

BASIC PICKS AND STRUMS

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Here are the most common picks and strums I use:

Note: When I say “twins” I am referring to picking the 1st and 2nd string at the same time... it’s just faster than saying “1 and 2”. (In some songs, “twins” will refer to the 2nd and 3rd string at the same time.)

Basic picks: 1) 6 pluck 4 pluck, 6 pluck 4 pluck (2/2 time, 4/4 time)

2) Base 3 twins 3, base 3 twins 3, (2/4 time, 4/4 time)

3) Base 3 twins 3 twins 3, base 3 twins 3 twins 3 (3/4 time)

4) Base 23123, base 213123, base 23123 (3/4 time)

5) Base 2312312, base 21312312 (4/4 time)

Basic strums: D = Down (1 down strum), and U = Up (1 up strum)

1) Base strum strum, base strum strum (3/4 time)
(Pluck the base note, and then 2 down strums)

2) DDU DDU DDU DDU (2/4 time, 4/4 time)

3) DDUUU DDUUU DDUUU (2/4 time, 4/4 time)

4) DDUD DDUD DDUD DDUD DDUD (3/4 time)

5) DUDD DUDD DUDD DUDD DUDD (3/4 time)

6) DDUUDU DDUUDU DDUUDU (4/4 time)

7) DUDUUU DUDUUU DUDUUU (4/4 time)

Note: Keep your moving up and down as steady as you can, like shaking water off your hands. Then insert downs and ups, or leaving them out, as needed, to get the appropriate rhythm. It really helps to watch the video when learning how to strum.