The Strumming Gap

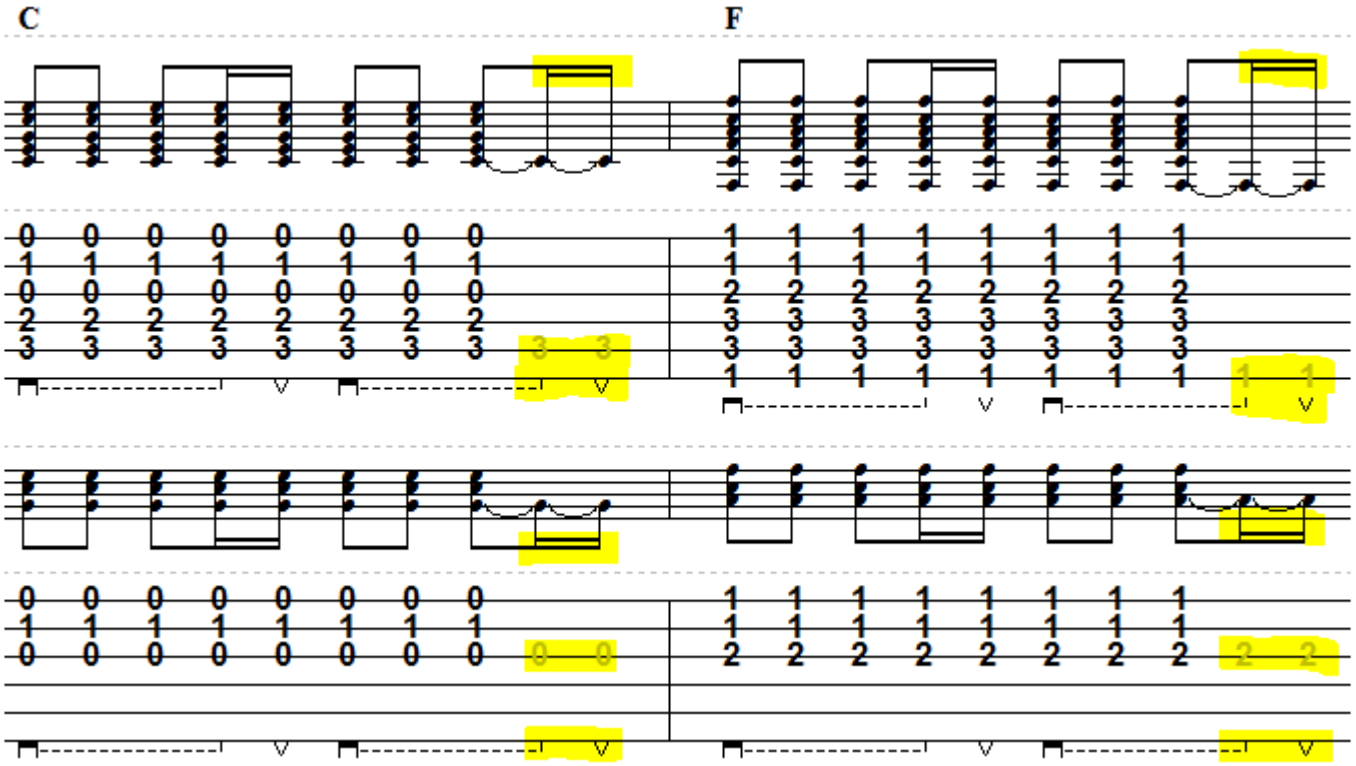
It doesn't matter if you're a first time strummer or an accomplished musician - i*f you can't* **hear** the beat, **identify** when a chord is played, or even how to **change** to a different chord - you're about to find out why:

You're missing the "gap."

That's right. Once you learn how to **bridge the gap** you'll find every song much easier.

Creating The Gap

Creating a gap is actually a little tricky to do in more difficult progressions, but this one is easy. We can "create" a gap by first determining where the chord change happens. We are looking at a change from C - F (and then back to C from F) so that's pretty easy. We need to create a gap between those changes, but we don't want to create some crazy strumming pattern. Instead, we do this:



