

Strumming and Fingerstyle Patterns

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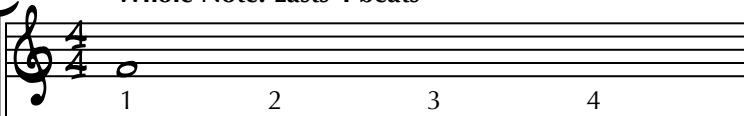

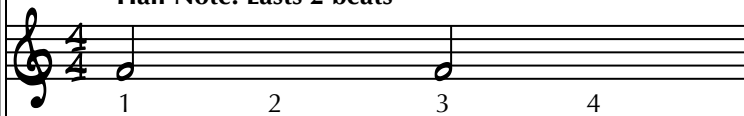
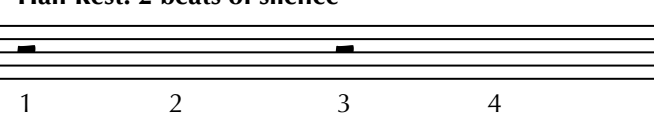
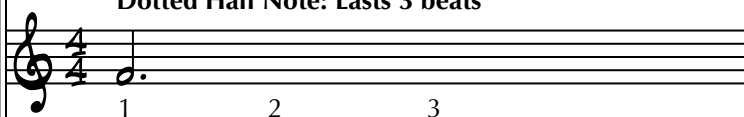
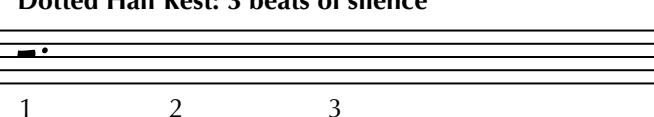
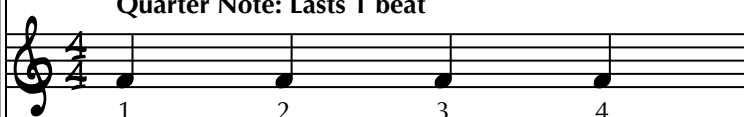
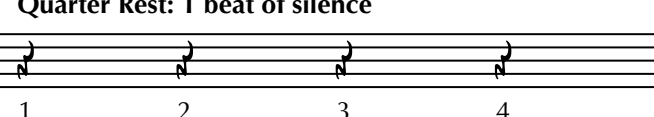
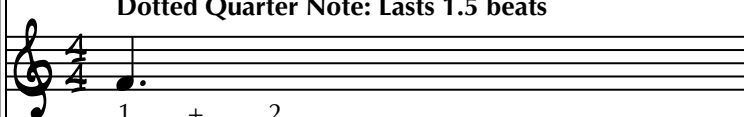
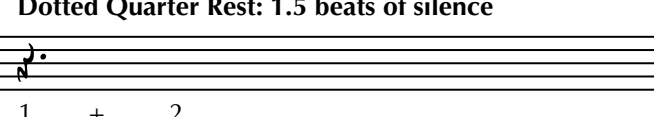

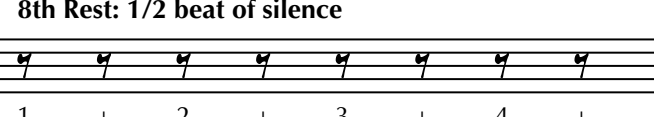

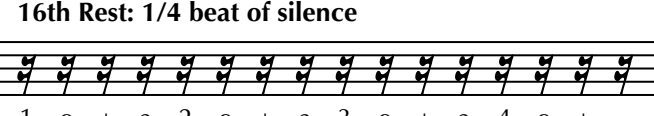
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Guitar Books

- Melody Guitar 1: Reading standard notation. Strings 1-3.
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- Rhythm Guitar 2: Open chords, strumming, and fingerstyle patterns.
- Rhythm Guitar 3: Deep dive into moveable chords. Great for jazz and blues.
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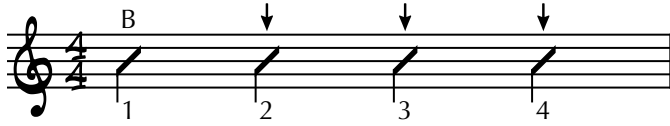
An overview of how rhythms are subdivided. For a more in-depth look at rhythms, check out the free **Rhythms and Time Signatures** PDF. Go to GodfreyGuitarLessons.com/downloads and scroll down to find it under **Tips and Reference Materials**.

