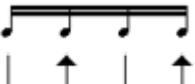


## Creating Your Own Strumming Patterns

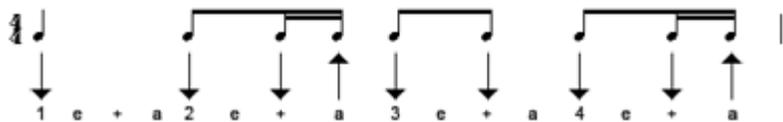
So how easy is this to do? Well, it's actually relatively easy if you follow this unique guideline.

There are only a few ways to divide up a single beat.

1.  You could use two eighth notes
2.  Or use an eighth note and two sixteenths
3.  Or two sixteenths or an eighth
4.  Or sixteenth, eighth, sixteenth
5.  There's the dotted eighth, sixteenth
6.  Also there's the sixteenth Dotted eighth
7.  Then there's 4 sixteenth notes
8.  Last, there's the simple quarter note

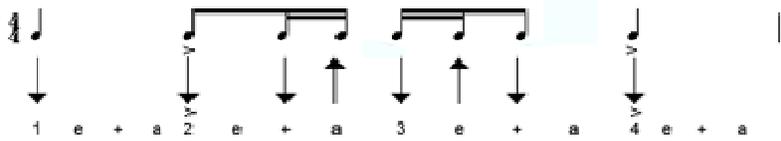
From there it's a simple matter of mixing and matching these 8 patterns together. Let's try it! For the first pattern let's try mixing patterns 8, 2, 1, then 2. Here's how it would turn out:

Pattern 8, 2, 1, 2:



1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 e + a

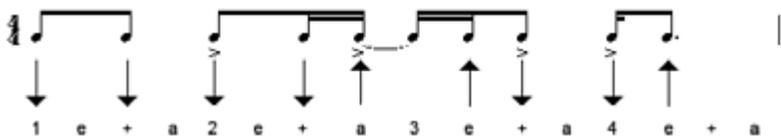
Pattern 8, 2, 3, 8:



To add a little interest you can add a tie in. A tie is simply two notes held out for the total of the two notes. When you play a tie, you will just skip the strokes of the 2nd of the two tied notes.

So you could try patterns 1,2,3,6 with a tie between parts 2 and 3. It would turn out like this:

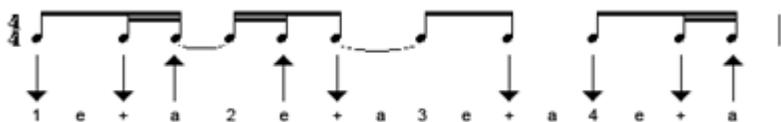
Pattern 1, 2, 3, 6 (tie) 2, 3



Now let's put parts 2, 3, 1 and 2. This time we'll use two ties, one between 2 and 3 and another between 3 and 1.

The final result will be this:

Pattern 2, 3, 1, 2 (two ties – one between 2 and 3 and one between 3 and 1)



That's really all there is to making your own pattern. If you get very comfortable with the 8 building blocks, then it's very easy to make your own strum patterns. It's smart to use the same pick strokes each time you use the different little blocks, because it will make things easier when you put them all together. Have fun making your own rhythms!