

These 3 chords, G, C and D, are known as **Major Chords**, and are perfectly happy and harmonious chords. When they are played together, they belong to the **G Chord Family**, meaning that the G chord is the squad leader and the C and D chords are two of the grunts.

Before I show you some more pretty chords that belong to the G Chord Family and give you some details as to how this and other Chord Families are constructed and function, I want you to get comfortable doing some strumming using the 3 chords we already have.

So, on the last page, you played 4 Downstrokes on each chord, and this is how we'll express that. This is a **Tablature Diagram (Tab for short)** that shows the Downstrokes over the passage of time.

There are 4 beats, 1 2 3 4, in one measure, or **bar**, of what is called **4/4 Time**.

Now, after each Downstroke, as your hand comes back up, go ahead and hit the strings, creating an **Upstroke**. Now each measure has 4 strong beats (the numbers) alternating with 4 weaker beats (the plusses), to be counted: 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + (One-and-Two-and-Three-and-Four-and.)

I do declare that that is too busy a sound. Let's omit the Upstroke on Count 1+, which calls attention to the Downstroke on Count 1, which is known as the **Downbeat** of the measure. This is known as the **Downbeat Strum Pattern**.

Even less busy, and I think more useful, is the **Shuffle Strum Pattern**, where you take the first half of the Downbeat Pattern (Counts 1 2+) and repeat it.

The **Boom-Chicka Strum Pattern** is the same as the Shuffle Pattern except that the Downstrokes on Counts 1 and 3 occur only on the single 4th string (Boom). You see the D's that have been moved to the lowest line in the Tab, representing the 4th string.

The **Chickas** come on Count 2 and Count 4. Sort of a country sound.

Here's a **Downbeat Strum** in **3/4 Time** or **Waltz Time**; just remove Count 4 from the Downbeat Strum in 4/4 Time.

4 Downstrokes



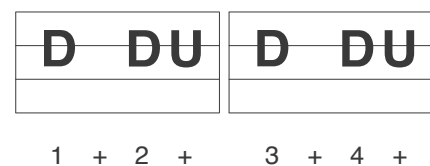
Down and Upstrokes



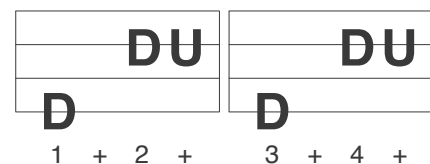
Downbeat Strum



Shuffle Strum Pattern



Boom-Chick Strum



3/4 Time Downbeat Strum

