

Bluegrass Rhythm

Bluegrass strumming is a little different than other types of music. In Bluegrass, You play only the bass note (lowest note) in the chord on beats 1 and 3, and strum the rest of the chord on beats 2 and 4. Use all down strokes with your pick. Check out the examples below!

Diagram illustrating the first example of Bluegrass strumming, showing chords G, C, A, and D. The notation includes guitar tablature (T, A, B) and a bass line (B) with a 4/4 time signature. The bass line shows a pattern of 3 and 0, indicating the bass note is played on beats 1 and 3, and the rest of the chord is strummed on beats 2 and 4.

Diagram illustrating the second example of Bluegrass strumming, showing chords E, Am, and Em. The notation includes guitar tablature (T, A, B) and a bass line (B) with a 4/4 time signature. The bass line shows a pattern of 0 and 2, indicating the bass note is played on beats 1 and 3, and the rest of the chord is strummed on beats 2 and 4.

Want to make it really bluegrassy?! Try using 2 different bass note for each chord!

Diagram illustrating the third example of Bluegrass strumming, showing chords G, C, A, and D. The notation includes guitar tablature (T, A, B) and a bass line (B) with a 4/4 time signature. The bass line shows a pattern of 3 and 0, indicating the bass note is played on beats 1 and 3, and the rest of the chord is strummed on beats 2 and 4.

Diagram illustrating the fourth example of Bluegrass strumming, showing chords E, Am, and Em. The notation includes guitar tablature (T, A, B) and a bass line (B) with a 4/4 time signature. The bass line shows a pattern of 0 and 2, indicating the bass note is played on beats 1 and 3, and the rest of the chord is strummed on beats 2 and 4.