<p>Whole Note: Lasts 4 beats</p>  <p>1 2 3 4</p>	<p>Whole Rest: 4 beats of silence</p>  <p>1 2 3 4</p>
<p>Half Note: Lasts 2 beats</p>  <p>1 2 3 4</p>	<p>Half Rest: 2 beats of silence</p>  <p>1 2 3 4</p>
<p>Dotted Half Note: Lasts 3 beats</p>  <p>1 2 3</p>	<p>Dotted Half Rest: 3 beats of silence</p>  <p>1 2 3</p>
<p>Quarter Note: Lasts 1 beat</p>  <p>1 2 3 4</p>	<p>Quarter Rest: 1 beat of silence</p>  <p>1 2 3 4</p>
<p>Dotted Quarter Note: Lasts 1.5 beats</p>  <p>1 + 2</p>	<p>Dotted Quarter Rest: 1.5 beats of silence</p>  <p>1 + 2</p>
<p>8th Note: Lasts 1/2 beat Single 8ths</p>  <p>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</p>	<p>8th Rest: 1/2 beat of silence</p>  <p>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</p>
<p>16th Note: Lasts 1/4 beat Single 16ths</p>  <p>1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 e + a</p>	<p>16th Rest: 1/4 beat of silence</p>  <p>1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 e +</p>

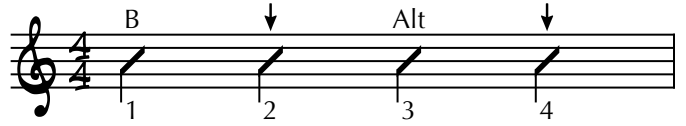
A **tie** connects two or more of the same note or chord to create one longer note or chord. Ties can curve up or down and can connect any number of notes or chords together as long as they are all the **same** note or chord.



In this pattern, play a bass note on beat 1 and strum beats 2-3-4.



In this pattern, play a bass note on beat 1, strum beat 2, play an alternate bass note on beat 3, and strum beat 4. (See below for alternate bass notes.)



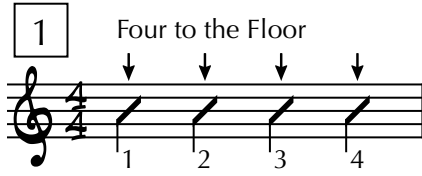
Alternate Bass Notes

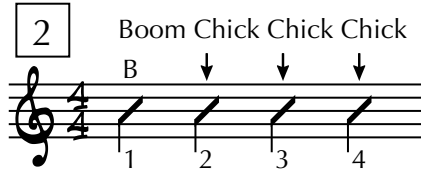
- For variety, you can often alternate between the main bass note (the lowest sounding note in the chord) and some other bass note.
- In the strumming patterns in this document, alternate bass notes are shown with an "Alt" marking as in the example above.
- An alternate bass note is usually the 5th of the chord. Occasionally you can play the 3rd of the chord as an alternate bass.

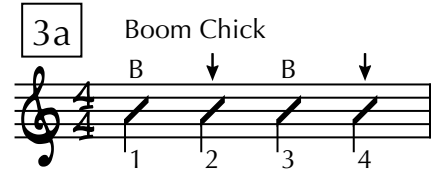
Chord Type	Main Bass String	Alternate Bass String(s)
A	5	4 or 6
B	5	4 or 6
C	5	6 or 4 (6 preferred)
D	4	5
E	6	5
F (full)	6	5
F (4 string)	4	5
G	6	4 or 5 (5 preferred)

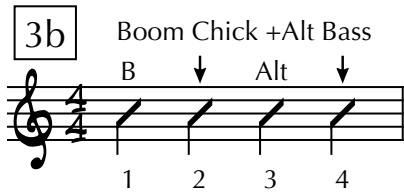
<p>A</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>B7</p>	<p>(Move 2nd finger)</p> <p>B7</p>
<p>(Move 3rd finger)</p> <p>C</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>D</p>	<p>E</p>
<p>F</p>	<p>(Move 3rd finger)</p> <p>F</p>	<p>G</p>	<p>G</p>

