



Eighth Notes are played exactly two times as fast as quarter notes. Because of the faster speed, the eighth notes are played with down and up strokes.

Count: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &



1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &



If you see that there are going to be some eighth notes in the song, count two syllables for each beat even if the notes are quarter, half or whole notes. This will ensure the correct timing when you get to the eighth notes. (1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &). The number is the "down beat" and is played with a down stroke. The "&" is the "up-beat" and is played with an up stroke. For now, it is best to alternate the pick in this manner. In future studies, you will encounter situations where the eighth notes may be played with a less rigid picking formula.

When playing slowly, control the picking motion with the tip of the thumb. Exaggerate the motion of the thumb tip. This will help you relax your grip on the pick. As you begin to play at a faster tempo, lots of the "wiggling action" of the thumb tip will have to disappear.

Count out loud to ensure a steady tempo. Practice tapping your foot on the "down beat." You will notice that your foot and pick will move in the same direction as if they were connected by an invisible string.

Progress Report: _____

