

## Rhythm Guitar Lesson #3. Introducing 16th notes -the "double down" technique

Now that you know how to do combinations of 8<sup>th</sup> note rhythms and ties, I will introduce you to your first 16<sup>th</sup> note rhythm.

Remember how 8<sup>th</sup> notes are joined with a line, and two 8<sup>th</sup> notes joined together with a line are played in the space of 1 beat? (See rhythm lesson #1). Well 16<sup>th</sup> notes (or semiquavers) are joined with 2 lines. Two 16<sup>th</sup> notes are played in the space of one 8<sup>th</sup> note. As you can see below, another note is added after the "+" therefore you now play two notes in the time it takes to play the second 8<sup>th</sup> note. The rhythm should sound like the phrase "down dou-ble". Make sure you pay attention to the picking direction of the new rhythm. It is down, down up.



During this lesson you will learn a technique I like to call double downs. This is a strumming technique that can be used any time you want to add a little more excitement or motion to a strumming pattern. Let's start out trying this technique with just one chord, G major and use a strumming pattern over 4 beats.



## PRACTISE ONE BAR AT A TIME.

Have a look at bar 1. Strum down up, down up down up down up. That's 1+ 2+ 3+ 4+

Have a look at bar 2 Now we'll add the double down technique over beat 2. It sounds like this:

1+ 2+ a 3+ 4+. The double down refers to the strumming pattern in beat two. Down down up.

On bar 3 the rhythm occurs on beat one, in bar 4 on beat 3 and in bar 5 on beat 4.

Ok, make sure that you practise these slowly and build up to speed remember to COUNT 1 2 3 4 OUT LOUD AND TAP YOUR FOOT IN A REGULAR EVEN PATTERN. I know I'm at risk of repeating myself but there is no point being able to play the rhythms, if you can't tap your foot and count at the same time. Playing the rhythms is easy. Playing them while counting aloud and tapping your foot is hard, but it is key to internalising the rhythm and playing in time.

Have fun, next lesson will be about combining double downs with ties...