



Lesson Eleven

Gigajam Guitar School Lesson 11 IGS ISN

Introducing Sixteenth Notes

Lesson Objectives

- Understand and be able to count and play **Sixteenth Notes**.
- Learn new strum patterns incorporating Sixteenth notes.
- Develop rhythm guitar playing, especially fluency, whilst using sixteenth notes and changing chords.

Understanding Sixteenth Notes

In lesson one we learned how to play Whole notes. In lesson two we divided the bar into 2 notes giving us Half notes. We have also divided the bar into 4 notes giving us Quarter Notes.

In lesson three we then divided the bar into 8 notes giving us Eighth notes.

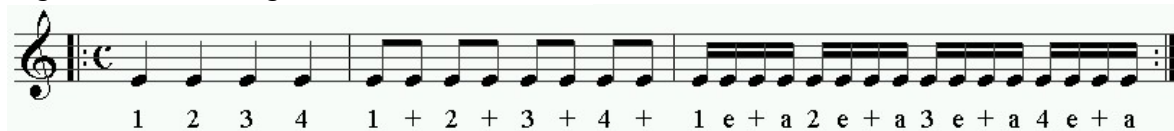
Now we are going to divide each of those Eighth notes in half again producing **Sixteenth notes**. They are called Sixteenth notes because they divide a bar of Common Time into 16 notes.

You will recall that a Quarter note is worth 1 beat and an Eighth note is worth 1/2 of a beat. Now that we have cut the Eighth note in half, we have four notes per beat and therefore each Sixteenth note is worth 1/4 of a beat.

Sixteenth Notes as a Subdivision

You will see from the example below a bar of Quarter notes, a bar of Eighth notes and a bar of Sixteenth notes. You will also see that we have new notes to count.

Figure 1– Quarter, Eighth and Sixteenth notes.



Learning New Strum Patterns incorporating Sixteenth Notes

In the following exercises, down strokes will be used on EVERY type of note value with the exception of Sixteenth notes. Every other Sixteenth note will be played with an upstroke.

Below there are two examples for you to practise your Up and Down Strokes to.

Play the first example on a chord of Em using consecutive Down and Up strokes. This example uses Sixteenth notes only and you should aim to play this rhythm at 60 bpm.

It may be well worthwhile just revising Up and Down strokes, so take a look at the technique store exercise from lesson 8.

**Technique Store-
Developing Up and Down Strokes for Strumming**
lesson008.techstore.01



Exercise 1
lesson011.igsisn.01



Quarter Notes and Eighth Notes (using Down Strokes only)

In the following example we have a combination of Eighth and Quarter notes. Use Down Strokes ONLY for this example. This exercise is played on Em.

Exercise 2
lesson011.igsisn.02



Developing Down and Up Strokes with Sixteenth Notes

In the next example we now have a combination of Eighth and Sixteenth notes. Remember that only every other Sixteenth note is played with an Up stroke.

Exercise 3
lesson011.igsisn.03



Combining Rhythms into One Beat (Eighth notes and Sixteenth notes)

Although there are 4 Sixteenth notes to 1 beat, it doesn't mean that there are always 4 consecutive Sixteenth notes. In the following example we can see that each beat in the bar is divided into an Eighth note and 2 Sixteenth notes. Notice how we join the notes at the top with a **beam** so that we can see clearly how each of the four beats in the bar are divided.

The Eighth note occupies the first half of each beat and the 2 Sixteenth notes occupy the second half of each beat. I would listen through to the multimedia files so that you can hear the rhythmic effect, before joining in yourself.

Again, the exercise is written for Em. Before you try the exercise though, have a quick look at the technique for playing this rhythm.

Technique Store



Combining Rhythms-Strum pattern

Exercise 4

lesson011.igsisn.techstore.01

Exercise 5

lesson011.igsisn.04



1 + a 2 + a 3 + a 4 + a 1 + a 2 + a 3 + a 4 + a
D D U D D U D D U D D U D D U D D U D D U

Notice how the only up strokes are on every other Sixteenth note.

The following rhythm is one of the most commonly used rhythms in Rock guitar playing. Use the multimedia files as always and then play along.

Exercise 6

lesson011.igsisn.05



1 2 + a 3 4 + a 1 2 + a 3 4 + a
D D D U D D D U D D D U D D D U

In the next exercise the rhythm combines a different permutation of Eighth and Sixteenth notes. This will really help develop your down and up strokes.

Exercise 7
lesson011.igsisn.06



1 + 2 + a 3 e + a 4 e + a 1 + 2 + a 3 e + a 4 e + a
D D D D U D U D U D U D U D D D D U D U D U D U D U

Applying Chord Changes to Sixteenth Note Strum Patterns

Once the strumming technique on these rhythms is comfortable, play the following exercises which incorporate chord changes.

Exercise 8
lesson011.igsisn.07



1 G 2 D
3 C 4 D

Exercise 9
lesson011.igsisn.08



1 C 2 Em
3 F 4 G

Practise

It is of course essential that you practise these exercises. However, remember that being able to understand the exercise and play it, are only the first couple of steps to becoming a good guitarist. The key is in constant repetition, which will develop the level of fluency which will make your playing feel and sound good to you and other musicians.