# 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.
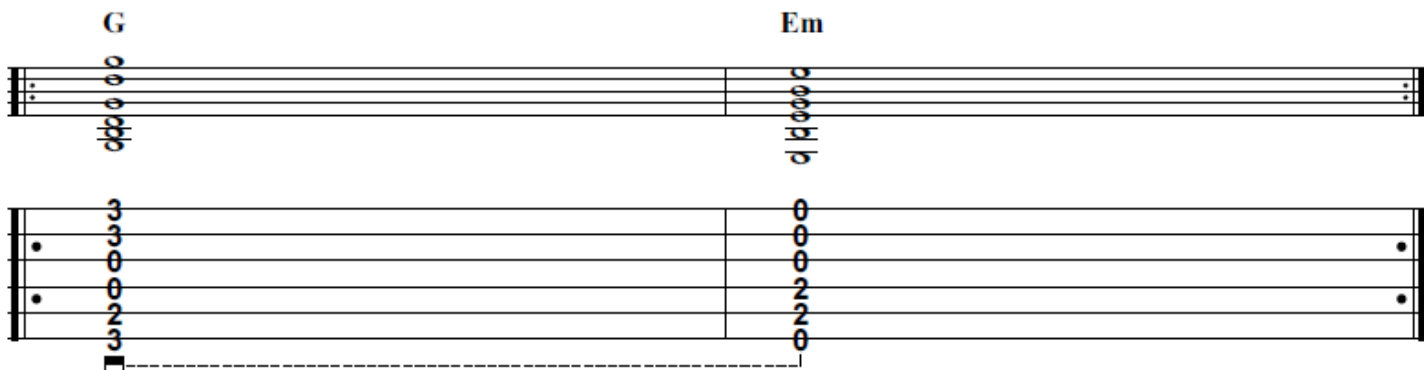
Exercise 1a:
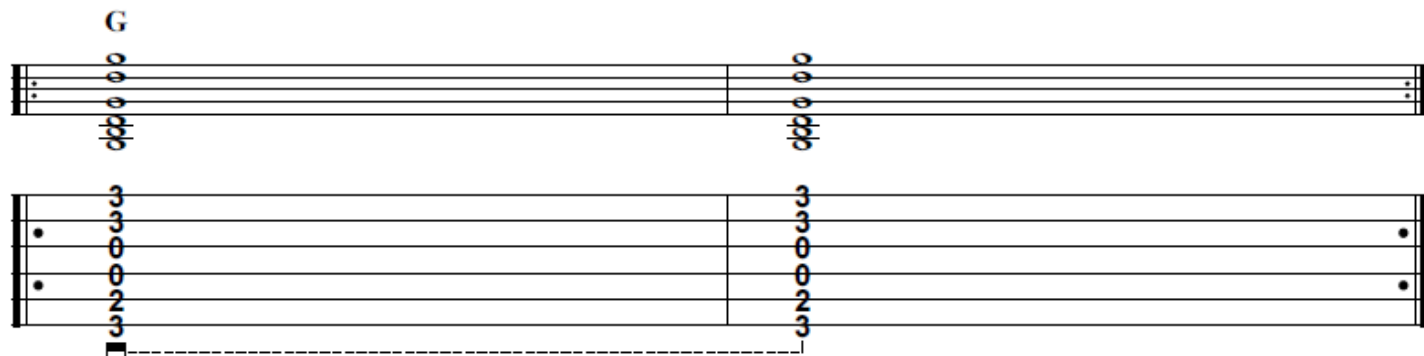
Exercise 1: Whole Note

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

Exercise 1b:

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
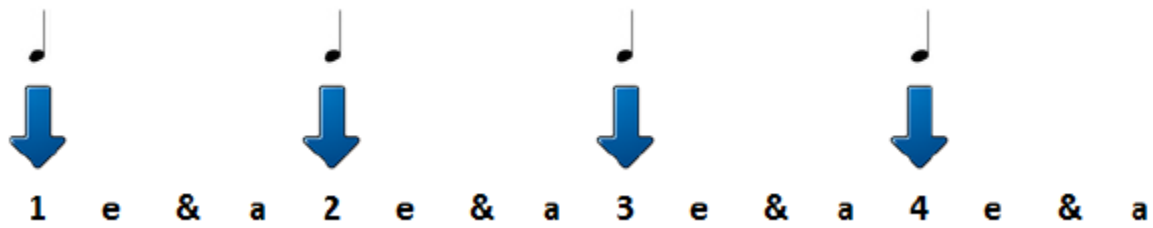
Exercise 2a:

Exercise 2: Half Notes

1　e　&　a　2　e　&　a　3　e　&　a　4　e　&　a

Exercise 2b:

