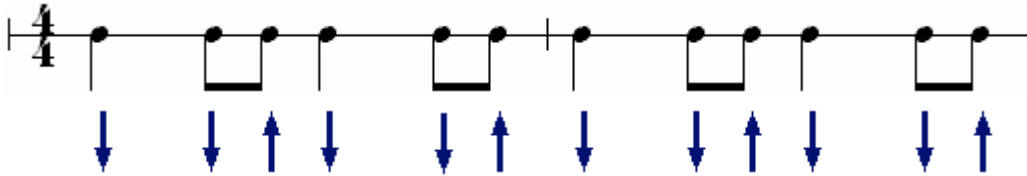
Strumming Pattern #*2*
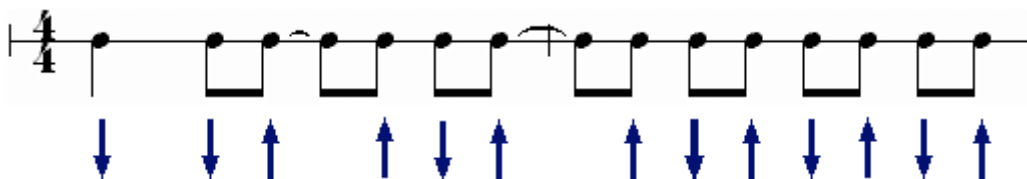**This is a small variation of the first pattern:**

Strumming Pattern #*3*
Here we add a tie for more interest:

Strumming Pattern #*4*
Move the tie, and it sounds totally different:

Strumming Pattern #5
Add another tie, for a more interesting rhythm:

Strumming Pattern #6
Of course we can remove one tie and get this:
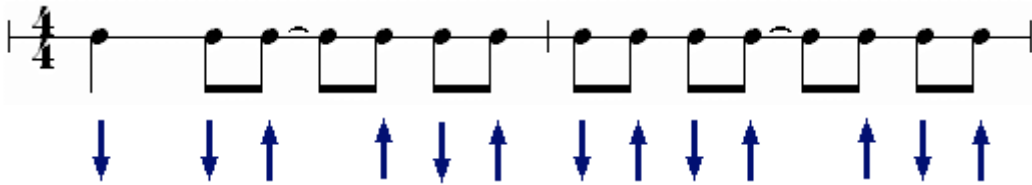

Strumming Pattern #7
Move the tie again, to hear something a little different:

Strumming Pattern #8
If you add some longer notes, you get this:

Strumming Pattern #9

Just in case you thought we were getting too complicated (this is a variation of Pattern 3):

Strumming Pattern #10

The last pattern is a good one for slow songs: