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 Igoe, 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

"Live" Music Trio Da Paz:

Romero Lubambo Guitar and Guitar Synthesizer

Nilson Matta Acoustic Bass

Duduka Da Fonseca Drums

Drum Examples:

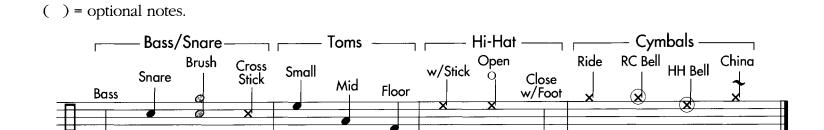
All drum examples are played by Duduka Da Fonseca, except those notated (*) after the audio cue, which were played by Bob Weiner. The pandeiro pattern on page 28 was played by Café.

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KEY

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





The spirit of Carnaval

Photo courtesy of Edilberto Mendes

We would like to dedicate the samba section to the late Edison Machado, one of the most important and influential Brazilian drummers. 1934 - 1990

BATUCADA BASIC PATTERNS



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.

GANZA

Ganza is the name given to a cylindrical metal instrument filled with small stones or pieces of metal which is played by shaking. The rhythm produced by shaking the ganza is usually based on 16th-notes with varying accents. The accented downbeats (beats 1 and 2) are played by pushing the instrument forward and away from your body. The 16th-note pickups going into the downbeats are accented by bringing the instrument toward you. The unaccented notes fall in between the two motions. The phrasing that is created when playing the ganza is often imitated in the snare and bass drum patterns that we will hear later.

SNARE DRUM (CAIXA)

The snare drum that is used in Brazilian ensembles is similar to a piccolo snare drum and is usually 13" in diameter. Like the surdo, the snare drum has a shoulder strap that allows you to walk while playing it. Originally made of wood, most caixa today have metal shells.

The snare drum pattern that is played in our batucada is an important basic samba pattern. The notes are "buzzed" or played as press rolls.

AGO-GO BELLS

Originally from West Africa, ago-go bells consist of two or three different pitched metal bells welded together. As with the tamborim, one hand holds the instrument while the other strikes it with a stick.

There are many different patterns that can be played on ago-go bells. The rhythm that is played on the tape is a simple pattern that helps keep the groove.

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.

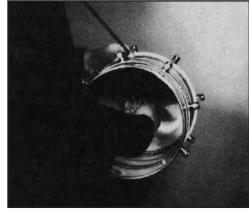
The rhythmic patterns that are played on the tamborim are similar to the accents and phrasing of the snare drum pattern. There are many popular tamborim rhythms, some of which we will play on the snare drum in following sections.

CUICA

The cuica is a single-headed drum with a rod connected to the 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

