

Intermediate Strum Patterns

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Count 1 [2] 3 4 &

The 1st beat in each bar of this pattern is called a minim and lasts for 2 beats. This means the 2 count shown in brackets should be counted but not played. The strumming hand should still move down on this beat but not strike the strings. This is known as a ghost strum.

Tap your foot 4 times per bar and say out loud as you strum Down, Miss, Down, Down, Up, for each bar. Keep playing until you can't make a mistake.

Count 1 2 & [3] 4 &

The curved between the & and [3] beat is called a tie. This means the third beat should not be played but held on from the previous up strum. However, the strumming hand should keep moving at the same speed missing the strings on beat 3 with a ghost strum.

Say out loud as you strum Down, Down, Up, Miss, Up, Down.

Ghost strumming a down beat and therefore accenting the off beat is called syncopation and is very common in all guitar styles.

Count 1 2 3 & [4] &

Another syncopated rhythm, this time the ghost strum is on beat [4].

This pattern is Down, Down, Down, Up, Miss, Up.

Practice these patterns with chord progressions and songs you know. They will add a real groove to your rhythm playing.