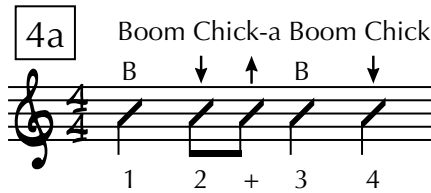
4/4 Strums

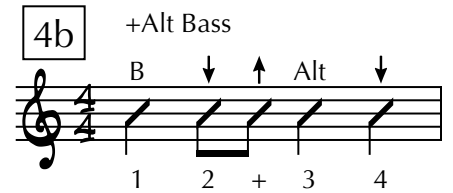
1 Four to the Floor


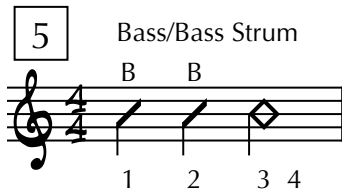
2 Boom Chick Chick Chick


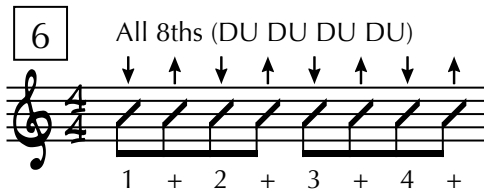
3a Boom Chick


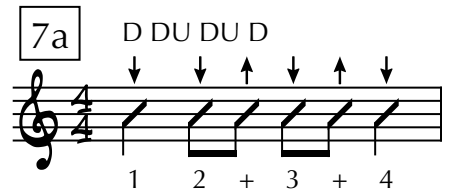
3b Boom Chick +Alt Bass


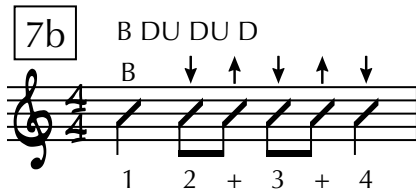
4a Boom Chick-a Boom Chick


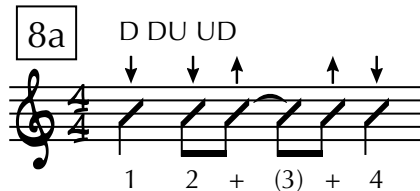
4b Boom Chick-a Boom Chick +Alt Bass


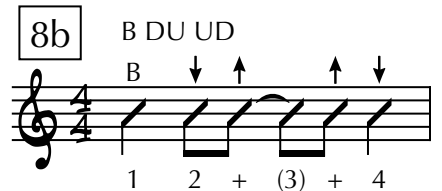
5 Bass/Bass Strum


6 All 8ths (DU DU DU DU)


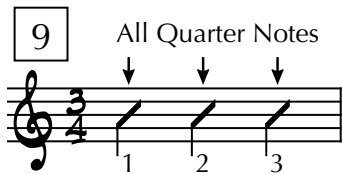
7a D DU DU D


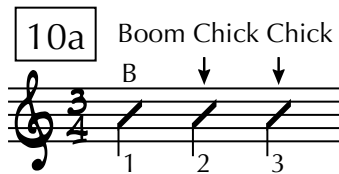
7b B DU DU D


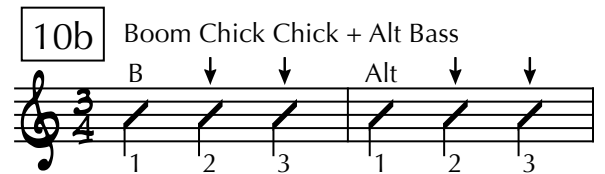
8a D DU UD


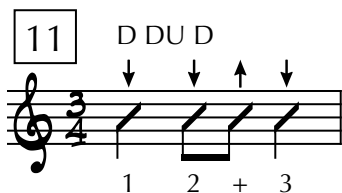
8b B DU UD


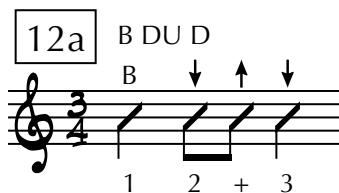
3/4 Strums

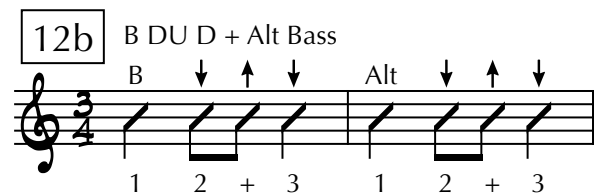
9 All Quarter Notes


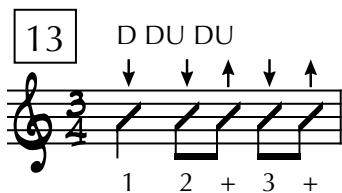
10a Boom Chick Chick


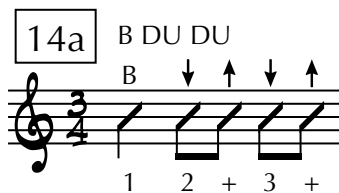
10b Boom Chick Chick + Alt Bass


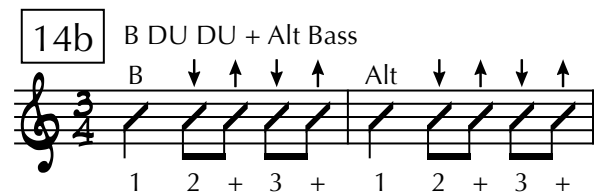
11 D DU D


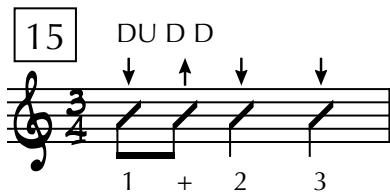
12a B DU D


