

Strummer Camp: 2019 (Day 1)

As part of the “getting started” strumming patterns and exercises, you'll notice that I am using the G Major chord (consistently) throughout the first series. You are free to use ANY chord that you positively can play. I just chose G Major because it's one that most every guitarist can play. The supplemental exercises for each series should be played using the chords that are shown. Stick to a simple 80 bpm for now. I provide the track.

I would HIGHLY suggest starting with all the ones labeled with an “a” before working on switching chords.

Exercise 1a:

G

The image shows two guitar staves. The top staff is a standard guitar tuning (EADGBE) with a G Major chord diagram above it. The bottom staff is an open guitar tuning (EADGBE) with a G Major chord diagram above it. A dashed line connects the two staves, indicating they are the same exercise.

Exercise 1: Whole Note



1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

Exercise 1b:

G Em

The image shows two guitar staves. The top staff is a standard guitar tuning (EADGBE) with a G Major chord diagram above the first measure and an Em chord diagram above the second measure. The bottom staff is an open guitar tuning (EADGBE) with a G Major chord diagram above the first measure and an Em chord diagram above the second measure. A dashed line connects the two staves, indicating they are the same exercise.

The whole note will get 1 full beat per measure. If you play through the tabs provided twice, you will have strummed a total of 4 times. Playing each chord on the “1” beat (1 – 2 – 3 – 4) will mean you strum 1 time per measure. These are all downstrokes. The decimal value for a whole note would be 1.00

Exercise 2a:

Exercise 2a consists of two staves. The top staff is a standard musical staff with a treble clef, showing four measures of music. Each measure contains a single half note. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature with six strings, showing the fret positions for each note in the four measures. The notes correspond to the half notes in the top staff. A dashed line is drawn below the tablature staff.

Exercise 2: Half Notes

Exercise 2: Half Notes is a diagram showing two half notes on a musical staff. Below each note is a blue arrow pointing down to a sequence of rhythmic counts: "1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a".

Exercise 2b:

Exercise 2b consists of two staves. The top staff is a standard musical staff with a treble clef, showing four measures of music. Each measure contains a single half note. Above each measure is a chord name: G, Em, C, and D. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature with six strings, showing the fret positions for each note in the four measures. The notes correspond to the half notes in the top staff. A dashed line is drawn below the tablature staff.

The half note will be played twice per measure and has a decimal value of 0.50 – which is HALF that of a whole note. It is played on the “1” and the “3” beat (1 – 2 – 3 – 4). If played all the way through the tab provided twice, you will have strummed a total of eight times.

Exercise 3a:

Exercise 3a consists of two staves. The top staff is a standard musical staff with a treble clef, showing eight measures of music. Each measure contains a single half note. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature with six strings, showing the fret positions for each note in the eight measures. The notes correspond to the half notes in the top staff. A dashed line is drawn below the tablature staff.

Exercise 3: Quarter Notes

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

Exercise 3b:

This series is all about using a quarter note. The quarter note will get 4 strums per measure, with the decimal value being 0.25 (4 quarters make a whole) and is played/counted with every strum of the 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 beat. This one is still using all downstrokes. If you play through this entire tab as shown above, you will have strummed a total of 16 times.

Exercise 4a:

Exercise 4: Quarter Notes, Accents, Eighth Notes

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

Exercise 4b:

The image shows a musical exercise for guitar. The top staff contains four measures of music with chords G, Em, C, and D. The G chord is played for two measures, Em for two, C for two, and D for two. The bottom staff shows the corresponding fretboard diagrams for each chord, with fingerings indicated by numbers 0-4 on the strings.

This one is pretty easy when you HEAR it. Seeing it might be a little confusing. First, you'll have 3 quarter notes and 2 eighth notes per measure. Notice the accent (>) on the second strum of the G Major and the C Major. All you do there is strike the chord with a bit more emphasis.

Since a quarter note = 0.25, we can take that 0.25 and multiply it by 3 (because we have 3 quarter notes) to get a total of 0.75 (0.25 x 3) – which isn't quite a complete measure. In order to get a complete measure, we need it to total 1.00 (a whole measure).

Add the 2 eighth notes together (0.125 + 0.125) or multiply them (0.125 x 2) and you'll get a total of 0.25, which is = to a quarter note. Thus, 0.75 (3 quarters) and 0.25 (2 eighth notes added/multiplied from 0.125) and you get 1.00, which constitutes a full measure! ;)

Exercise 5a:

The image shows a musical exercise for guitar. The top staff contains four measures of music with eighth notes. The bottom staff shows the corresponding fretboard diagrams for each chord, with fingerings indicated by numbers 0-4 on the strings.

Exercise 5: Eighth Notes

The diagram shows four measures of eighth notes. Each measure has two eighth notes beamed together. Below each measure are two blue arrows pointing down to the notes. The text labels below the arrows are: 1 e & a, 2 e & a, 3 e & a, 4 e & a.

The image shows a musical exercise on a guitar. The top staff displays four chords: G, Em, C, and D. The bottom staff shows the fret numbers for each string (E, A, D, G, B, E) for each of the 8 eighth notes in each measure. The G chord is played for 4 notes, Em for 4, C for 4, and D for 4.

Measure	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Chord	G	G	G	G	Em	Em	Em	Em
E string	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0
A string	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0
D string	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
G string	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2
B string	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
E string	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0
Chord	C	C	C	C	D	D	D	D
E string	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2
A string	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3
D string	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2
G string	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0
B string	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0
E string	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0

At this point you know that an eighth note = 0.125, and when you look above you'll notice that there are 8 eighth notes per measure. Thus, you know it will be a complete measure because $0.125 \times 8 = 1.00$

I talk about “bridging the gap” in the lesson on this one, but for now I would like you to try to get all 4 full strums per chord. As the progressions get bigger (and more strumm-ier ... ?) you will DEFINITELY find the idea of bridging the gap to be beneficial. For now, just see how well you can do with a direct 8th note chord run.