

Guitar: Strumming

Music

Six patterns that cover most songs, written in down- and up-strokes.

D = down, U = up, – = miss the strings but keep the hand moving. Counted 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &.

Pattern	Strokes	Suits
All down	D D D D	Anything, to start
Basic eight	D U D U D U D U	Steady pop
The standard	D – D U – U D U	Most acoustic songs
Folk	D D U – U D U	Folk, country
Waltz (3/4)	D – U D U	Ballads in 3
Sixteenths	D U D U ×2 per beat	Funk, faster tempos

Downstrokes land on numbers, upstrokes on 'ands'. The constant hand motion is what keeps time.