

Past the Island Strum



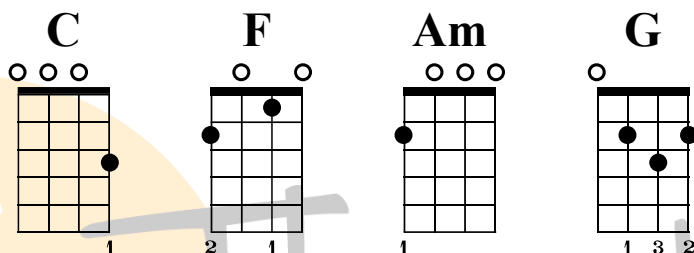
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Key of Lesson: C

Chords needed: C, Am, F, G

Video Tutorial: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gt8YizmOP_g

Chord Shapes:



The Island Strum, Calypso Strum, Old Faithful Strum Pattern

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
D D U U D U |

Applying The Island Strum to a chord progression

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
C | F | Am | G |
D D U U D U | D D U U D U | D D U U D U | D D U U D U |

We are strumming with 1/8th strums, meaning the numbers are down and the & is an up strum, lets just strum through some 8ths. Verbalize it, say it out loud, "one and two and three and four and"

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
C | C | C | C |
D U D U D U D U | D U D U D U D U | D U D U D U D U | D U D U D U D U |

Adding a simple variation. Look at the G chord, you will see the extra up underlined.

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
C | F | Am | G |
D D U U D U | D D U U D U | D D U U D U | D U D U U D U |

This extra up is a very simple variation, and it adds a lot of movement to the progression. Also look where it is, it is at the end of the chord progression, this helps to "turn it over" or send you back to the start. It is amazing as it is just one extra strum, but it really does create amazing results.

This isn't the only variation, watch what happens when we do all down strums.

```

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
C                | F                | Am                | G                |
D  D U  U D U | D  D U  U D U | D  D U  U D U | D  D  D  D  |
  
```

Or watch what happens when we let the ideas ring out.

```

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
C                | F                | Am                | G                |
D  D U  U D U | D  D U  U D U | D  D U  U D U | D  D U          |
  
```

I put some blank strum pattern spaces in here so you feel free to create your own strum patterns.

```

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
C                | F                | Am                | G                |
  
```

```

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
C                | F                | Am                | G                |
  
```

```

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
C                | F                | Am                | G                |
  
```

```

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
C                | F                | Am                | G                |
  
```

```

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
C                | F                | Am                | G                |
  
```

```

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
C                | F                | Am                | G                |
  
```

Verbalize these things, say them out loud. Understanding how the strum pattern works means you can make simple modification that give your songs movement, interest, conflict and resolution. These simple ideas will make your music better.



Ten Thumbs