



STRUMMING CHEAT CODES

1. Playing Position and Arm Position

- Align the middle finger of your strumming hand with the lower corner of the ukulele body
- Roll up shirt sleeves so that the skin from your arm is making contact with the body of the ukulele
- Angle the ukulele up to 45 degrees, aligning the headstock with your shoulder.

2. Finger Selection + Technique

- Use index or Index/Middle pair for more weight and volume.

- Index finger angle matters. Brush the strings with the pad of your fingertip. If you catch a little bit of the nail, that's okay, but aim for the finger pad.

3. Subdivision + Counting

- Keep your strumming hand in constant motion, always moving down-up or up-down depending on pattern and time signature.
- Time Signatures: 2/4, 4/4, 3/4, 6/8

4. Playing Slow, Building Speed, Using Metronome

- Try these 3 strumming patterns with the suggested metronome tempos: *60bpm*, *70bpm*, *80bpm*, *90bpm*. Start with a muted neck, a single chord, working

towards basic chord progressions. Try counting the patterns as you strum.

- ***DDUUDU (1, 2 &, & 4 &) Time sig: 4/4***
- ***DDDUDU (1, 2, 3 &, 4 &) Time sig: 4/4***
- ***DDUDU (1, 2 &, 3 &) Time sig: 3/4***

5. Expression

- *Adding dynamics*: changing volume of strumming pattern as you play
- *Accenting*: adding emphasis to strumming patterns. Ex: **D**-d-u-d-u
- *Muting/Chucking*: Creating a percussive sound by touching the strings w/ your fretting hand. ***Full video on muting.***

Bonus Tips

- Keep your strumming hand relaxed as you practice all of these strumming patterns and techniques. Tension in your

wrist, hand, and fingers can inhibit your ability to strum fluidly. If you feel tense or restricted as you strum, use your elbow joint to shake your wrist, hand and fingers.

- Make sure to keep breathing as you strum. This seems like a no brainer, but it will help to keep you relaxed as you approach strumming patterns.