



# Choosing Strumming Patterns for Songs **DAY 1 (4/4 Time)**

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## **Strum Patterns to try:**

**1 - & - 2 - & - 3 - & - 4 - &**

D - U - D - U - D - U - D - U

**1 - 2 - 3 - & - 4 - &**

D - D - D - U - D - U

**1 - 2 - & - & - 4 - &**

D - D - U - U - D - U

**Genres: Pop, Rock, Adult Alternative, Country**

## **Procedure: Use these steps to help gather info.**

1. Identify the song's time signature (4/4, 3/4, 2/4 etc)  
Find sheet music or google it!
2. Identify the feel (Waltz, Moderately, Lively etc.)
3. Identify the genre (Rock, Country, Folk, Latin)
4. Listen to a recording. Tap along, identify tempo.
5. Experiment and try different patterns. Each of these strumming patterns will work with songs in 4/4 time.

### **Song Examples for each pattern:**

1. **D - U - D - U:** Hey Jude (Beatles) Imagine (John Lennon) Let It Be (Beatles)
2. **D - D - D - U - D - U:** Hey Soul Sister (Train) All My Loving (Beatles)
3. **D - D - U - U - D - U:** Brown Eyed Girl (Van Morrison) Party Favor (Billie Eilish) Bad Bad Leroy Brown (Jim Croce) Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head (BJ Thomas) and thousands of others!

### **Notes/Tips:**

\*Look for other songs within these genres, check the time signature and try applying these patterns to to see which one works best.

\*There is some trial and error involved in this method, but listening to a song recording and finding the sheet music will greatly increase your chances of finding the right pattern for the song.

\*Always strum down-up and subdivide your rhythm. Even when the pattern omits a strum, you should be "ghost" strumming over the strings. This will help your timing tremendously!