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# LESSON 2:

## TIED UP STRUMMING

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### In This Lesson:

*In this lesson you'll learn about a musical term called a "Tie" and how it gets used almost all the time in strumming to add more movement to the strum pattern.*

So far you have learned how to handle the notes that are evenly spaced.

But what happens if you want a note that lasts for more than 1 beat, but less than 2?

That's where we use a device called a tie.

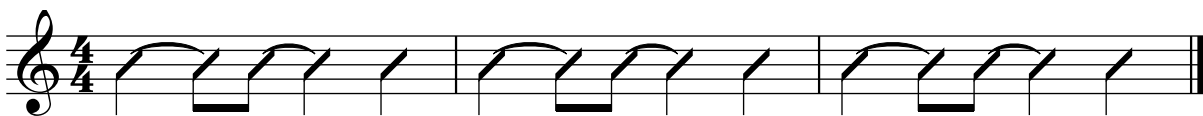
Since there is no note that lasts for 1 ½ beats, we tie together a quarter note (1 beat) with the first eighth note of the eighth note pair.

This creates something called syncopation – which is the act of stressing the weak beat (the “and”) in place of the downbeat (the numbered part of the beat.) Syncopation is a vital part of both your rhythm and lead guitar playing.

### Example 2-1

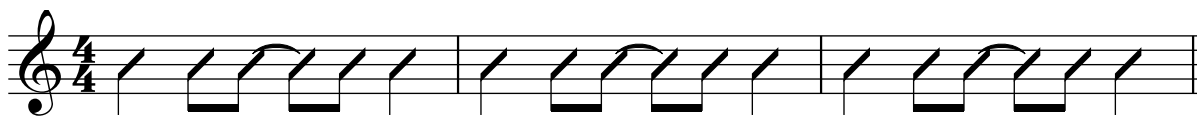


### Example 2-2



Notice how this adds a different kind of motion to the strumming. It doesn't sound so “blocky” and has a nice flow to it.

The tie can also be used to create what I call “The Most Popular Strum In The World.” Out of the thousands of songs I've learned in my lifetime, this is the one most often used in pop and rock music.

**Example 2-3**

Just about any song that flows along at a medium tempo can benefit from this strum. And if you double time it, as we'll see later, it works for fast rock and punk rock stuff as well.

One thing you'll probably have to do is to "sluff" the last strum of each measure when you do something like this:

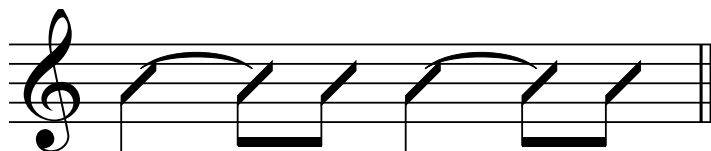
**Example 2-4**

It isn't hardly possible to make chord changes that quickly for most people... and even if you can, it doesn't sound right. We are not used to hearing things played that cleanly.

So the last strum really ends up sounding more like a rest, which we'll cover soon, even though it isn't written that way.

**One last thing**, from a notation standpoint, is a short notation for a tie. Since you often use a quarter note tied to an eighth note, you can simplify it as a **dotted quarter note**.

***So this:***



***Is exactly the same as:***



In fact, you can dot any note and it just means that it is to be read as if it is tied to the note half its duration.

So a dotted quarter note is a quarter note tied to an eighth note. A dotted half note is a half note tied to a quarter note. Later on we'll see that you can dot an eighth note also.

So in this last example you will see dotted quarter notes, ties, and all sorts of fun stuff. But this is what real songs do because as you'll see when you get it down it feels very natural.

Example 2-5

The page contains eight systems of guitar chord diagrams and musical notation. Each system consists of a chord diagram above a musical staff. The notation is in 4/4 time and includes various strumming patterns and rests.

- System 1:** Chords G and D. Musical notation: 4/4 time signature, first measure has a quarter note G, quarter note D, quarter note G, quarter note D; subsequent measures have rests.
- System 2:** Chords Am, D, G, D. Musical notation: first three measures have rests; fourth measure has quarter notes G, D, G, D.
- System 3:** Chords Em, C, Em, C. Musical notation: first measure has quarter notes G, D, G, D; second measure has quarter notes G, D, G, D; third measure has quarter notes G, D, G, D; fourth measure has quarter notes G, D, G, D.
- System 4:** Chords Em, Am, D. Musical notation: first two measures have rests; third measure has quarter notes G, D, G, D; fourth measure has quarter notes G, D, G, D.
- System 5:** Chords G, D, Am. Musical notation: first measure has quarter notes G, D, G, D; second measure has quarter notes G, D, G, D; third measure has quarter notes G, D, G, D; fourth measure has quarter notes G, D, G, D.
- System 6:** Chords D, G, D, G. Musical notation: first two measures have rests; third measure has quarter notes G, D, G, D; fourth measure has quarter notes G, D, G, D.