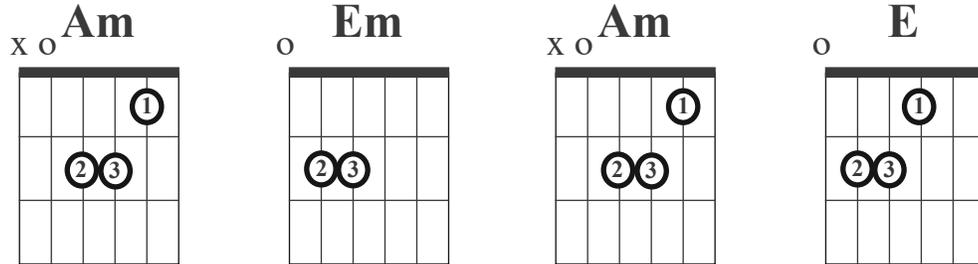


# Playtime

*Play each of the chords in this sequence 4 times.* No rush, but keep it even. Focus on the Downstroke mostly, but if you want to slip in an Upstroke between two Downstrokes, keep the pick perpendicular to the strings and let it flex.

*Repeat the entire sequence until you feel comfortable with it.*

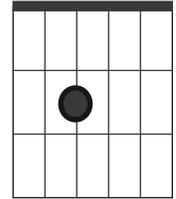


We'll start to use the symbol **4x** for the 4 times, or beats, that you played each chord. So we can abbreviate the chord sequence this way:

**Am<sup>4x</sup> Em<sup>4x</sup> Am<sup>4x</sup> E<sup>4x</sup>**

Starting Note

Try another song, "What Shall We Do With the Drunken Sailor?" Play a Downstroke every time the chord symbol appears over a lyric. To sing the melody, you need to match your voice to the Starting Note, which is the note on the 4th string at the 2nd fret, in the **Am** chord:



*Play 2 or 3 repetitions of this song slowly and evenly:*

**Am Am Am Am Em Em Em Em**  
*What shall we do with the drunken sailor? What shall we do with the drunken sailor?*  
**Am Am Am Am Em Em Am Am**  
*What shall we do with the drunken sailor, early in the morn - ing?*

So the formula for this song is: **Am<sup>4x</sup> Em<sup>4x</sup> Am<sup>4x</sup> Em<sup>2x</sup> Am<sup>2x</sup>**

Now go to YouTube and find REM's "Losing My Religion," and skip past the intro. Here's the formula for most of the verse starting from the first lyric (*Oh, life*):

**Am<sup>8x</sup> Em<sup>8x</sup> Am<sup>8x</sup> Em<sup>8x</sup> Am<sup>8x</sup> Em<sup>8x</sup>**

Now try shifting the **Am/E** shape to a **higher position**: Play 4 beats of **Am**, then shift your fingers **2 frets** up the neck and play 4 more beats. Switch to **E**, play 4 beats, then shift your fingers **1 fret** up the neck and play 4 more beats.

**BONUS**