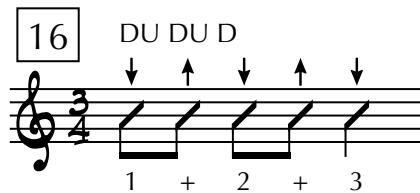
12b B DU D + Alt Bass


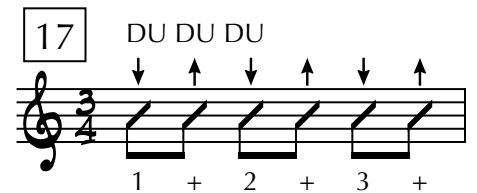
13 D DU DU


14a B DU DU


14b B DU DU + Alt Bass


15 DU D D


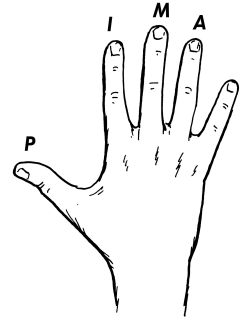
16 DU DU D


17 DU DU DU


In fingerstyle notation, the plucking hand fingers are usually labeled **PIMA**.

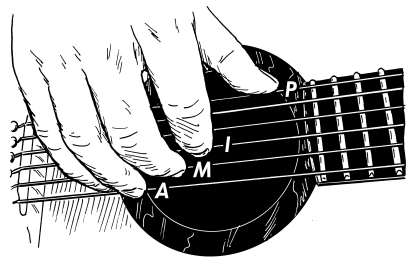
- p = thumb
- i = 1st finger
- m = 2nd finger
- a = 3rd finger

PIMA labels appear above the staff.



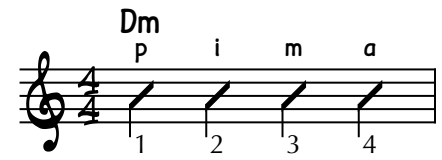
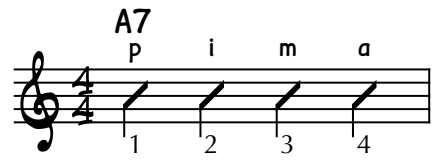
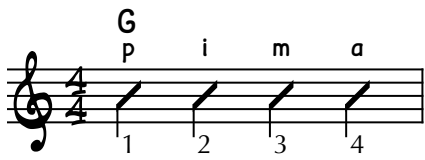
Home Position

- P (thumb) resting on top of the 6th string
- P plucks downward
- IMA (fingers 1-2-3) underneath strings 3-2-1.
- IMA pluck upward
- P moves to strings 4, 5, or 6 depending on the bass note
- IMA stay on strings 1-2-3 only.
- IMA can also play strings 2-3-4. For starters, I recommend sticking with strings 1-2-3.
- In the illustration, notice how the thumb sticks out beyond the fingers. This prevents the thumb and fingers from getting in each other's way.

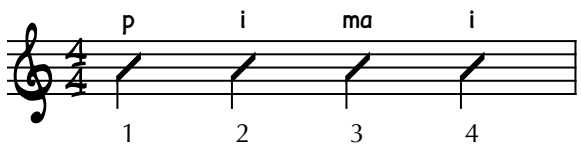


The following examples show P-I-M-A on beats 1-2-3-4.

