Simple Strum, Advice on Changing Chords for Beginners
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This lesson accompanies the video or face-to-face lesson introducing the student to the concept of playing the root note on beat 1 of the measure, and strumming on the next 2 beats.   Simultaneously, it introduces the concept of practicng "chord pairs" for more effective practice.   We will also introduce the concept of transposing a chord progression into different keys, which was not covered in the video.

Amazing Grace is in Waltz Time. 3 beats per measure. (Oom-pa-pa Oom-pa-pa). For the purpose of this lesson, the strum pattern is Root-Strum-Strum (RSS). Each measure (delineated by the bars) will constist of one root, followed by two strums.

Here is the chord chart for playing Amazing Grace in the key of G:

Amazing Grace - Key of G

	G	G	C	G	

	G		G		D		D7	
	G		G		C		G	
	G		D7		G		G	

Practicing Chord Pairs:

- Identify the chord pairs in the progression: In the above chart they are, in order of appearance:
    - G-C, C-G, G-D, D-D7, G-D7, D7-G

- Practice Chord 1 (RSS), then Chord 2 (Root Only)
    Repeat
    Be sure to get to the root on time
    Use the correct finger!
    Don't worry about the rest of the chord, just the root

- Practice Chord 1 (RSS) and Chord 2 (RSS)
    Repeat
    Be sure to get to the root on time
    Practice slowly. Speed up only when the chord change feels fluid.

Some chord pairs will be harder to execute than others. Practice these pairs more often than the easier ones. Once you can execute all chord pairs at approximately 70 beats per minute (BPM), you are ready to play the song at that tempo.

Bonus section: When you are ready for more chords, the following transposes Amazing Grace into three more keys.
The strum pattern does not change. The chord pairs do.

Transposing to Different Keys (not addressed in the video)

The musical alphabet goes from A to G and starts over again.   So… if you want to transpose the song from the key of G (preceding) to the key of A, every chord needs to be increased by one whole step: G becomes A, C becomes D, D becomes E, D7 becomes E7

Amazing Grace - Key of A

	A		A		D		A	
	A		A		E		E7	
	A		A		D		A	
	A		E7		A		A	

In musical terms, the key of D is a "fourth" above A.   This is because D is the fourth note in the key of A (A, B, C#, D).   To successfully transpose the song from the key of A (preceding) to the key of D we need to raise every chord a fourth. So….. A becomes D (A, B, C#, D), D becomes G (D, E, F#, G), E becomes A (E, F#, G# A), and E7 becomes A7

Amazing Grace - Key of D

	D		D		G		D	
	D		D		A		A7	
	D		D		G		D	
	D		A7		D		D	

In musical terms, C is a "whole step" below D. To successfully transpose the song from the key of D (above) to the key of C we need to lower every chord by 1. So….. D becomes C, G becomes F, A becomes G, and A7 becomes G7

Amazing Grace - Key of C

	C		C		F		C	
	C		C		G		G7	
	C		C		F		C	
	C		G7		C		C	