

Country Strumming & Walking

Country Strumming

Country strumming is a style that is most apparent in country, bluegrass, and folk music, although the concept is widely used in blues, jazz, and rock. The effect of country strumming is that of a bass drum and a snare drum - BOOM CHICK BOOM CHICK - played as 8th notes.

We are down strumming & down picking everything. No up strumming!

We break each beat into two pieces. The first piece is the lowest note in the chord (the 1, 2, 3, or 4.) The second piece is the rest of the notes in the chord (the *ands* +.)

G chord **D chord**

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Ex. 1

The diagram shows two examples of country strumming in 4/4 time. Example 1 is divided into two sections: G chord and D chord. Above each section are the rhythmic patterns: 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +. The guitar part is written on a six-string staff with a 4/4 time signature. For the G chord, the fingerings are 3, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0. For the D chord, the fingerings are 2, 3, 3, 3, 2, 2. The bass part is written on a five-line staff with a treble clef, showing the chord voicings for G and D.

C C Em Em Bm Bm D D

Ex. 2

The diagram shows two examples of country strumming in 4/4 time. Example 2 is divided into two sections: C, Em, Bm, and D. Above each section are the chord names: C, C, Em, Em, Bm, Bm, D, D. The guitar part is written on a six-string staff with a 4/4 time signature. For the C chord, the fingerings are 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0. For the Em chord, the fingerings are 3, 4, 4, 4, 0, 2. For the Bm chord, the fingerings are 3, 4, 4, 4, 0, 2. For the D chord, the fingerings are 2, 3, 3, 3, 2, 2. The bass part is written on a five-line staff with a treble clef, showing the chord voicings for C, Em, Bm, and D.

G Dm F C Am Em F F

Ex. 3

Ex. 3 shows a sequence of chords: G, Dm, F, C, Am, Em, F, F. The guitar part is written in 4/4 time. The fretboard diagrams show the following fingerings: G (3, 2, 0, 2, 3, 2), Dm (0, 2, 3, 2, 1, 1), F (0, 2, 3, 2, 1, 1), C (0, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3), Am (0, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3), Em (0, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3), F (0, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3), and F (0, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3). The treble clef staff shows the corresponding chords: G, Dm, F, C, Am, Em, F, F.

G G# A G# G F# F E

Ex. 4

Ex. 4 shows a sequence of chords: G, G#, A, G#, G, F#, F, E. The guitar part is written in 4/4 time. The fretboard diagrams show the following fingerings: G (3, 4, 5, 4, 3, 2), G# (3, 4, 5, 4, 3, 2), A (4, 5, 6, 5, 4, 3), G# (3, 4, 5, 4, 3, 2), G (3, 4, 5, 4, 3, 2), F# (2, 3, 4, 3, 2, 1), F (2, 3, 4, 3, 2, 1), and E (2, 3, 4, 3, 2, 1). The treble clef staff shows the corresponding chords: G, G#, A, G#, G, F#, F, E.

Walking Into Chords

When walking into chords, we play the two, three or four notes (in the scale/mode of the song) that land us directly on the note of the chord that is coming up next. Walks are usually played on the bass notes/strings. Walks can be ascending or descending. Walks are played a few beats before the chord is strummed.

If the chord is played on beat 1, then a two note walk will be played on beats 4 and + of the previous measure. A three note walk will be played on beats + 4 + of the previous measure. A four note walk will be played on beats 3 + 4 + of the previous measure. It is critical that the notes are from the mode of the song and that the rhythm is perfectly timed to land on the first beat of the chord that we are walking into.

It may be helpful to brush up on the modes to be certain that you are playing the correct notes when creating your own walks. However, we may choose to use chromatic walks

(one fret at a time) for certain chords. A combination of chromatic walks and modal walks make for a lively song!

In addition to our walks, we will be using country strumming whenever we are maintaining a chord. This gives a full effect on the music, the BOOM CHICK aspect of the drummer, the walking bass line, and the guitar chords. You have become a full band!

Two note walks - C major (Ionian mode)

Musical notation for two-note walks in C major (Ionian mode). The piece is in 4/4 time. The guitar part consists of two staves: the top staff shows fret numbers (0, 1, 2, 3) and the bottom staff shows the corresponding notes on the strings. The melody is a chromatic walk between the 2nd and 3rd strings. The bass line is a simple walking bass line. The piece ends with a final chord.

Three note walks - C major (Ionian mode)

Musical notation for three-note walks in C major (Ionian mode). The piece is in 4/4 time. The guitar part consists of two staves: the top staff shows fret numbers (0, 1, 2, 3) and the bottom staff shows the corresponding notes on the strings. The melody is a chromatic walk between the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th strings. The bass line is a simple walking bass line. The piece ends with a final chord.

Four note walks - C major (Ionian mode)

Musical notation for four-note walks in C major (Ionian mode). The piece is in 4/4 time. The guitar part consists of two staves: the top staff shows fret numbers (0, 1, 2, 3) and the bottom staff shows the corresponding notes on the strings. The melody is a chromatic walk between the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th strings. The bass line is a simple walking bass line. The piece ends with a final chord.

G major (Ionian)

Guitar tablature for G major (Ionian) in 4/4 time. The piece consists of 12 measures. The first staff shows fret numbers (0, 2, 4, 0, 0, 3, 3, 0, 2, 3, 0, 2, 0, 3, 2, 0, 3) and the second staff shows the corresponding musical notation with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piece ends with a final chord of G major.

A major (Ionian)

chromatic walks!!

Guitar tablature for A major (Ionian) in 4/4 time. The piece consists of 12 measures. The first staff shows fret numbers (0, 2, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 2, 4, 2, 0, 2, 4, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 4, 2, 0) and the second staff shows the corresponding musical notation with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The piece ends with a final chord of A major.

C major (Ionian)

Guitar tablature for C major (Ionian) in 4/4 time. The piece consists of 12 measures. The first staff shows fret numbers (0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 2, 3, 2, 2, 3, 0, 3, 0, 0, 3, 3, 0, 2, 3) and the second staff shows the corresponding musical notation with a treble clef and a key signature of no sharps or flats. The piece ends with a final chord of C major.

Am (Dorian)

chromatic walks!! chromatic walks!!

The image shows a musical score for the Am (Dorian) mode in 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a guitar staff (top) and a piano staff (bottom). The guitar staff uses a standard six-line staff with fret numbers (0-4) written above the notes. The piano staff uses a standard five-line staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score is divided into four measures. The first measure has a guitar part with notes on strings 1, 2, 3, and 4, and a piano part with a chord and a descending eighth-note line. The second measure continues the guitar part with a triplet and a piano part with a chord and a descending eighth-note line. The third measure features a guitar part with a triplet and a piano part with a chord and a descending eighth-note line. The fourth measure concludes with a guitar part with a triplet and a piano part with a chord and a descending eighth-note line. The text "chromatic walks!!" is written above the guitar staff in the second and third measures.