

Lesson 4

Eighth Note Rhythms

All the rhythm patterns you have played so far involved playing a downward strum (V), on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th beat. To make rhythm patterns more interesting, **eighth note rhythm** patterns can be used. An eighth note rhythm is a combination of a down and an up strum within one beat. The down strum "on the beat" is played louder than the up strum which is "off the beat" (the "+" section of the count). An **up strum** is indicated by a \wedge , and is played on the "and" section of the count. Start the up strum on the first (thinnest) string and strum all six strings.

Play the following rhythm pattern, which has eighth note strums on the second beat consisting of a down strum on the "2" count and an up strum on the "+" section of the count. There are **eight** eighth note strums in one bar of $\frac{4}{4}$ time.

 **20. Eighth Note Rhythm Pattern 1**

Practice this new rhythm pattern holding a G chord then apply it to the chord progression below.

Eighth Note Rhythm Pattern 1

Here are some more patterns using eighth note rhythms. They are all in $\frac{4}{4}$ time. Practice each pattern while holding a G chord and then with the above chord progression.

 **21.**

 **22.**

 **23.**

 **24.**

 **25.**

 **26.**

 **27.**

 **28.**