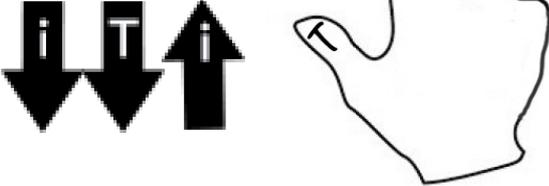


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THE THUMB ROLL



The Thumb Roll is another fantastic strum more commonly referred to as a triplet or triple strum. I prefer to call it the thumb roll because there are so many ways to create triplets like the fan stroke for example. So, for this course we will refer to it as the Thumb Roll. Once you get the hang of it, you will find it difficult not to use it in almost every song you play.

TRIPLETS (*Thumb Roll*)

A universal strum and one you will hear in many ukulele recordings. George Formby was an advocate for all kinds of triplet strumming and managed to thumb roll at warp speed often inverting the roll and doing all kinds of weirdly wonderful flips with it.

INSTRUCTION: Remember to keep your finger and thumb fairly loose, and twist your wrist instead of waving your arm up and down.

- **Step 1:** As you strum downwards on the strings with your index, allow your thumb to remain upright and then follow it through with a twist of the wrist. You should get two strums sounding here. (As shown in example one VT10)
- **Step 2:** After your thumb strums down on the strings, allow it to catch up and rest gently on your index.
- **Step 3:** Then for the up stroke use you index to catch the strings for the third and final strum.

There are numerous ways to achieve the thumb roll effect but for now we will concentrate on just these three examples, as demonstrated in the video tutorials and exercises:

Example 1: *The Thumb Roll in its natural form as a triplet*



Example 2: *Thumb Roll followed by an extra down stroke with the index*



Example 3: *The Thumb Roll with an upstroke with the index to start and the down stroke to end as shown in exercise 3*

