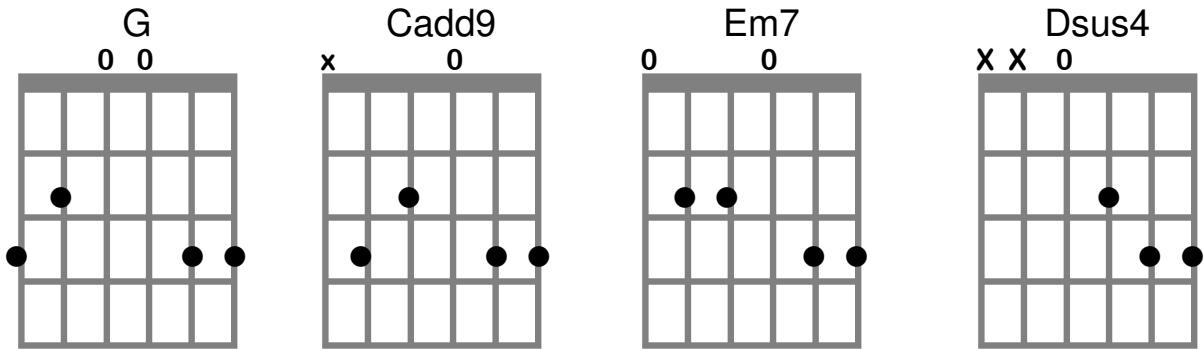


# Strumming exercise: switching chords

## The 4-chord exercise:

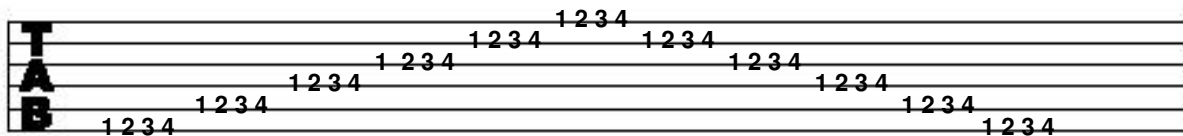
Practice playing these four commonly-used chords. Use any strumming pattern you like. Note that your **ring finger** and **pinky** will remain planted on the top two strings the entire time.



## The (dreaded) 1-2-3-4 exercise!

### THE CONCEPT

It's really straightforward. You just start on the 6<sup>th</sup> string, and go **1-2-3-4** by playing those notes (using the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> fingers, respectively). Work your way up to the 1<sup>st</sup> string, and back down again. **Go as slowly as you need to.** Just make sure each note is articulated cleanly.



### CHANGING IT UP

Each week, we add a variation to the pattern. Eventually, you'll go thru these six:

- 1 - 2 - 3 - 4
- 1 - 2 - 4 - 3
- 1 - 3 - 2 - 4
- 1 - 3 - 4 - 2
- 1 - 4 - 2 - 3
- 1 - 4 - 3 - 2

### BENEFITS:

- ♪ It'll not only build up callouses on your left hand, but it will stretch the tendons between your fingers.
- ♪ It will allow your right and left hand to synchronize more quickly.
- ♪ It will give you the ability to play more complex fingerings for melodies with greater speed and accuracy.