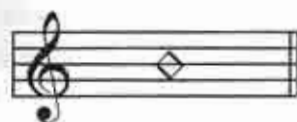


How to Use This Book

RHYTHMIC NOTATION

This book uses a system known as *rhythmic notation*. Actual pitches are not usually shown. The various symbols used show when to strum and sometimes how to accent.



Strum and sustain chord for 4 beats.



Strum and sustain chord for 3 beats.



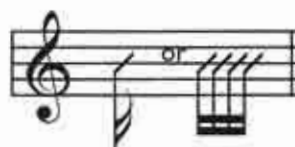
Strum and sustain chord for 2 beats.



Strum and sustain chord for 1 beat.



Strum and sustain chord for 1/2 beat or 2 for 1.



Strum and sustain chord for 1/4 beat or 4 for 1.



Rest for 4 beats.



Rest for 2 beats.



Rest for 1 beat.



Rest for 1/2 beat.



Rest for 1/4 beat.



Roll: a rapid succession of down and up strokes for the duration shown.



Choke: mute the strings with left hand. Strum producing a percussion sound.

TIME SIGNATURES

Time signatures tell us the basic feel of the song. They are not an indication of *tempo* (speed). The top number shows how many beats appear in each measure. This includes rests as well as notes. The bottom number shows what note value receives one beat.

* 4 ← 4 beats per measure
4 ← Quarter note ♩ = 1 beat

3 ← 3 beats per measure
4 ← Quarter note ♩ = 1 beat

2 ← 2 beats per measure
4 ← Quarter note ♩ = 1 beat

7 ← 7 beats per measure
4 ← Quarter note ♩ = 1 beat

6 ← 6 beats per measure
8 ← Eighth note ♩ = 1 beat

12 ← 12 beats per measure
8 ← Eighth note ♩ = 1 beat

7 ← 7 beats per measure
8 ← Eighth note ♩ = 1 beat

** 2 ← 2 beats per measure
2 ← Half note ♩ = 1 beat

* Also written as C, common time.

** Also written as C, cut time.

Tempo

All the examples in this book can be played at a variety of tempos. The tempos used on the CD available for this book are chosen for clarity. They do not necessarily reflect the "correct" tempos. Tempos will depend on context.

Downstrokes and Upstrokes

This is a downstroke sign: ▮ This is an upstroke sign: ∨

Generally, downstrokes (moving the hand across the strings towards the floor) are used on the downbeats in a measure and upstrokes (moving the hand across the strings towards the ceiling) are used on the "ands" (&).

▮ ∨ ▮ ∨ ▮ ∨ ▮ ∨
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

In many instances, certain styles require the use of consecutive downstrokes to attain the correct feel. You will need to experiment, but this book does provide suggestions for each example. Although all but some of the folk examples include upstroke and downstroke indications, many of them can be played with the fingers. Experiment.

Accents

This is the accent sign used in this book: >

There are many different accent signs used in music notation. It would be a good idea to be aware of all of them.

Chords and Practice

In most of the examples in this book, only one chord is used. This will allow you to concentrate on learning the rhythms. Feel free to substitute any other chords. At first, count (or write) out the beats for the rhythm and practice it while counting out loud. Tapping your foot or using a metronome can be helpful. Then practice while counting silently. Finally, just play the rhythm without counting at all. Always remember that maintaining a steady beat, without speeding up or slowing down, is a musical skill you need to master. Once you have learned to feel the rhythm, it is time to apply it to the actual song you are working on.

Technique

Using a Pick

The strumming action should come from your wrist. Avoid using your forearm.

Fingerstyle:

A few examples use some fingerpicking patterns. The labels for the fingers of the right hand are:

- p* = thumb
- i* = index finger
- m* = middle finger
- a* = ring finger
- c* = pinky

Blues

Although there are many styles of blues, there are three essential, basic feels. They are *shuffles*, *slow* (or "down home") and $\frac{12}{8}$ feels. In addition, there are "pinky patterns," which are rhythmic licks that all guitarists should know.



SHUFFLES

1

A D9

2

A D9

3

A D9

4

A D9

5

A D9

PINKY PATTERNS

#1
Track 7

This technique can be applied to any blues rhythm.

