

BRAZILIAN RHYTHMS FOR DRUMSET

BY DUDUKA DA FONSECA AND BOB WEINER
TRANSCRIPTIONS BY JOHN RILEY



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In Brazil we have many different rhythms, and in this book we show some of these rhythms. It should be noted that these are my personal interpretations of these particular rhythms based on my musical experiences in Brazil and New York. When you become familiar with the roots of these rhythms, I encourage you to develop your own personal approach to playing Brazilian music. But remember, always respect the *foundations* of the rhythms.

This book is dedicated to my wife Maucha and daughter Alana.



I would like to give special thanks to my teachers Joel Rothman, Sonny Iggoe, Keith Copeland, Frank Malabe and Neil Clark, as well as a very special thanks to my parents Hyman and Shirley Weiner.



MUSICIANS

Batucada

Edison Da Silva (Café)	Pandeiro, Repique, Whistle, Tamborim
Duduka Da Fonseca	Surdos, Cuica, Ago-go, Caixa (snare)
Maucha Adnet	Ganza, Tamborim
Jay Ashby	Trombone

Baião and Maracatu

Duduka Da Fonseca	Zabumba, Pandeiro, Snare, Triangle, Ago-go Bells, Caxixi
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"Live" Music Trio Da Paz:

Romero Lubambo	Guitar and Guitar Synthesizer
Nilson Matta	Acoustic Bass
Duduka Da Fonseca	Drums

Drum Examples:

All drum examples are played by Duduka Da Fonseca, except those notated (*) after the audio cue, which were played by Bob Weiner. The pandeiro pattern on page 28 was played by Café.

Duduka uses Sonor drums, Zildjian cymbals, and Vic Firth drum sticks.

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KEY

Audio cues (text in grey boxes) have been indicated for the convenience of synchronizing written exercises to the CDs

() = optional notes.

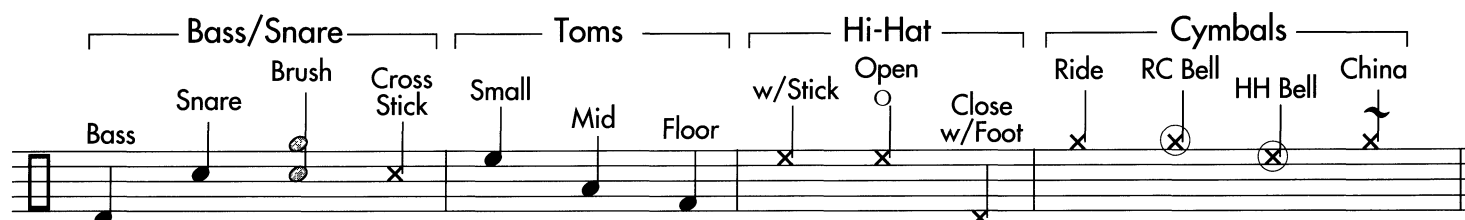


Photo courtesy of Edilberto Mendes

BATUCADA BASIC PATTERNS



The first system of the musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is in 2/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The system ends with a repeat sign.

The first staff of the 'High series' is written in 2/4 time. It contains two measures. The first measure has a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4, and a quarter note on B4. The second measure has a quarter note on C5, a quarter note on B4, and a quarter note on A4. The staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Cuica

The first system of the musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is in 2/4 time. It consists of two staves. The upper staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lower staff is a bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody in the upper staff starts on a whole note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, and C4. The bass line in the lower staff consists of four chords: G2-Bb2, F2-Ab2, E2-G2, and D2-F2, each held for a whole note.

The first staff of music is in 2/4 time, indicated by a '2' over the staff and a '4' below it. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. Above the staff, there are accent marks (>) over the first, third, fifth, and seventh measures. The first measure is a half note, and the subsequent measures are eighth notes. The staff ends with a repeat sign (double bar line with two dots).

IMPROVISED

Batucada is samba played with percussion instruments only. The rhythm originated with the African dance batuque from Angola and the Congo. When playing batucada, the percussion instruments are usually as follows:

REPINIQUE (São Paulo) or REPIQUE (Rio de Janeiro)

The repinique is a double-headed drum carried over the shoulder and played with one or two sticks. Its high-pitched sound, similar to the high timbale played in Afro-Caribbean music, is used in small ensembles such as the batucada that was recorded for this tape, to signal cues for beginnings, breaks, endings, etc. In larger samba schools the cues are given with a whistle or with hand signals.

SURDO

Surdo drums are double-headed drums (wood or metal) that range comparatively in size from a floor tom to a bass drum. Surdos are held with a neck strap that positions the drum in front of your body, allowing you to perform in street parades. The drum is played with a soft mallet in the right hand to produce an open tone, and a muffled tone by placing your other hand on the calf or plastic drum head while the mallet strikes the drum.

