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Acoustic Beginners

LEVEL 1 • Guitar Skills

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Practice summary

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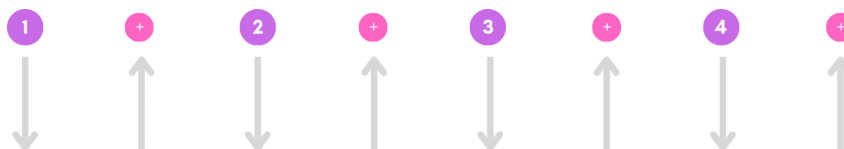
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Essentials Part 1

UNIT 1 • **LESSON 3** << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

Strumming

Every song has a particular strumming pattern, which often contributes just as much to the overall sound as the chords themselves. In our courses we represent strumming patterns using diagrams as shown below. The idea is to keep your arm moving at all times: down with each down arrow, up with each up arrow! Then, you only strum the strings when the arrow is highlighted. So as we build up to the strumming pattern in the video it looks like this:



Breaking this down, we have the “1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +” count at the top of the strumming pattern, which is your basic timing guide. We then have the down and up arrows, which are your strumming arm movement. The grey arrow means that you are moving your strumming arm but not actually strumming the strings. Once you can successfully

UNIT 1

Essentials Part 0% ^

1

This course is all about laying the foundations. We will show you how to play your first chords, read chord charts and strum confidently in time. Follow this carefully and you won't have any bad habits moving forwards!

Lessons:

- Your First Chords
- Changing Chords
- Strumming
- More Chords
- Practice Habits

UNIT 2

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UNIT 3

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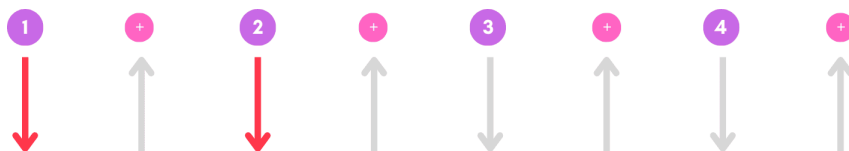
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UNIT 4

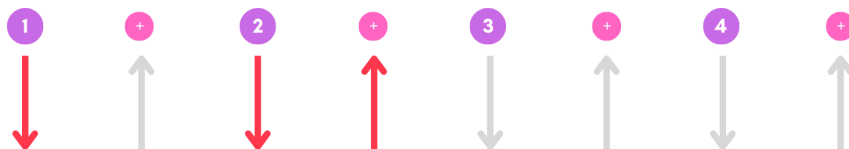
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move your arm to the count, we can add our first two red arrows:



Here we are hitting the strings on the 1st beat and the 2nd beat. The rest are still air strums, as you have been doing. Be sure to keep that arm moving as you work through this, as that is the important skill we are learning! From there, we can do the full strumming pattern in this lesson:



Another way we can say this rhythm is “down down up”, as that can help drill it into the brain and match it up with your strumming hand. Above all else though, a solid amount of time playing this with a drum loop is needed!

Bring in the chords

We will now take the chord progression we have been using and add the strumming pattern to it. Since you play each chord for two bars before changing, and the strumming pattern we have learnt is one bar, this means you play the strumming pattern twice before changing for each chord. To refresh your memory, the chord chart looks like this:

| Em | Em | Asus2 | Asus2 |
| Em | Em | Asus2 | Asus2 |



Notice how we've now moved away from the slash style chord chart, as you're getting more confident reading these and aligning them with the drum beat.



“

So, take your time with this! Do not move onto the next lesson until you can strum around this whole progression, with the strumming pattern, at around 60BPM on the drum beat!

Dan

”



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