

# Having Fun With The Triple-Strum

The triple-strum is a fundamental rasqueado technique in flamenco guitar music. It was the trademark strum of George Formby, the great banjo ukulele player from Great Britain. He is considered to be the pioneer of this exciting strum on the ukulele. It is a welcome variation to the basic down-up strumming patterns. It is also one of the most effective ways to strum 3/4 & 6/8 time.

The basic right hand motion of the triple-strum is: **DOWN – DOWN - UP**

The letters p, i, m, and a are used to designate which fingers on the right hand should be used to strum the strings. The letters are abbreviations of Spanish words: p = pulgar (thumb), l = indice (index finger), m = medio (middle finger), and a = anular (ring finger). The pinky is not used, so is not assigned a letter.

You can use any fingers on your right hand to play the triple-strum.

Experiment with the following finger combinations to see what feels most comfortable to you.

## Fingering Pattern #1

## Fingering Pattern #2

## Fingering Pattern #3

D	D	U	D	D	U	D	D	U
/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
i	p	i	ma	p	p	ma	p	i
1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3

My own preference is Fingering Pattern #3 because it takes advantage of all four fingers and avoids using any finger twice. This is especially helpful when playing faster passages. I often use Pattern #1, but rarely #2.

## Exercise #1: 3/4 Time (The line represents 1 bar of 3/4 time or 3 beats)

D	D	U	D	D	U	D	D	U
/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
1	&	a	2	&	a	3	&	a

## Exercise #2: 6/8 Time

D	D	U	D	D	U	D	D	U	D	D	U	D	D	U
/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3

## Exercise #3: 4/4 Time

D	D	U	D	D	U	D	U	D	D	U	D	D	U	D	U	D	U						
/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/						
1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&	1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&	1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&

## Exercise #4: 4/4 Time

D	D	D	D	D	U	D	D	D	D	D	U	D	D	D	D	U							
/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/							
ma	ma	ma	ma	p	i	ma	ma	ma	ma	p	i	ma	ma	ma	ma	p	i						
1	2	3	4	-	&	-	a	1	2	3	4	-	&	-	a	1	2	3	4	-	&	-	a

## Exercise #5: The Hawaiian Vamp

D7 (D D U D U)	G7 (D D U D U)	C (D D U D U, D D U D U)
1 & a 2 &	3 & a 4 &	1 & a 2 & 3 & a 4 &