

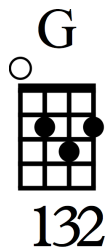
Lesson #9

It's time to pick things up a little bit. Learn a strumming pattern that sounds good at both slow and fast tempos.

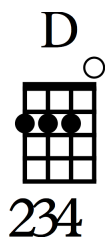
Here's what you'll be learning in this lesson:

- a very popular faster strumming pattern
- how to get faster without getting sloppier
- how to use our thumb for a cool strumming effect
- a song: Take Me Home, Country Roads

You will need to know the following chords:



To play a G major chord, place your **middle finger** on the 2nd fret of the bottom string, your **ring finger** on the 3rd fret of the second string, and your **index finger** on the 2nd fret of the third string. The top string rings completely open.

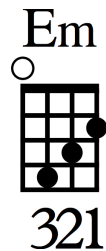


There are a couple ways you can play this chord. The first way is to place your **pinky** on the 2nd fret of the second string, your **ring finger** on the 2nd fret of the third string, and your **middle finger** on the 2nd fret of the fourth or top string. For people with smaller fingers, this might work well.

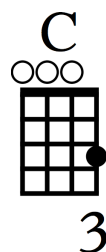
However, those of us with large fingers, the other common and recommended way to play this chord is to **barre** the top three

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strings on the 2nd fret with your **ring finger**. This means your ring finger lays across the three strings while bending enough to allow the bottom string to ring open. Sometimes I will even use my **index finger** to do this. This is hard to do and takes some practice, so experiment with both ways to see which one comes easier.



To play an Em chord, place your **index finger** on the 2nd fret of the first or bottom string, your **middle finger** on the 3rd fret of the second string and your **ring finger** on the 4th fret of the third string. Let the top string ring completely open.



To play a C major chord, place your **ring finger** on the 3rd fret of the bottom string. The remaining strings ring completely open.

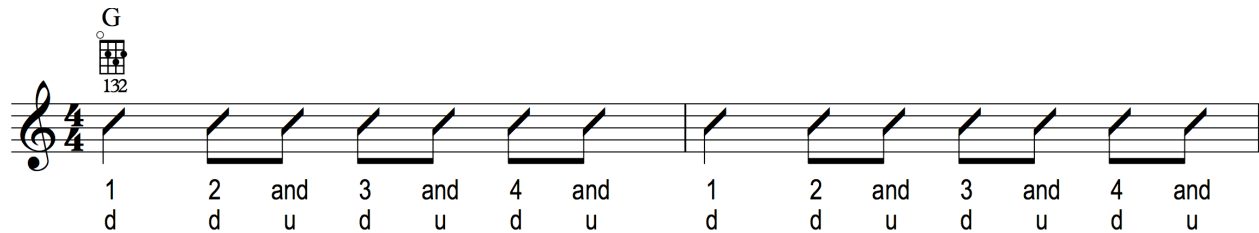


This is another chord you want to barre. To play a D7 chord, lay your **index finger** across all four strings on the 2nd fret. While these strings are barred, place your **middle finger** on the 3rd fret of the first or bottom string.

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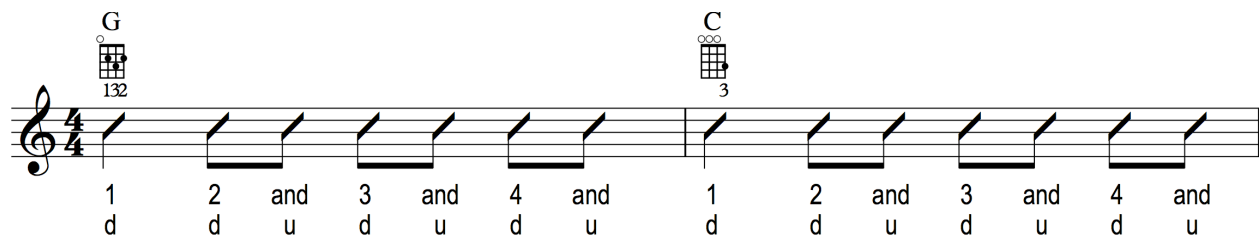
Strumming Pattern #5

This strumming pattern sounds really cool when it's played at a faster tempo. However, start out slow at first to get the feel for the rhythm.



A musical staff in 4/4 time showing a strumming pattern. Above the staff is a G chord diagram with fingerings 1, 3, 2. The staff contains two measures of music. The first measure has four quarter notes, and the second measure has four quarter notes. Below the staff, the strumming pattern is written as: 1 d, 2 d u, 3 d u, 4 d u, 1 d, 2 d u, 3 d u, 4 d u.

Once you get comfortable with this strumming pattern at a slower tempo, try adding a chord change. You might change from a **G** to a **C** chord, as shown in the following figure.



A musical staff in 4/4 time showing a strumming pattern with a chord change. Above the staff are G and C chord diagrams with fingerings 1, 3, 2 and 3. The staff contains two measures of music. The first measure has four quarter notes, and the second measure has four quarter notes. Below the staff, the strumming pattern is written as: 1 d, 2 d u, 3 d u, 4 d u, 1 d, 2 d u, 3 d u, 4 d u.

As you get the hang of it, start to increase the tempo gradually. As you get faster, you want to maintain a very loose and relaxed wrist. The temptation is to tighten up, but this will prevent you from playing smoothly and getting any faster.

One thing I like to do for this strumming pattern that you might want to try is to use your thumb to brush/pluck the top string of the first beat.

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Take Me Home, Country Roads

verse 1:

G **Em**
Almost heaven, West Virginia
D
Blue ridge mountains
C **G**
Shenandoah river
G **Em**
Life is old there, older than the trees
D
Younger than the mountains
C **G**
Growin' like a breeze

chorus:

G **D**
Country roads, take me home
 Em **C**
To the place I belong
 G **D**
West Virginia, mountain momma
 C **G**
Take me home, country roads

verse 2:

G **Em**
All my memories gathered round her
D **C** **G**
Miners lady, stranger to blue water
G **Em**
Dark and dusty, painted on the sky
D
Misty taste of moonshine
C **G**
Teardrops in my eye

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bridge:

Em **D**

I hear her voice

G

In the mornin' hour she calls me

C

G

D

The radio reminds me of my home far away

Em

D

C

And drivin' down the road I get a feelin'

D

D7

That I should have been home yesterday, yesterday

Practice Objectives

Focus your practice on these things before you move to the next lesson:

- learn strumming pattern #5 at a slow tempo first
- practice strumming pattern #5 at a faster tempo
- experiment with using your thumb to lightly to brush/pluck the top strings on the first beat of the measure
- learn how to play "Take Me Home, Country Roads"

That's all for this lesson!