LOW SURDO

Surdo drums are made in different sizes to create different pitches. The largest surdo produces the lowest tone. Samba is played with a 2/4 feel and pulse—the low surdo plays a muffled or muted note on beat 1 and an open note on beat 2. This pattern could be thought of as, “one—two, one—two,” or, “short—long, short—long.”

HIGH SURDO

The high surdo is a smaller drum with a higher pitch. The high surdo rhythm features an open tone on beat 1, and a muffled tone on beat 2— “One—two, One—two,” or “Long—short, Long—short.” This pattern is the opposite of the low surdo part and when played together they create the pulse or heartbeat of samba.

TAMBORIM

The tamborim is a single-headed drum, smaller than a tambourine (about 6" in diameter), and without jingles. Tamborim shells can be made of wood, metal or even fiberglass. Due to its small size, the tamborim can easily be held with one hand and struck with a thin wooden, bamboo or fiberglass stick (or two sticks taped together) in the other hand.

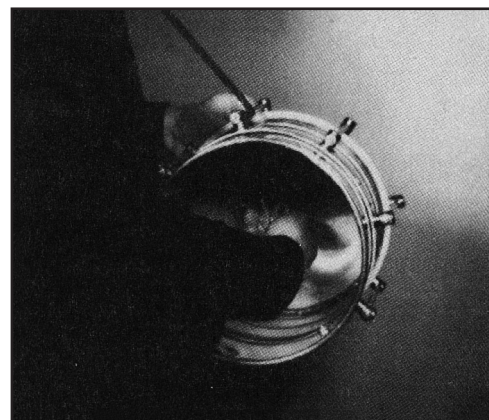
The rhythmic patterns that are played on the tamborim are similar to the accents and phrasing of the snare drum pattern. There are many popular tamborim rhythms, some of which we will play on the snare drum in following sections.



CUICA

The cuica is a single-headed drum with a rod connected to the underside of the drum head. The rod is pulled with a wet cloth, producing friction and creating the sound of the instrument. Pressing down on the top of the head near where the rod is attached will produce higher pitches—releasing the pressure from the head will produce lower tones.

On our tape, the cuica is used to improvise parts or “melodies,” rather than playing a specific rhythm.



PANDEIRO

The pandeiro, a tambourine with jingles, is very popular in many different types of Brazilian music. The playing of the pandeiro requires a great deal of skill and technique.



Musical instrument photos by Emily Moorefield

SAMBA RHYTHMS ON DRUMSET

SNARE DRUM/DRUMSET

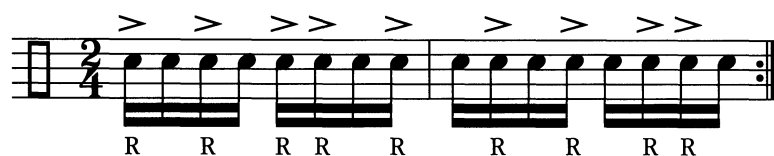
We will begin with one of the basic rhythms played by the snare drum section in samba schools. One of the keys to understanding Brazilian music is feeling the pull towards a “triplet pulse” against the 2/4 feel of samba. The examples on the tape will help with the phrasing.

Exercise 1 Snare drum pattern #1



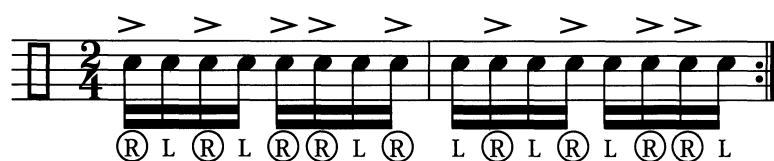
The following snare drum pattern is typically played on the tamborim. The right hand plays all the accents and the left hand “fills in” the other sixteenth-notes.

Exercise 2 Snare drum patterns #2—Tamborim pattern



You can also emphasize the accents in this pattern with rimshots.

Exercise 2a Snare drum patterns #2—Played on the rim



Here is another common tamborim pattern. Notice the slight variation of the accented notes and the new sticking.

Exercise 2b Variation on snare drum patterns #2—Tamborim pattern



SURDO/DRUMSET

On drumset we can use the toms to imitate the sound of the surdos. The left hand muffles the head on the last sixteenth-note of beats 1 and 2, and releases on beat 2 (open tone). The sound of the palm (pickups into the downbeats), are in effect “ghost notes” and are often felt rather than heard. We will start by playing a basic surdo pattern on the floor tom.

Exercise 1 Low surdo part—Basic

