

17 - Guitar Worship - 17

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.
- Strum the bass string • separate from the rest of the strings.
- Arpeggio: ♪ Strum strings one by one as follows:
Play the 6th (bass) string 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.
An Arpeggio can be played in one movement using a little break in the song or it can be stretched out over several beats when the individual strings follow certain rhythm.
- 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 to worship through 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 find more 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 pages are some (there are numerous strumming patterns) examples of strumming patterns using beats and measures. Strum each one until you feel the rhythm of the strumming pattern, then continue with it for a while 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 your own comfortable way of strumming, using a combination of many different patterns.

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1

| 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 |
 ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓

2

| 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 |
 ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

3

| 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 |
 ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓

4

| 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 |
 ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓

5

| 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 |
 ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓

6

| 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 |
 ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↓

7

| 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 |
 ↓ ↑ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑ ↑ ↓

8a

| 1 2 3 4 |
 • • ↓

8b

| 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 |
 • • ↓ ↓ • • ↓

On the first beat you only pick the bass string, on the second beat you pick the next string and on the third beat you strum the other strings. You hear all strings clearly.

Use the corresponding bass for each chord (6th, 5th or the 4th string, see lesson 10)

9

| 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 |
 ♪ Stretch out Arpeggio ♪ ♪

In a stretched out arpeggio (can stretch over several beats even into the next measure), use rhythm in going over the strings. Just be back with the bass string on a first beat.

- After you are familiar strumming these patterns to the beats, vary the tempo going a little faster and slower and apply each strumming pattern to the song 'You Reserve All Glory'.

Tip: The first beat is on the word **Glory**.

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You Reserve all Glo ry and all Ho nor Lord I
 lift my hands in worship as I lift Your Ho ly Presence for You are
 Great, You Do Mi ra cles so Great there is no one else like
 You, there is no one else like You

- **Tip:** So far, the up strum has been precisely in between the beats. It sounds regular. In the next strumming patterns, the up strum is immediately before or after the down strum. Then your right hand movement is faster than regular. (I use the up strum just before the beat a lot myself).
- **Tip:** Tap a regular beat with your foot.

10

1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 |
 ↓ ↑↓ ↓ ↓ ↑↓ ↓ ↓ ↑↓ ↓ ↓ ↑↓ ↓ ↓

- After you are familiar strumming this pattern 10 to the beats, vary the tempo going a little faster and slower and apply it to the song 'All to Jesus I surrender'.

11

1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 |
 ↓ ↑↓ ↑↓ ↑↓ ↑↓ ↑↓ ↑↓ ↑↓ ↑↓ ↑↓ ↑↓
 up-strum right before the beat

- After you are familiar with strumming pattern 11 to the beats, vary the tempo going a little faster and slower and apply it to the song 'Because You Live'.

12a

1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 |
 ↓↑ ↓↑ ↓↑ ↓↑ ↓↑ ↓↑ ↓↑ ↓↑
 up-strum right after the beat

12b

1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 |
 ↓↑ ↓↑ ↓↑ ↓↑ ↓↑ ↓↑ ↓↑ ↓↑

- In strumming pattern 12, the up strum comes right after the beat. Practice just the strum. (12a) You can use this strum in the song 'Jesus of Life' and also add an up strum right before the beat. (12b).