1

G

T
A
B

5 5 7 7 5 5 7 7 5 5 7 7 5 5 7 7

2

C

T
A
B

5 5 7 7 5 5 7 7 5 5 7 7 5 5 7 7

3

G

T
A
B

5 5 7 7 8 8 7 7 5 5 7 7 5 5 7 7

4

C

T
A
B

5 5 7 7 8 8 7 7 5 5 7 7 5 5 7 7

Blues Continued

5

G

T
A
B

6

C

T
A
B

7

G

T
A
B

8

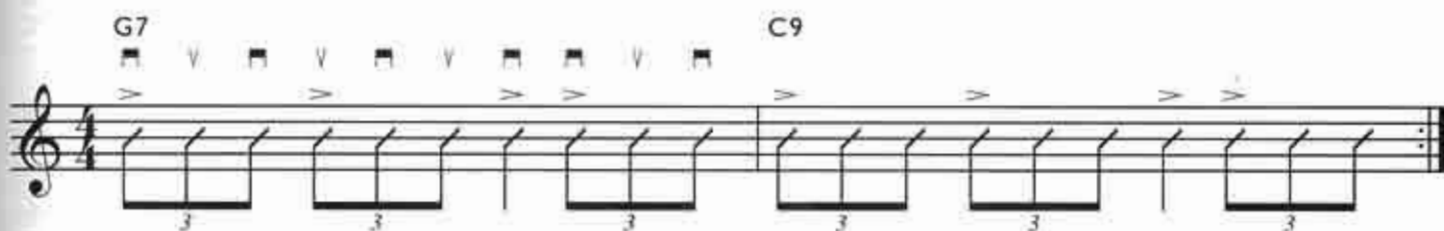
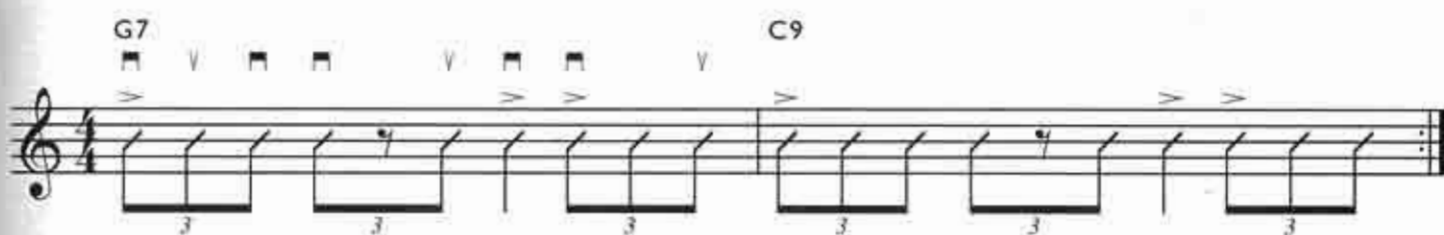
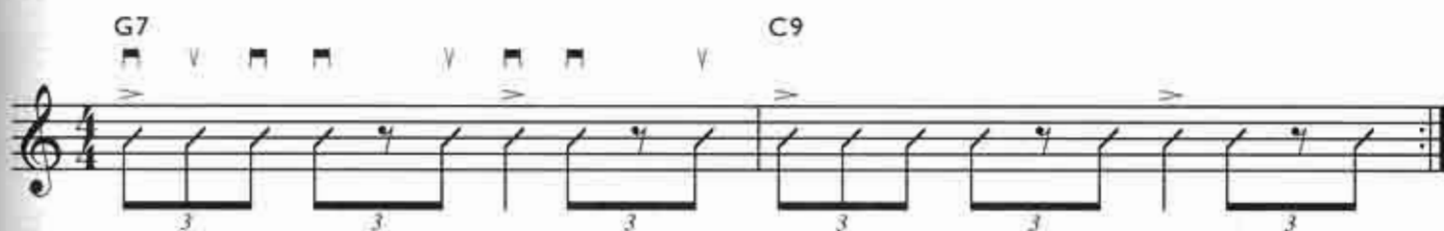
C

T
A
B

SLOW (DOWN HOME)

#1
Track 8

"Swing Feel"





Track 9

12
8

FEELS

1

Amin Dmin

2

Amin Dmin

3

Amin Dmin

4

Amin Dmin

5

Amin Dmin

6

Amin Dmin

7

Amin Dmin

8

Amin Dmin