G　　　　　Em　　　　　C　　　　　D

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 3: Quarter Notes

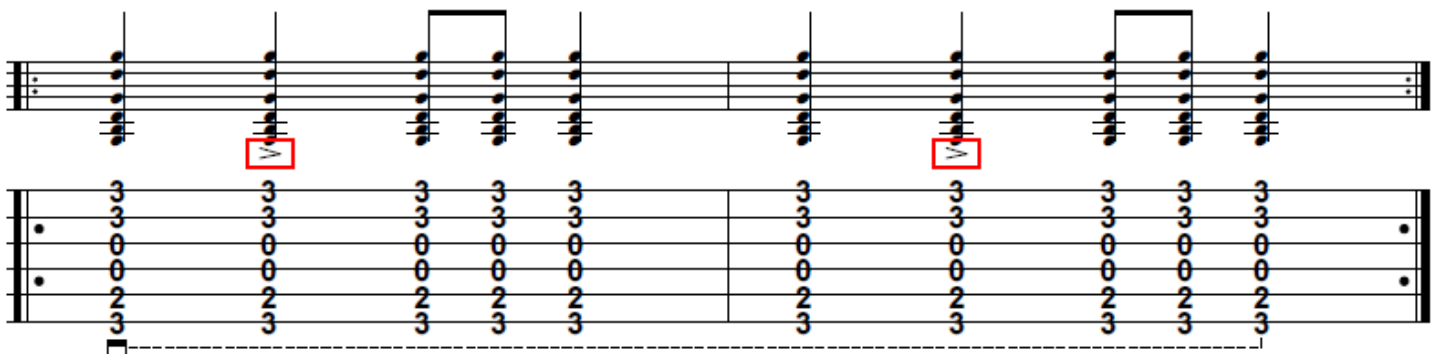1   e   &   a   2   e   &   a   3   e   &   a   4   e   &   a
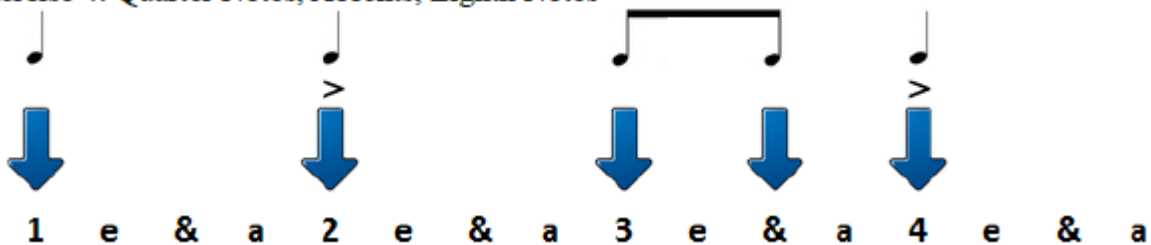
Exercise 3b:
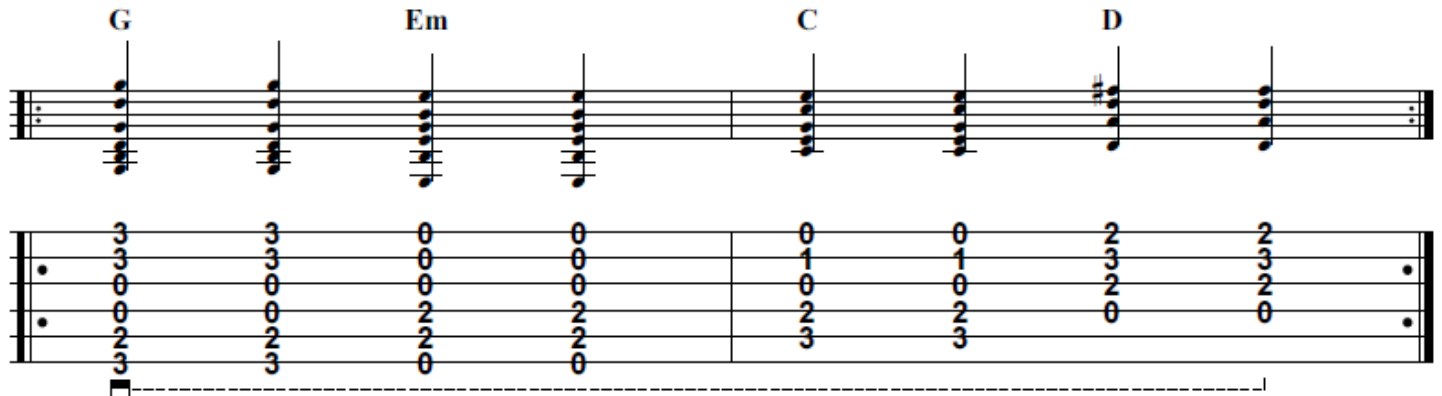
This series is all about using a quarter note. The quarter note will get 4 strums per measure, with the decimal value being 0.25 (4 quarters make a whole) and is played/counted with every strum of the 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 beat. This one is still using all downstrokes. If you play through this entire tab as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

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 x2) 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:

Exercise 5: Eighth Notes

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

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 x 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.