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FOREWORD

By Chalo Eduardo – Musician, Educator, Author, Recording Artist

Throughout my career, I've been fortunate to work with many incredible musicians. It's been a life full of unforgettable moments. It all began when I was 15, with a conga drum I didn't know how to play. I had no idea how to play. That moment marked the beginning of my journey into the world of percussion.

Back then, my dream was simple: to perform for audiences and one day record music. But dreams need a path—and that path was education. I had to learn how to play, understand rhythm, and develop that all-important groove. So I studied, practiced, and discovered how much fun there was in the process. Every day brought something new, and little by little, I got better.

Playing music is more than just a skill—it's a way to express passion, to connect with others, and to share a part of ourselves. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned musician, music always gives something back. It takes dedication, yes—but it's worth every minute.

Along the way, I've met many gifted educators and artists. One of them is Massimo Cusato. During my time with the Remo Drum Company, I was developing a new tamburello design when the late Mr. Remo Belli (founder of Remo Inc.) introduced me to Massimo. We hit it off right away, and soon we were working on his signature Tamburello drum series. Of course, to design the instrument properly, I needed to understand it. Massimo guided me through the basics, all the way to more advanced grooves.

What sets Massimo apart is not only his deep knowledge of rhythm but also his real-world experience as a touring and recording artist. His passion for teaching, his culture, and his music is contagious. He brings traditional rhythms from Calabria, Italy into a modern light with his unique multi-drumkit style, inspiring everyone from beginners to professionals.

You might've heard the phrase: "Keep it simple." In drumming, that couldn't be more true. While flashy solos might grab attention, it's the groove—the steady, consistent beat—that holds everything together. And that's exactly what this book delivers.

Massimo has created a clear, step-by-step guide to help you build solid timing and groove from the ground up. From the very first chapter, students, teachers, and drum enthusiasts will start to feel that pulse. Stick with it. Take your time. Let each beat sink in.

As you move through the lessons, your confidence and musical voice will grow. Be patient, be consistent, and most of all—have fun.

I truly hope this book inspires your drumming journey as much as it has inspired mine. Enjoy the process, and don't forget to share the joy with others along the way and have fun!

— Chalo Eduardo

PRESENTATION

Hi, I'm Massimo Cusato.

Since the beginning of my musical studies, I have always felt very passionate about both percussion and drums. In the early 90s, thanks to Alex Acuna and Horacio "El Negro" Hernandez, I realized that I could merge the different percussion instruments, such as congas, djembè, shaker, cajon, etc., with the drumset, which allowed me to create my style. A unique sound source called the multi-drumkit.

Over the years, my constant experimentation with the multi-drumkit, based on coordination, groove, and cleanliness of sound, allowed me to deepen and refine my skills; which, in turn, presented me with more prestigious job opportunities.

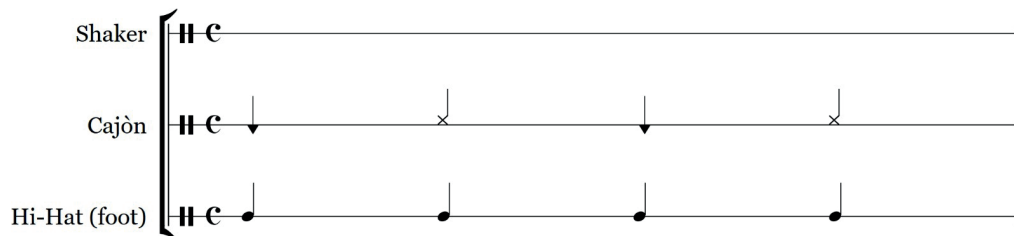
With this first video course dedicated to the cajon and its accessories, I am introducing you to the world of multi-percussion. If you already have some experience in the field of mixed-set, this course will hopefully inspire you to develop new ideas to combine with your style. If this is a totally new concept, it will give you the necessary skills, step by step, to understand how to create and use, in different scenarios, a drumset groove played with cajon, shaker and hi-hat.

Enjoy!

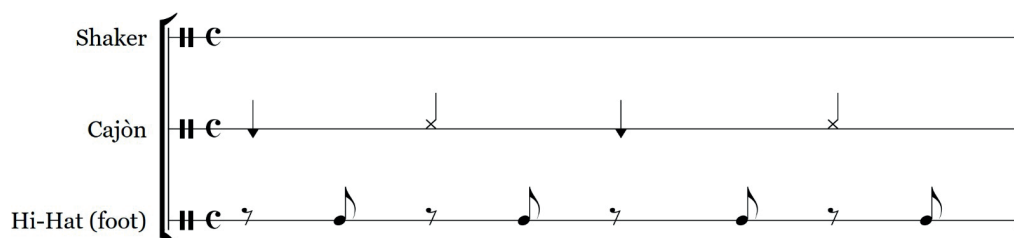


4. Cajon & Hi-Hat - Rhythm collaboration

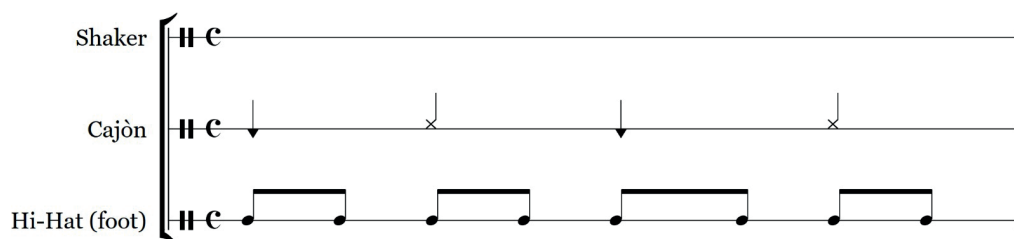
1. Cajon Quarter Notes - Alternating R & L hand - Hi-Hat Quarter notes



