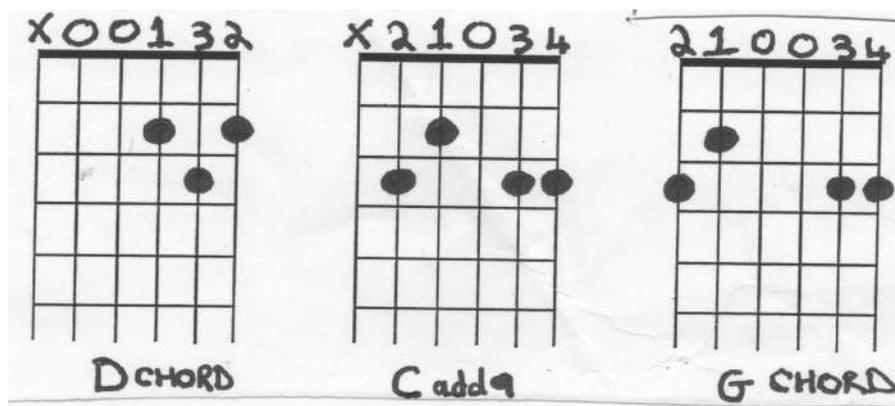


3 chord strumming exercise

HEY THERE EVERYBODY! Hope this finds you all well and warmed up and ready for some guitar practice. Today I am going to show you some chords that you can use in a rhythmic pattern. This will stretch your chord playing abilities and also get you used to a strumming pattern. Although these chords look quite difficult to play as they stretch right across the fretboard, you will find that changing between them is really simple, requiring very few changes of finger positions. We are going to use a D chord, a C add nine chord which really is just a C chord with some posh notes added, to give a really rich smooth "Beatley" type sound. And finally a G chord. All 3 chords are pictured below.



As you can see for the **D chord** you place:

Finger number **1** on the **G string** at the **second** fret.

Finger number **2** on the **E string** at the **second** fret. and finally

Finger number **3** on the **B string** at the **third** fret.

The **A** and **D** strings are played **open** as illustrated by the **0** above those strings and the **low E** is not played at all as illustrated by the **X** above that string.

For the **C (add 9 chord)** you place:

Finger number **1** on the **A string** at the **second** fret.

Finger number **2** on the **E string** at the **third** fret.

Finger number **3** on the **B string** at the **third** fret.

Finger number **4** on the **E string** at the **third** fret.

The **G string** is played **open** and again the **low E** string is not played at all.

For the **G chord** you place:

Finger number **1** on the **A string** at the **second** fret.

Finger number **2** on the **low E string** at the **third** fret.

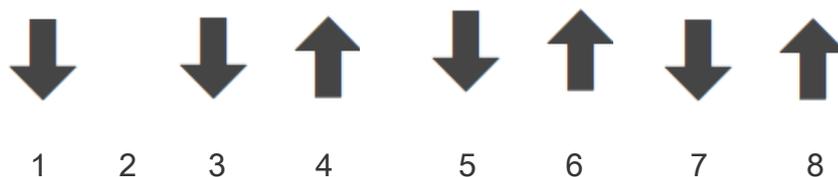
Finger number **3** on the **B string** at the **third** fret.

Finger number **4** on the **high E string** at the **third** fret.

The **D** and **G** strings are played **open** and as you can see from the diagram all six strings are strummed in this chord.

So to start this exercise, I would suggest practising the fretting of all the chords individually, making sure that each fretted note gives a clear unchoked tone. Using only your finger tips to fret the strings will help you to achieve pure tones from each string.

