

Strummer Camp: 2019 (Day 4)

This time there's only one real “new” element, which is a tied note. It will be explained when we reach it.

Exercise 16a:

Exercise 16a musical notation. The top staff shows a sequence of chords: G major, D major, E major, A major, G major, D major, E major, A major. The bottom staff shows the corresponding fretting: 3 0 0 2 3, 2 0 0 2 3, 0 2 0 2 3, 0 2 0 2 3, 3 0 0 2 3, 2 0 0 2 3, 0 2 0 2 3, 0 2 0 2 3. Red boxes highlight the first, third, fifth, and seventh chords. Vertical dashed lines connect the chords to the fretting.

Exercise 16: Quarter Notes, Accents, Eighth Notes, Sixteenth Notes

Exercise 16 strumming pattern. The top staff shows a sequence of notes: quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note. The bottom staff shows the corresponding strumming: 1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a. Blue arrows indicate downstrokes, and red arrows indicate upstrokes.

As usual, our 16th notes are played with a DU formation. Just be prepared that this time you'll have a consecutive DUDU run. Everything else is downstrokes.

Exercise 17a:

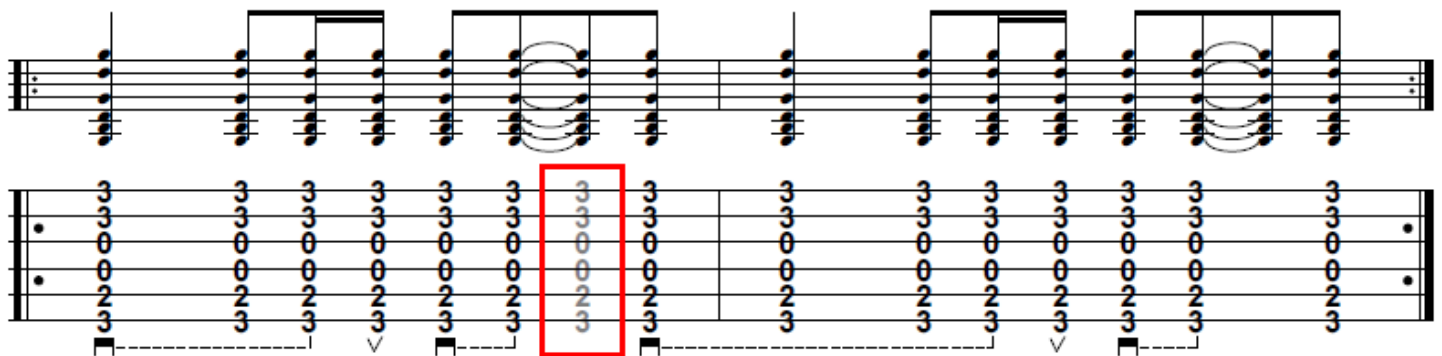
Exercise 17a musical notation. The top staff shows a sequence of chords: G major, D major, E major, A major, G major, D major, E major, A major. The bottom staff shows the corresponding fretting: 3 0 0 2 3, 2 0 0 2 3, 0 2 0 2 3, 0 2 0 2 3, 3 0 0 2 3, 2 0 0 2 3, 0 2 0 2 3, 0 2 0 2 3. Red boxes highlight the first, third, fifth, and seventh chords. Vertical dashed lines connect the chords to the fretting.

Exercise 17: Quarter Notes, Eighth Notes, Sixteenth Notes, Tied Notes

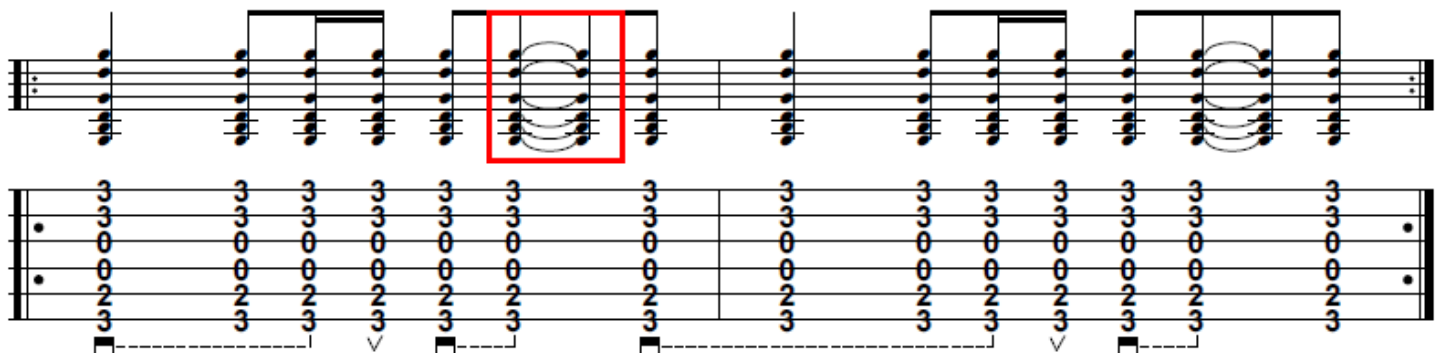
Exercise 17 strumming pattern. The top staff shows a sequence of notes: quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note. The bottom staff shows the corresponding strumming: 1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a. Blue arrows indicate downstrokes, and red arrows indicate upstrokes. A curved line connects the eighth notes of the fourth measure to the eighth notes of the fifth measure, indicating a tied note.

