Lesson 17 – Different Strumming Patterns:

Following are different ideas of how you can strum, but strumming comes natural, you have already been doing it, going with the flow of the song.

Never get fixated and stagnate on a certain strum pattern because some words in the song mean more to you than others and your heart of worship comes out through strumming. Just like your singing and your chords with varieties express your worship, the strumming expresses your worship.

In time, when the guitar and the chords come easier on you, you will also get freer with the strumming and find your way.

- Strum down ↓ or up ↑ Usually the down strum automatically goes to the heavier beat.
- Strum all strings in one hand movement.
- Arpeggio: **\cong Strum strings one by one as follows:**
 - When playing the 6th (bass) string, sound it with the guitar pick and rest against the 5th string, sound the 5th string rest against the 4th, sound the 4th string rest against the 3rd, sound the 3rd string rest against the 2nd, sound the 2nd string rest against the 1st, sound the 1st string.

You can do this, strumming the strings one by one, or by sounding the bass (the lowest or 2 lowest strings) and then the rest of the strings in one movement.

- Strum the bass string separate from the rest of the strings.
- Strumming against the beat, meaning a silent or light strum on the heavy beat like in lesson 5 where you experienced only strumming the second and/or the third beat.
- Keep your wrist loose and not stiff. Like a shaking kind of movement when you strum.
- After you get familiar with different strumming patterns, you should use different ways of strumming in one song at different moments. Feel free in using your guitar for worship, singing and strumming.
- As long as you keep the beat intact and know and feel the ongoing heavy beat on the first count, the rhythm is free for you to do what you like.
- Finger picking: Your thumb usually follows the bass. If you want to learn more about fingerpicking than what you do yourself, you can look on the internet.
- When you listen to other people playing the guitar and it sounds good, you can try to imitate it and so pick up different ways of strumming.
- On the next page are some examples of strumming patterns in the song 'I surrender all', using measures. Once you feel the rhythm of the strumming pattern, continue with it as long as you want to, before moving on to the next pattern.
- Try out each pattern and apply them to other songs as well. You will notice that you will like different strumming patterns for different songs.
- When you are worshipping you will find yourself using a combination of all of the above in different patterns.

THE KEY OF A

I SURRENDER

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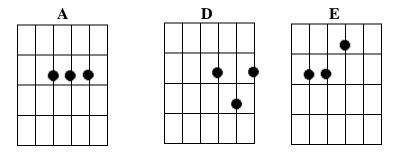
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Tip: Sometimes the up strum is precisely in between the beats. It sounds regular. Sometimes the up strum is immediately before or after the down strum. Then your right hand movement is faster than regular.

Personally I do not use the up strum on the heavy beat.



THE KEY OF G

- In the next song you practice, on the first beat you only touch the bass string (6th string) on the second beat you touch the 5th string and on the third beat you strum the other strings. It is slower than this pattern used in 'I surrender all' and you hear all strings clearly.
- When you get the strum pattern and strum this automatically, lay this lesson to the side and go back to your song with chords.
- The string used as a bass can be the 6th, 5th or the 4th string (see Keywords):
 - Chord A: Bass is 5th A string
 Chord C: Bass is 5th A string, your finger in the third space is C
 Chord D: Bass is 4th D string
 Chord E: Bass is 6th E string
 Chord G: Bass is 6th E string, your finger in the third space is G

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