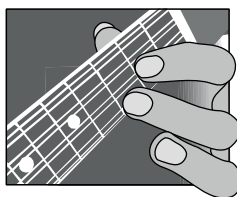# *Theory and Application*

C

Chords 2

The first tutorial sheet gave you a number of chords, and now we'll look at strumming. Strumming is just playing chord sequences in a rhythmic (and hopefully attractive) way. It can be difficult at first, but the more you do it, the more it becomes - and sounds - natural. We'll start off with the most common rhythm, a 4/4 beat, which means we'll be counting *ONE-two-three-four, ONE-two-three-four,* and so on. For the first exercises, use a chord which you find easy, such as a G or D. After a while you can use the chord progressions from the first Chords handout (***Chords 1***).

The Basic Strumming Pattern

Your hand is moving up and down through the strings. All the down-strums are ON THE BEAT, and all the up-strums are in between the beats. Try to see your right hand as being like a metronome, keeping the beat by swinging up and down steadily.

The basic strumming pattern is useful to start with; it will give you the rhythm of the song or piece of music. However, it's a little

Fig.1

uninteresting and it can get tedious to play and to listen to. Let's try to vary the pattern...

Strumming Pattern No.2

Pattern No.2 involves keeping the movement of the right going, but missing the strings on the first up-strum, and again on the third up-strum.

Strumming Pattern No.3

Similar to pattern No.2, but this time you're missing the strings on the second and third up-strums.

Strumming Pattern No.4

We're doing variations on a theme: here you're missing the second and third up-strums.

Strumming Pattern No.5

Although it might be tricky, let's try a *syncopated* pattern , where we miss a down-strum as well as an up-strum.

Strumming Patterns

4/4 Strumming Patterns:

Basic

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
↓↑	↓↑	↓↑	↓↑	↓↑	↓↑	↓↑	↓↑

No.2

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
↓	↓↑	↓	↓↑	↓	↓↑	↓	↓↑

No.3

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
↓↑	↓	↓↑	↓	↓↑	↓	↓↑	↓

No.4

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
↓↑	↓	↓	↓↑	↓↑	↓	↓	↓↑

No.5

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
↓	↓↑	↑	↓↑	↓	↓↑	↑	↓↑

No.6

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
↓	↓↑	↓↑	↓↑	↓	↓↑	↓↑	↓↑

3/4 Strumming Patterns:

No.7

1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
↓	↓↑	↓	↓	↓↑	↓	↓	↓↑	↓

No.8

1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
↓	↓↑	↓↑	↓	↓↑	↓↑	↓	↓↑	↓↑