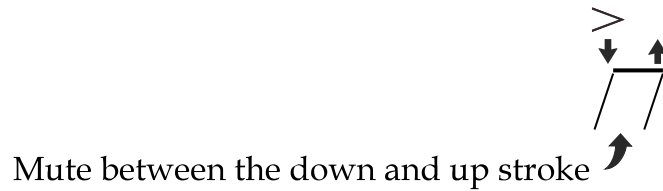


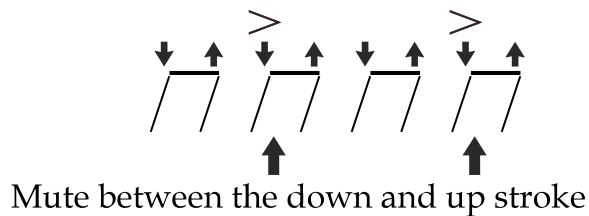
Basic Rock Strum with Mute Using Bar Chords in 4/4

One of the things that distinguishes modern rock rhythms from traditional strums is the driving beat of the songs. When playing rhythm you can bring this out by muting the strings just after you accent a beat. The trick is to allow the chord to sound then cut it off just before your up stroke. To begin, grab an E form A chord at 5th fret (see chord charts). Now strum down, then relax your hand just enough so the chord is muffled. Do this several times so you get a nice clean loud sound for a fraction of a second that is then silenced by you relaxing your hand.

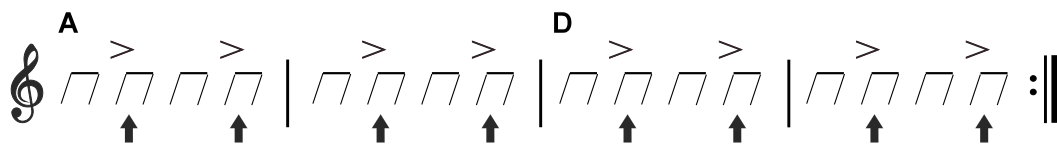
The next step is to strum down, mute, then strum up. Make sure you tighten the chord just before the up stroke so the up stroke sounds clearly. Here is a diagram of what you are doing:



After you have mastered this, simply put a regular down and up strum after it that has no accent or mute. This is shown below. Tap your foot as you strum. Your hand and foot should be going up and down together smoothly.

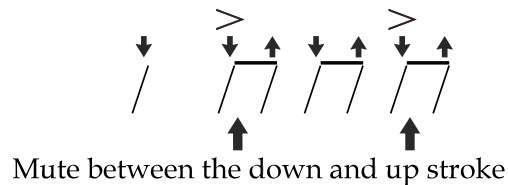


Once you've mastered this strum while holding an A, try this simple two Chord pattern. Try the following four measure pattern.



Accent the 2 and 4. Mute *after* the accent then let the up stroke sound.

Once you've mastered this, try the pattern again with the other basic strum.



When you use the strum shown above as your basic strum, switch to the first strum at the end of musical phrases (at the end of a sentence in the lyrics) to add color.