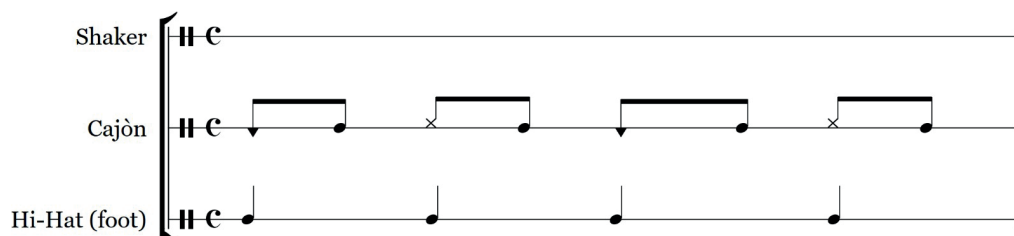
2. Cajon Quarter Notes - Alternating R & L hand - Hi-Hat Upbeat



3. Cajon Quarter Notes - Alternating R & L hand - Hi-Hat 8th notes



4. Cajon 8th notes - Alternating R & L hand - Hi-Hat Quarter notes



**5. Cajon 8th notes - Alternating R & L hand -
Hi-Hat Upbeat**

Shaker: A single half note (C) on a single staff.

Cajòn: A staff with a common time signature (C). It contains four eighth notes, alternating between the right hand (downward stroke) and left hand (upward stroke). The notes are grouped by beams. There are 'x' marks above the second and fourth eighth notes, indicating a specific technique or emphasis.

Hi-Hat (foot): A staff with a common time signature (C). It contains a series of eighth notes, alternating between the right hand (downward stroke) and left hand (upward stroke). The notes are grouped by beams. There are 'x' marks above the second and fourth eighth notes, indicating a specific technique or emphasis.

**6. Cajon 8th notes - Alternating R & L hand -
Hi-Hat 8th notes**

Shaker: A single half note (C) on a single staff.

Cajòn: A staff with a common time signature (C). It contains four eighth notes, alternating between the right hand (downward stroke) and left hand (upward stroke). The notes are grouped by beams. There are 'x' marks above the second and fourth eighth notes, indicating a specific technique or emphasis.

Hi-Hat (foot): A staff with a common time signature (C). It contains a series of eighth notes, alternating between the right hand (downward stroke) and left hand (upward stroke). The notes are grouped by beams. There are 'x' marks above the second and fourth eighth notes, indicating a specific technique or emphasis.

**7. Cajon 16th notes - Alternating R & L hand -
Hi-Hat Quarter notes**

Shaker: A single half note (C) on a single staff.

Cajòn: A staff with a common time signature (C). It contains four groups of eighth notes, each group consisting of two eighth notes beamed together. The groups alternate between the right hand (downward stroke) and left hand (upward stroke). There are 'x' marks above the second and fourth groups, indicating a specific technique or emphasis.

Hi-Hat (foot): A staff with a common time signature (C). It contains a series of quarter notes, alternating between the right hand (downward stroke) and left hand (upward stroke). The notes are grouped by beams. There are 'x' marks above the second and fourth quarter notes, indicating a specific technique or emphasis.

**8. Cajon 16th notes - Alternating R & L hand -
Hi-Hat Upbeat**

Shaker: A single half note (C) on a single staff.

Cajòn: A staff with a common time signature (C). It contains four groups of eighth notes, each group consisting of two eighth notes beamed together. The groups alternate between the right hand (downward stroke) and left hand (upward stroke). There are 'x' marks above the second and fourth groups, indicating a specific technique or emphasis.

Hi-Hat (foot): A staff with a common time signature (C). It contains a series of eighth notes, alternating between the right hand (downward stroke) and left hand (upward stroke). The notes are grouped by beams. There are 'x' marks above the second and fourth eighth notes, indicating a specific technique or emphasis.

9. Cajon 16th notes - Alternating R & L hand - Hi-Hat 8th notes

Shaker: A continuous 16th-note pattern (quarter-note triplet).

Cajon: Alternating right and left hand 16th-note patterns, marked with 'x' for the left hand.

Hi-Hat (foot): A continuous 8th-note pattern.

5. Cajon & Shaker – Grooving together

1. Shaker 8th notes

Cajon Quarter notes - One hand -

Shaker: A continuous 8th-note pattern.

Cajon: Quarter notes on the right hand, marked with 'x' for the left hand.

Hi-Hat (foot): A continuous 8th-note pattern.

2. Shaker 16th notes

Cajon Quarter notes - One hand -

Shaker: A continuous 16th-note pattern (quarter-note triplet).

Cajon: Quarter notes on the right hand, marked with 'x' for the left hand.

Hi-Hat (foot): A continuous 8th-note pattern.

3. Shaker 16th notes

Cajon 8th notes - One hand -

Shaker: A continuous 16th-note pattern (quarter-note triplet).

Cajon: 8th-note patterns on the right hand, marked with 'x' for the left hand.

Hi-Hat (foot): A continuous 8th-note pattern.