



INTERMEDIATE STRUMMING

By now you should already be familiar with the calypso strum and some other basic strums such as and simple down strums combining thumb and index fingers.

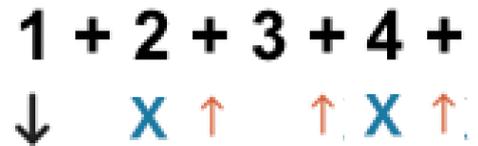
At level 2.2 you will begin to insert the following strumming patterns throughout various songs:

CHUCK STRUM:

The chuck strum is simply a down strum that is completely deadened with a twist of the wrist technique and can be added to various strumming patterns. The chucks can either fall on just beat 2 or more commonly beats 2 and 4 or a 4/4 strumming pattern.

To achieve the chuck strum it's best to start off really slow.

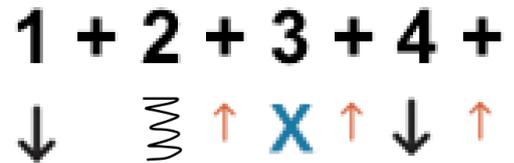
Play the 1st down strum as you normally would with your index finger then on beat 2 use all four fingers on your strumming hand to quickly flick down the strings whilst at the same time bring in your wrist to deaden the sounds of the strings followed immediately by an up strum. This style of strumming can take a bit of getting used to but persist with it as it will really expand your playing repertoire.



NB: The blue X on beats 2 and 4 represent the chuck strums.

FLAMENCO STRUM (AKA, RASGUEDO):

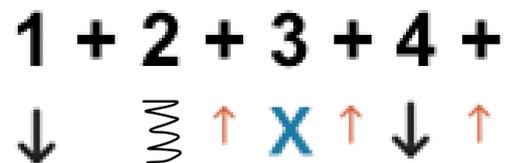
The flamenco strum provides that Spanish sounding rhythm that really separates the sound of the strum. It also contains a chuck strum on beat 3. The flamenco strum is illustrated by the zig zagged line under beat 2. To achieve it you play beat one as normal then drive all of your finger nails starting with your pinky, ring, middle and index in a downwards motion quickly followed by an up strum then a downward chuck strum before completing the rest of the pattern.



NB: The squiggly zig zag on beats 2 represent the flamenco or 'rasguedo' strum.

'FAKE' FLAMENCO STRUM:

This strumming pattern is laid out exactly the same as the one above, only this time instead of using all four fingers to create the flamenco strum you simply use just your thumb but really drive it through all strings to get the desired effect.



BLUES STYLE STRUM:

This strumming pattern really makes the music come alive and can be utilised not only in blues music but also rock and roll. The pattern features an alternating rhythm where you can distinctively hear the two tones of the combined chords. As a rule of thumb, whatever chord you start on the bluesy effect comes from sliding that chord down just one semi-tone as illustrated in the pattern. This will also work well with open chords such as A7 and C7 where you just lift the finger on and off. It's played over two bars.

