

Stand By Me

Advanced Rhythm Techinques



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Key: C

Tempo: 101 BPM

Chords needed: C, Am, F, G

Video Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JZpeasuMuY>

This lesson was taught through the style of "Stand By Me" but it is much bigger than that. All of these ideas can be applied to these chord shapes for any song, freeing you from the strum pattern and enabling you to create fantastic, deep, fun, rich and complicated rhythm parts.

First the Rhythm, it is an 8 Bar loop

1	&	2	&	3	4	&		1	&	2	&	3	4	&		1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&		1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&					
C																Am																					
A		---	3	-	x	-	3	---	x	---						---	3	-	x	-	3	---	x	---													
E		---	3	-	x	-	3	---	x	---						---	3	-	x	-	3	---	x	---													
C		2/4	---	---	---	---	---		2/4	---	---	---	---	---		---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
G		---	---	---	---	---	---		---	---	---	---	---	---		---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&		1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&		1	&	2	&	3	4	&		1	&	2	&	3	4	&				
F									G																											
A		---	---	---	---	---	---		---	---	---	---	---	---		---	3	-	x	-	3	---	x	---		---	3	-	x	-	3	---	x	---		
E		--	1	-	x	-	1	---	x	---						--	3	-	x	-	3	---	x	---		--	3	-	x	-	3	---	x	---		
C		---	---	---	---	---	---		---	---	---	---	---	---		2/4	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		2/4	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
G		2	---	x	-	2	---	x	---		4	---	x	-	4	---	x	---		---	---	---	---	---		---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Alright, so let's talk about some playing notes and then let's break down each chord shapes. First, the mutes are just a slight tap, you can even "ghost mute" them and you don't have to articulate them like the traditional chunk.

Alright, the C shape. These ideas come from this chord shape.

A		3	--	
E		3	--	
C		4	--	
G		5	--	

Note that the A and the E strings are both the 3rd fret, that is the base of the rhythm, but we slide into the 4th fret from the 2nd to give it some more energy.

The A minor shape

```
A|0--|
E|0--|
C|0--|
G|2--|
```

Here we are playing the same two strings that create the same harmony, but we will also play the 3rd fret of both the A and the E strings, if you know the A minor pentatonic shape

```
A|-----0-3--|
E|----0-3-----|
C|0-2-----|
G|-----|
```

Minor pentatonic scales work great as tools for rhythm over minor chords, for example if the chord is B minor you can borrow any notes from the B minor pentatonic scale to create rhythm ideas.

The last idea is the easiest to pick up and the easiest to see how to move. If we examine an F chord you can see that we are just playing the E and G strings.

```
A|0--|
E|1--|
C|0--|
G|2--|
```

You can feel free to slide into the note on the string like in the video for a little extra action, but the E string is the root note, meaning we play an F note on the E string, if you know the note on the E string you can recreate that for any chord, which is exactly what we do with the G chord.

```
A|2--|
E|3--|
C|2--|
G|4--|
```

But again, we are only playing the E and the G strings, this shape is moveable and a lot of fun to use as a rhythm idea.

Alright, go ahead and take these ideas into your own playing and rock out! You can do this with any single chord progression and liberate yourself from the tired old strum pattern for rich, complete and interesting rhythm. Enjoy!



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