This is our new element, which is a tied note. The lesson video goes into detail here, but I'd like to show you this again.

Here's what you sometimes find when a tied note is used:



Notice that the G is gray here. If you're lucky, the tab will actually show this. However, that's not always the case. It's more often like this:



This is why I want to show you both tab and diagram concepts. In order to guarantee you aren't resting or just “not strumming” something, you'll want to look at the tab notation when it is available. The arches shown between these two 8th note groups indicate that you are just letting that previous chord “simmer” a bit. The value will be shown, so that will designate when you are simmering that previous chord. Also remember that a tied note can only be used if the chord in front of it is the same chord (or note) – which is very important.

Had that been an Em in place of that tied note, it would no longer be a tied note. This is simply because the previous chord was a G chord.

The basic pattern here, without thinking about note values, would actually be this:

D - D-DU-D-D-(t)-D ← the (t) indicates a tied note. More official strumming patterns that use notes WILL indicate the tied note as you saw earlier with the arrow diagram.

Just remember, the arrow diagram is based on a total value of 16th notes, so the counting is weird there.

Exercise 18a:

Exercise 18: Quarter Notes, Eighth Notes, Sixteenth Notes, Tied Notes

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

This is another tied note run. This time you're holding (tying) that “G” after the second 16th note strum.

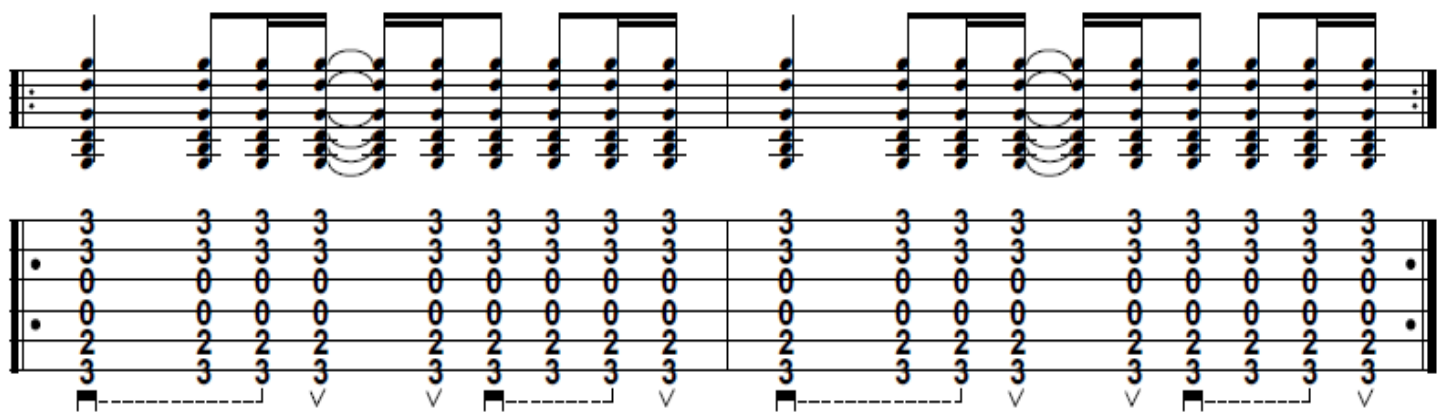
Exercise 19a:

Exercise 19: Quarter Notes, Eighth Notes, Sixteenth Notes, Tied Notes

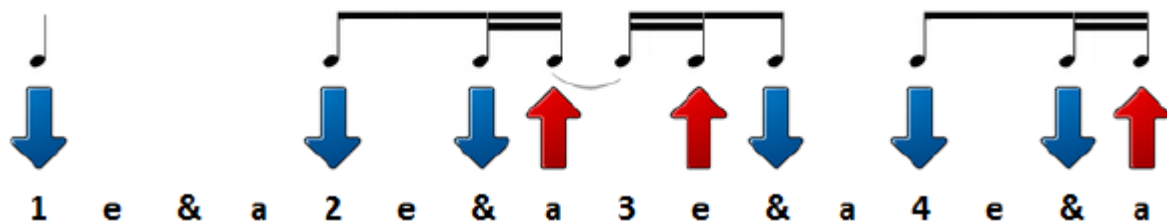
1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

The only difference between this pattern and the previous pattern is the inclusion of the 4 group of 16th notes. The good news is you're just playing DUDU.

Exercise 20a:



Exercise 20: Quarter Notes, Eighth Notes, Sixteenth Notes, Tied Notes



This one isn't quite as easy, but I give you a few pointers in the lesson video. The reason this one is slightly harder is due to the location of the tied note. It takes place right after the third 16th note. We have been working exclusively with 16th notes (when placed beside each other) as DU patterns – and that won't change here. However, you won't strum the “D” in the second set. Feel free to think it – but don't strum it.

In other words, this: D – D-DU(d)U-D-D-DU ← the little “d” is your thought process.

Had there NOT been a tied note in it, it would be:

D – D-DUDU-D-D-DU