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John Mayer

Acoustic

Player Studies

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Out Of Your Stratosphere

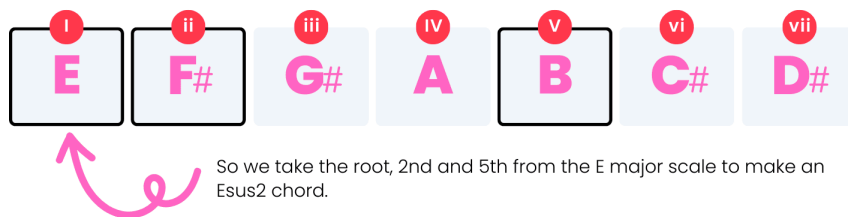
UNIT 1 • **LESSON 1** NEXT >>

Lesson notes Interactive tab

Tuning And Strumming

This song has many parts to it that we will be breaking down in detail. Before that we need to discuss the tuning and talk about the strumming. The tuning we need is an Esus2 tuning. What does that mean? Good question! It means that the 6 open strings, when played all together, will sound like an Esus2 chord. For you theory inclined students, an Esus2 chord is built with a **Root, 2nd and 5th**. This looks like this:

Esus2 chord from E major scale



How that works in practice is that we take the **A string up a tone, the D string up a tone, the G string down a semitone** and voila! If we look at that on a diagram, you can see clearly how we've changed the strings to this open tuning.

Course navigation

UNIT 1

Out Of Your Stratosphere

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Kick off with a piece that focuses on using the pick with open tunings to create a beautiful dynamic style of playing

Lessons:

- Tuning And Strumming
- The Intro & Chorus
- The Verse
- The Pre Chorus
- The Bridge

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UNIT 3

The Era Of Calm

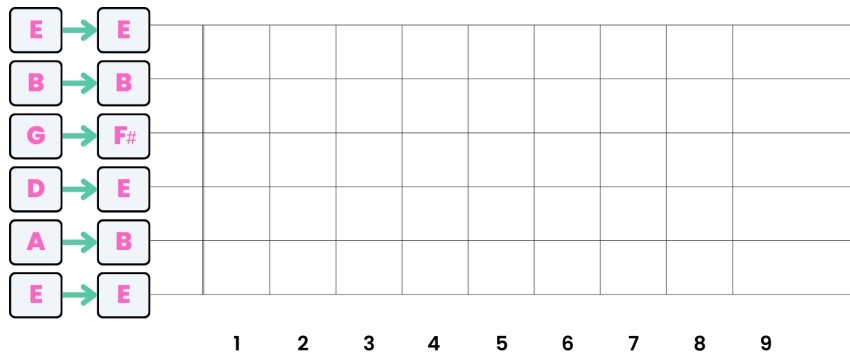
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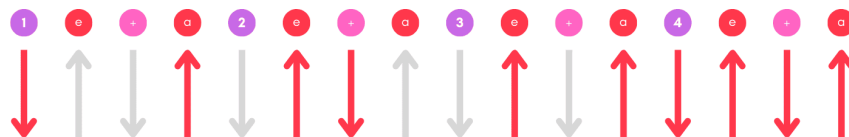
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Strumming

Next up we're looking at how to alter our strumming technique to take it up to the level of John Mayer.

Thomas's core concept here is to divide the strings into low and high. Using the lower 3 strings (thicker strings) for the down-strums and the higher 3 or 4 strings for the up strums. This immediately adds more interest to the sound. So, the strumming pattern looks like this:



On the downstrokes, try to hit just the lower strings, and on the up strokes go for the higher strings.



So your first job is simply to get the guitar tuned to Esus2 and learn this strumming pattern

with the
open
strings.
That will
stand us in
good
stead for
the next
lesson!

Thomas

”



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