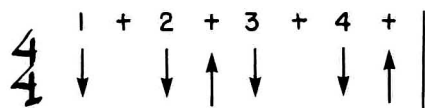


## A SIMPLE STRUM

BY GLENN WEISER

Once you've learned your first handful of chords and can switch between them easily, you'll need to work on some new strumming patterns for the right hand. Even relatively simple strums can provide effective accompaniments to a wide range of songs. For this issue's workshop, we'll learn an easy down-up strum for the beautiful old Appalachian ballad "Come All Ye Fair and Tender Ladies." Although this pattern tends to work better with a pick, beginning fingerstylists can use the brush stroke, brushing down on the strings with the backs of the nails and up with the tip of the index finger.

To learn the strum itself, start by slowly tapping your foot and counting "1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and." Make sure that you toe is down on the numbers and up on the *ands*. Then, finger a D chord and strum down on the count of 1. Let the chord ring while you say the first *and*. On the count of 2, strum down again, but this time strum up on the second *and*. On the count of 3, strum down again, letting the chord ring through the third *and*. Strum down again on 4 and up on the fourth *and*. This completes the pattern, which is one measure long in 4/4 time. The strum can be written like this:



Without trying to change chords yet, practice the strum until you begin to feel comfortable with it. Accent the first and third beats of each measure. If you have a metronome—and I do recommend using one—set it at 108 and practice the strum with four clicks per measure.

Now to the song. "Come All Ye Fair and Tender Ladies," also known as "Little Sparrow," is a plaintive traditional ballad that can be found in Alan

## Come All Ye Fair and Tender Ladies

*Traditional, arranged by Glenn Weiser*

♩ = 108

**D**

**G**

1. Come all ye fair \_\_\_\_\_ and ten-der la-dies,

COUNT: 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + | 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + | 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + | 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + |

STRUM: ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ | ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ | ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ | ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ |

**D**

**G**

**Em**

Be care-ful how \_\_\_\_\_ you court young men;

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + | 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + | 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + | 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + |

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ | ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ | ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ | ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ |

**D**

**G**

**Bm**

They're like a star \_\_\_\_\_ on a sum-mer's morn-ing,

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + | 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + | 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + | 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + |

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ | ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ | ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ | ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ |

**C**

**G**

**D**

First ap-pear \_\_\_\_\_ and then they're gone.

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + | 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + | 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + | 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + |

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ | ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ | ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ | ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ |

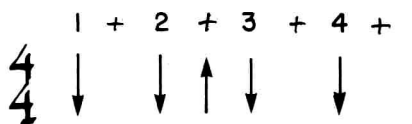
Lomax's classic collection *The Folksongs of North America*. Considered an American composite of verses from

**Even  
simple  
strums can  
provide  
effective  
accompani-  
ments  
to a wide  
range of  
songs.**

older ballads, the lyrics deliver a serious yet poetic warning to young women about the vagaries of false-hearted suitors—in older times a single slip into passion could easily cost a woman her reputation and thus the chance of ever getting a good marriage offer.

Because of its implied I-III-IV chord change (G-Bm-C in the key of G) in measures 12 through 15, "Fair and Tender Ladies" has a strong Scottish flavor. And this song is a little unusual in that it uses the G major scale but begins and ends on the D chord.

Five chords are used in the song—D, G, C, Bm, and Em. When you combine the strum with the chord changes, make sure you don't lift your left-hand fingers for a chord change until you have completed the last up-strum. If you find this difficult at first, you can simplify the pattern by dropping the last up-strum in the measure preceding a chord change. Here's how this easier version looks written out:



When you can play the song with the easier strum, add the up-strums on the fourth *ands*. Played correctly, the song has a gentle, rolling feel. A recent version, under the name "Come All Ye Fair and Tender Maidens," can be heard on David Bromberg's recording *Sideman Serenade* (Rounder 3110).

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to write me c/o For Beginners, *Acoustic Guitar*, PO Box 767, San Anselmo, CA 94979-0767. Ciao! ■

1. COME ALL YE FAIR AND TENDER LADIES  
BE CAREFUL HOW YOU COURT YOUNG MEN  
THEY'RE LIKE A STAR ON A SUMMER'S MORNING  
FIRST APPEAR AND THEN THEY'RE GONE
2. THEY'LL TELL TO YOU SOME LOVING STORY  
THEY'LL TELL TO YOU SOME FAR-FLUNG LIE  
AND THEN THEY'LL GO AND COURT ANOTHER  
AND FOR THAT OTHER ONE PASS YOU BY.
3. IF I'D A-KNOWED BEFORE I COURTED  
THAT LOVE IT WAS SUCH A KILLIN' CRIME  
I'D A LOCKED UP MY HEART IN A BOX OF GOLDEN  
AND TIED IT UP WITH A SILVER LINE.
4. I WISH I WAS SOME LITTLE SPARROW  
THAT I HAD WINGS COULD FLY SO HIGH  
I'D FLY AWAY TO MY FALSE TRUE LOVER  
AND WHEN HE'S TALKIN' I'D BE BY.
5. BUT AS I AM NO LITTLE SPARROW  
AND HAVE NO WINGS SO I CAN'T FLY  
I'LL GO AWAY TO SOME LONESOME VALLEY  
AND WEEP AND PASS MY TROUBLES BY.