- Play I-M-A on strings 3-2-1.
- G is a 6-string chord, so play P on string 6.
- A7 is a 5-string chord, so play P on string 5.
- Dm is a 4-string chord, so play P on string 4.

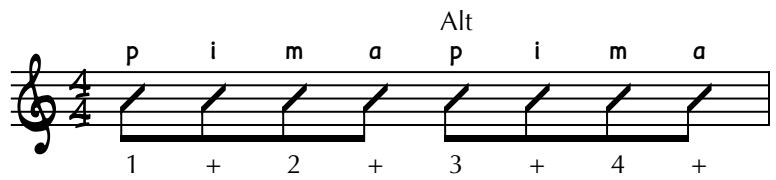


When two or more PIMA letters appear above the same note, play those fingers at the same time.



As with strumming patterns, you can play alternate bass in fingerstyle patterns.

- Always play the main bass note on beat 1.
- Alternate bass notes are shown with the "Alt" text as shown below.
- See page 4 more more information on alternate bass notes.



4/4 Fingerstyle Patterns

18a
p i m a

1 2 3 4

18b
p i m a p i m a

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

18c Alt
p i m a p i m a

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

19a
p a m i

1 2 3 4

19b
p a m i p a m i

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

19c Alt
p a m i p a m i

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

20a
p m i a

1 2 3 4

20b
p m i a p m i a

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

20c Alt
p m i a p m i a

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

21a
p i ma i

1 2 3 4

21b
p i ma i p i ma i

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

21c Alt
p i ma i p i ma i

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

22a
p ima ima ima

1 2 3 4

22b
p ima p ima

1 2 3 4

22c Alt
p ima p ima

1 2 3 4

23a
p i m a p a m i

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

23b Alt
p i m a p a m i

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

- **Travis picking** is a special kind of fingerstyle playing named after Merle Travis.
- The thumb plays on every beat. Play the **main bass note on beats 1 and 3**, and play an **alternate bass note on beats 2 and 4**.
- The fingers mostly pick on the offbeats, after the bass note.
- In some patterns, the thumb and one of the other fingers will "**pinch**" beat 1, playing at the same time.
- There are plenty more Travis style patterns you could try, but I find it best to start off by getting comfortable with just a few at first.
- **Blackbird** and **Landslide** both use Travis patterns.

24a

p i p a p m p

Alt Alt

1 + 2 + 3 + 4

24b

pi p a p m p

Alt Alt

1 2 + 3 + 4

25a

p m p i p a p

Alt Alt

1 + 2 + 3 + 4

25b

pm p i p a p

Alt Alt

1 2 + 3 + 4

26a

p i p m p i p

Alt Alt

1 + 2 + 3 + 4

26b

pi p m p i p

Alt Alt

1 2 + 3 + 4

Travis Picking Tips

If you find Travis picking challenging, try this approach.

- Choose just one pattern.
- Play it on just one chord, **slowly** – over and over.
- Once your fingers are behaving, **gradually** pick up speed, like a train building momentum.
- When you are able to play a Travis pattern comfortably on one chord, switch between two chords, preferably chords that often appear next to each other in songs, like G and C, or A and E.

3/4 Fingerstyle Patterns

27a

p ima ima

1 2 3

27b

p ima ima Alt p ima ima

1 2 3 1 2 3

28a

p i ma

1 2 3

28b

p i ma Alt p i ma

1 2 3 1 2 3

29a

p i ma ma

1 + 2 3

29b

p i ma ma Alt p i ma ma

1 + 2 3 1 + 2 3

30a

p i m a m i

1 + 2 + 3 +

30b

p i m a m i Alt p i m a m i

1 + 2 + 3 + 1 + 2 + 3 +

31a

p i ma i ma

1 + 2 + 3

32b

p i ma i ma Alt p i ma i ma

1 + 2 + 3 1 + 2 + 3

33a

p i ma i ma i

1 + 2 + 3 +

33b

p i ma i ma i Alt p i ma i ma i

1 + 2 + 3 + 1 + 2 + 3 +

34a

pi m a m a m

1 + 2 + 3 +

34b

pi m a m a m Alt pi m a m a m

1 + 2 + 3 + 1 + 2 + 3 +