Once you feel confident with the fingering of the chords, we can start joining them together with a rhythm. The rhythm we shall use will be **Down, DownUp DownUp DownUp**



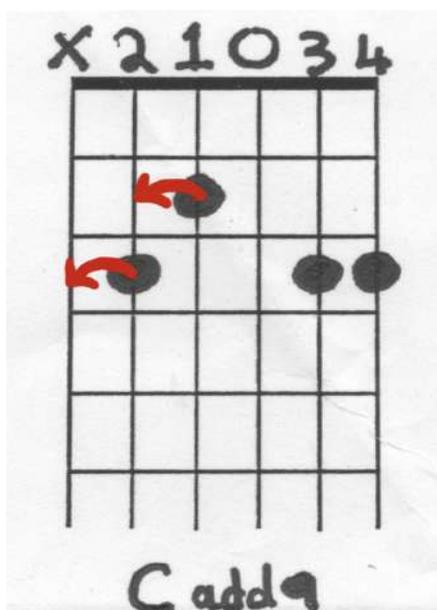
You can practice this rhythm with just the **D chord** to start with as it is the easiest chord shape to play and you can then concentrate on the rhythm pattern itself.

Okay feeling good? Now we can try putting some chords together with this rhythm. We will play each chord for **8** beats remembering that there is **no strum** on the **2nd** beat.

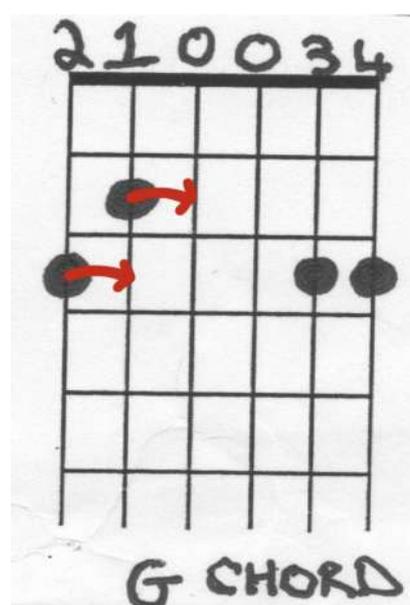
THE TRICK!

Although the **C add9** chord and the **G** chord look difficult, it is in fact very easy to go from one chord to the other, as you only have to move **fingers 1 and 2**. Try to move these fingers at the same time as a pair, keeping them in the same shape but moving them either 1 string above or below their position, depending on which chord you are playing. The red arrows show where to move your fingers to create the new chord.

C ADD9 to G



G to C ADD 9



So starting with the **C add9** chord we leave ***fingers 3 and 4** on the **B** and **E** strings at the **3rd fret.*** They do not leave this position as this is where we need them to be for both chords.

And now we look at **fingers 1 and 2.**

Finger 1 is on the **D** string at the **2nd fret** and **finger 2** is on the **A** string at the **3rd fret.**

To change to a **G** chord, we just move **finger 1** up one string to the **A** string at the **2nd fret** and we move **finger 2** up one string to the **E** string at the 3rd fret. To change back to the **C add 9** chord move fingers **1** and **2** back to where they were before on the **D** and **A** strings...remember to practice moving these fingers in a pair.

As **finger 1** and **2** have the same relation to each other, it is a simple move.

Practice going between the two shapes remembering to ***leave fingers 3 and 4 where they are the whole time***. If you can access the video that accompanies this handout you can see a demonstration.

How did you get on?

We will now introduce the **D chord** into our exercise, changing from the **D** chord to the **C add 9** chord.

We do this by first of all, ***leaving finger 3 where it is** on the **B** string at **fret 3.***

add **Finger 4**(pinky) to the **high E** string at **fret 3.**

Move **Finger 1** to the **D** string at **fret 2** and finally

place **Finger 2** on the **A** string at **fret 3.**

You can practice going between the **D** and **Cadd9** chords.

Once you have gotten used to it, you can start to include the **G chord** into the sequence just by moving **fingers 1** and **2** up one string each as shown in last diagram.

Also you may notice that for all 3 of these chords **Finger 3** stays on the **B** string at the **3rd fret**

TECHNIQUE TRICK! Where finger positions do not have to be moved for the next chord you wish to play, just leave them where they are and only re-arrange the position of your other fingers, this will enable you to change between chords faster and achieve a smoother performance.

So I hope you have fun with this little chord sequence, see how many songs that come to mind when you play them. There are plenty!

Do stay safe and well and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Take care

Mickey.