

QUICK LESSON 8 21st AUGUST 20

COUNTRY STRUMMING – ALTERNATE PICKING

In Lesson 7 we learned to apply basic Country Strum using our Thumb and First Finger to build up a Country Feel to **Little Old Wine Drinker Me**. Our aim has been to create that strum sound DUM CHINGA as I like to call it. (I always think it is better to hear and replicate the sound of a strum than battle with it written down as (t d u t d u).

If you are now playing it consistently and at a good tempo then well done. If you havent quite cracked it yet then have patience it will come. When you are consistently up to speed this is when you should start to hear and feel the Country Strum.

Now we are ready to add another layer to our Country Strum.

This time we are going to use Dum Chinga but on the C string for our Dum, **we will not play the g(G) string though**. So this is a matter of getting accurate just hitting the C string with our thumb and then the Chinga by strumming the down up strum with our first finger across the C string, the E string and the A string.

This will take some practice as you are now deliberately targeting strings. It will become second nature with practice. (*You do not have to hit all the strings on an up strum, as long as you catch the A string and maybe the E string its great. In fact it adds to the sound*).

Alternating Country Strum.

When you are comfortable with playing the Country Strum on the C string then, and only then start to alternate between the C and the g(G) strings. Like this – C t d u g(G)t d u or C Dum Chinga G Dum Chinga C Dum Chinga G Dumchinga and so on over and over.

The g(G) simply refers to the type of string whether it is a high g or a low G that you have on your ukulele as I explained in last weeks QUICK LESSON 7 SHEET.

Note! Don't confuse the C and g(G) above as being chords they are the STRINGS you are plucking with your thumb (hence the "t"). So as you change chords in the song starting on the C chord, you keep on alternating between the pluck on the C and g(G) strings even when you play the F or the G7 chords in our song.

Once you can do this then you are well on the way to applying the strum to a variety of Country songs and importantly, start to add your own feel to the strum with variations. We are replicating the classic alternating bass you hear on Country songs. We will use it in the song Jolene.

