

Lesson 6

50's Cliché

Am

Dm

Musical notation for '50's Cliché' in 4/4 time. It consists of four measures, each with a diamond symbol indicating a strum. Above the staff are chord diagrams for C, Am, Dm, and G.

Ad Lib and Ghost Strumming

Playing songs in popular styles often means that you will “*ad lib*” the strumming. This simply means that you will embellish the song's strumming pattern here and there, adding a little bit of your own rhythmic feeling into it, without altering the basic groove of the song. Before you can *ad lib*, you need to first learn how to divide each beat into four (16th-note) hand motions: down - up - down - up. This doesn't necessarily mean that your pick will strum the strings on all four motions. Some strums can be *ghost strums* (making the motion without actually striking the strings). Deciding when to strum or ghost strum is a personal and usually, a spontaneous choice. It not only adds rhythmic variety and expressiveness to the groove of the song, but it allows you to insert your own creativity and feelings into the music. To get used to ghost strumming, initially, strum only on the first of the four hand motions. On the other three, make ghost strums.

Knockin' On Heaven's Door

Bob Dylan

Musical notation for 'Knockin' On Heaven's Door' in 4/4 time. It shows a sequence of chords: G, D, Am, G, D, C. The first four measures have a strumming pattern with arrows indicating down-up-down-up. The first two arrows are labeled 'Ghost strums'.

Another Brick in the Wall

Pink Floyd

Musical notation for 'Another Brick in the Wall' in 4/4 time. It features a Dm chord at the start, followed by a series of chords: Dm, G, Dm, F, C, Dm, F, C, Dm, Dm, Am, Dm, G, Dm, C, Dm. The notation includes 'D.C.' (Da Capo) markings, 'Play 3X' instructions, and 'SOLO' markings. A note explains: 'The dot here means to play the chord **staccato** – short and detached.' An 'optional rhythm' is shown for the Dm chord. A 'D.C. (1st time only)' marking is present at the end of a section. The final section is marked '(on repeat)'.