

Ex.8 Boom chick rhythm. This is the most common rhythm in bluegrass, country and folk styles. The bass note is played on the first and third beats, while the chord is strummed on the second and fourth beats. This bass, strum, bass, strum sounds like boom, chick, boom, chick, hence the funny name. Remember that the diamond shaped quarter notes are the bass notes and you strum the remaining strings on the other quarter notes. Use down pick strokes only on this rhythm.

Ex.8 musical notation showing a 4/4 time signature. The first staff illustrates the boom chick rhythm: G (first beat), diamond-shaped quarter note (second beat), C (third beat), diamond-shaped quarter note (fourth beat). The second staff shows the chord progression: G (first beat), C (second beat), G (third beat), D⁷ (fourth beat), G (fifth beat).

Ex.9 This rhythm is common in folk and traditional music but can be used in almost any style.

Ex.9 musical notation showing a 4/4 time signature. The first staff illustrates the folk rhythm: G (first beat), diamond-shaped quarter note (second beat), C (third beat), diamond-shaped quarter note (fourth beat). The second staff shows the chord progression: G (first beat), C (second beat), D⁷ (third beat), G (fourth beat).

Ex.10 This rhythm is common in rock and pop music but can be used in almost any style.

Ex.10 musical notation showing a 4/4 time signature. The first staff illustrates the rock/pop rhythm: G (first beat), diamond-shaped quarter note (second beat), C (third beat), diamond-shaped quarter note (fourth beat). The second staff shows the chord progression: G (first beat), C (second beat), G (third beat), D⁷ (fourth beat), G (fifth beat), C (sixth beat), D⁷ (seventh beat), G (eighth beat).