

# Beginner Uke Lesson • Strum Patterns

## - Basic Strums -





(From the Bellingham Uke Group Startup Pack & Brook Adams;  
 adapted and revised by Suz Doyle • www.SuzDoyle.com) Revised 8.13.11

D ↓ = strum down    U ↑ = Strum up    1 2 3 4 = beats in a group

*Emphasize the first beat in the below strum patterns:*





### # 1 - Basic Strum (4/4/ time)

(4 counts per group,  
 emphasize the first beat)





<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>
↓	↓	↓	↓
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
			

### # 2 - Common Strum

(Double Strum/ Basic Rock)




<b>D - U</b>	<b>D - U</b>	<b>D - U</b>	<b>D - U</b>
↓ ↑	↓ ↑	↓ ↑	↓ ↑
<b>1 (and)</b>	<b>2 (and)</b>	<b>3 (and)</b>	<b>4 (and)</b>
			

### # 3 - The "Horsie"

<b>D</b>	<b>D - U</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D - U</b>
↓	↓ ↑	↓	↓ ↑
<b>1</b>	<b>2 (and)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 (and)</b>
			




### # 4 - Waltz (3/4 time)

(3 counts per group)

<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>
↓	↓	↓
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
		

### # 5 - Waltz Variation (3/4 time)

(3 counts per group)

<b>D</b>	<b>D - U</b>	<b>D</b>
↓	↓ ↑	↓
<b>1</b>	<b>2 (and)</b>	<b>3</b>
		

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### # 6 - March/ Polka (2/4/ time)

(2 counts per group)

<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>
↓	↓
1	2

### # 7 - Nashville

(4 counts per group)

<b>D</b>	<b>D - U</b>	<b>D - U</b>	<b>D - U</b>
↓	↓ ↑	↓ ↑	↓ ↑
1	2 (and)	3 (and)	4 (and)

### # 8 - Rock/ R&B/ 1950s

(triplets - 3 strums/ beat)

<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>U</b>
↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑
1	(and - a)		2	(and - a)		3	(and - a)		4	(and - a)	
>	>	>	>	>	>	>	>	>	>	>	>

### # 9 - Ragtime

(4 counts per group)

<b>D</b>	<b>D - U</b>	<b>D - U</b>	<b>D</b>
↓	↓ ↑	↓ ↑	↓
1	2 (and)	3 (and)	4

### # 10 - Island

(4 counts per group)

(accents on the up-strokes)

<b>D</b>	<b>U - U</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>U</b>
↓	↑ ↑	↓	↑
1	2 (and)	3	4
	> >		>

NOTE: The strongest accent usually occurs on the first beat in a group. Syncopation happens when the accent is placed on beats that are normally weak (e.g. beats 2, 3 or 4, or the "and" of a beat). In the Rock/ R&B/ 1950s strum above, the accent is on the 1st note in each set of three. See our handout about Syncopation to practice moving the accent onto different beats.