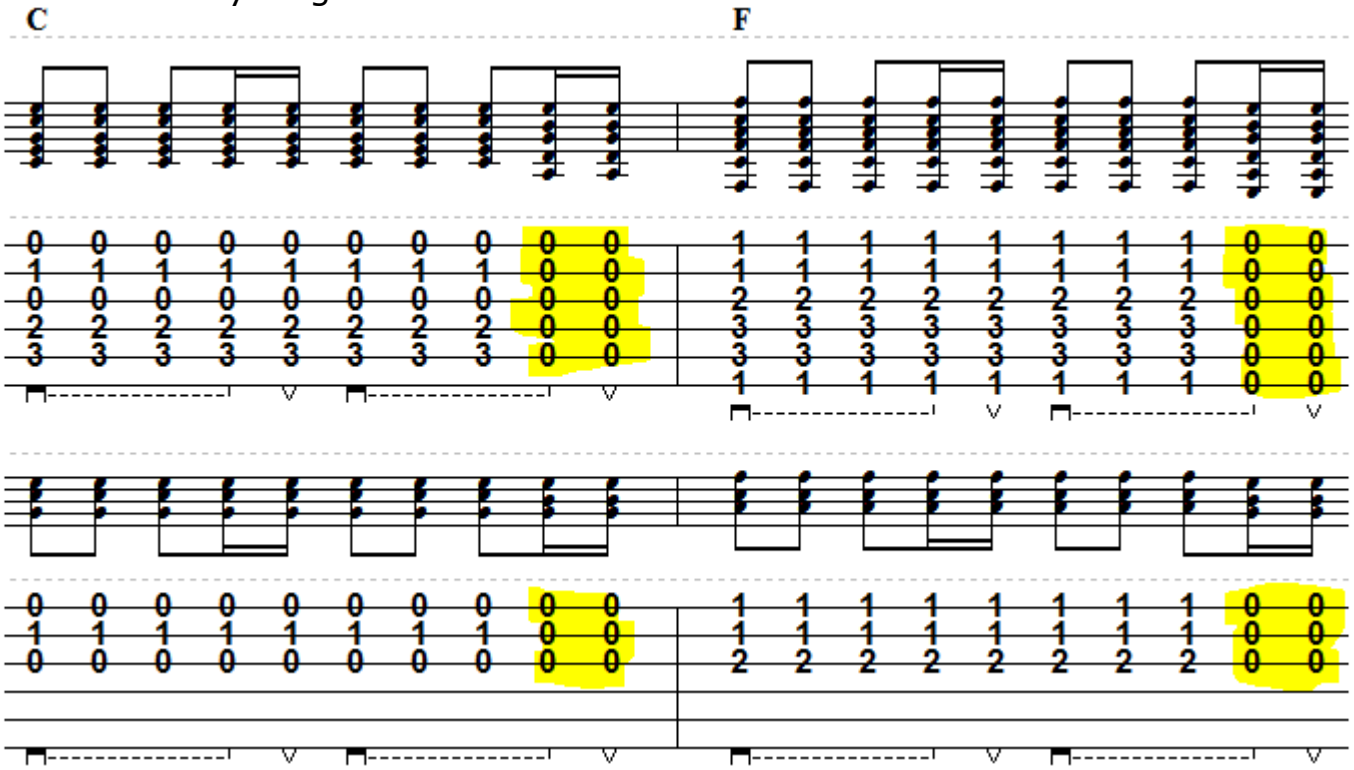
I've highlighted a few things.

I left 2 notes at the end of each measure (gray).

The "DU" movement at the end might not be easy to transition to the next chord *without creating a gap.*

Gaps are in every style of music. Funny thing is - most guitarists (and instructors) don't notice it or simply choose not to address it. Let's "bridge" the gap and make this feel natural.

You ready to see how? It's easy! At first this might seem slightly stupid, but it is a fool-proof method of strumming, and it works every single time. The solution is this:



Nothing to it! I know, I know.

You were expecting some major breakthrough in the world of learning to strum, but what you've really seen is my recommendation to just play open strings.

Believe it or not, it's THE solution for any chord progression - even simple ones like this.

Imagine what you can do with intricate progressions that move through a variety of chords quickly.

I'll slap a 100% guarantee on using open strings to move efficiently into ANY chord progression, big or small.

So, WHY does this work with any chord....ever? (ever!)

Because you aren't "dwelling" on the open notes. They come in and out so quickly (creating *and* bridging the gap) between a series of chords, the ear will naturally hear those notes as acceptable or even right! So, any time you run into a strumming pattern or progression that confuses you, here are a few pointers:

1. Open the strings up right as (or before) you move to the next chord. The quicker the tempo the better.
2. Try, if possible, to lightly strum the "open" strings so they don't just pop right out.
3. Create (and then bridge) the gap any time you see 2 or more 16th notes together. It helps tremendously.
4. Don't just strum all 6 strings if it's not necessary, such as with D Major. It doesn't use all 6 strings anyway.