

LATIN RHYTHMS

Scott Robertson Drum School
www.scottondrums-school.com

Latin rhythms, as they are played on drum set in modern music, are derived largely from the traditional music of the Caribbean and Brazil. On the following page are some of the most common Latin beats that drummers are expected to know.

Letter A is the Bossa Nova, which is a type of Samba. This Brazilian rhythm became very popular in North America during the 1960's. The cross stick pattern on the snare drum is what defines it as a Bossa Nova. Otherwise, the hi hat and bass drum pattern is the same as a rock beat. The "+" of "3" in the second bar is particularly important.

Letter B is the Bossa Nova with the ride rhythm played on the ride cymbal rather than on the hi hat. Close the hi hat on "2" and "4" with your foot. The cymbal can be replaced with a brush on the snare drum. This way, you can get a variety of sounds between a sweeping motion and a tapping motion.

Letter C is an old way of playing the Samba. It's played with the snares off. the right hand has a stick. The left hand can have a brush or a stick.

Letter D is a more modern Jazz Samba. It's basically a fast Bossa Nova. The snare drum part is derived from the Tamborim part of a traditional Samba.

Letter E will serve as a fast Samba.

Letter F is two examples of a Cha- Cha. The quarter notes can be played on the bell of the cymbal, or better yet, on a cowbell.

Letter G is two examples of the Bolero, also known as the ballroom rhumba. Notice that the left hand is a cross stick. Snares should be off.

Letter H is the Tango. The roll is a press roll. It should not be approached as a five stroke roll as in a march.

References:

Afro-Cuban Rhythms for the Drum Set
by Frank Malabe and Bob Weiner
Manhattan Music

Latin American Percussion

by Birger Sulsbruck

Den Rytmske Aftenskoles Forlag/Edition Wilhelm Hansen. Copenhagen

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A

Musical notation for rhythm A, featuring a 4/4 time signature. The top staff shows a series of eighth notes with 'x' marks above them, indicating a specific drum sound. The bottom staff shows a bass line with quarter notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

B

Musical notation for rhythm B, featuring a 4/4 time signature. The top staff shows a series of eighth notes with 'x' marks above them. The bottom staff shows a bass line with quarter notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

C

R L L R R L L R L R L R R L L R

Musical notation for rhythm C, featuring a 4/4 time signature. The top staff shows eighth notes with 'R' and 'L' labels above them, corresponding to the rhythm pattern. The bottom staff shows a bass line with quarter notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

D

Musical notation for rhythm D, featuring a 4/4 time signature. The top staff shows eighth notes with 'x' marks above them. The bottom staff shows a bass line with quarter notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

E

Musical notation for rhythm E, featuring a 4/4 time signature. The top staff shows eighth notes with 'x' marks above them. The bottom staff shows a bass line with quarter notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

F

Musical notation for rhythm F, featuring a 4/4 time signature. The top staff shows eighth notes with 'x' marks above them. The bottom staff shows a bass line with quarter notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

0 + 0 + 0 + 0 +

G

R L R R R L R L L

Musical notation for rhythm G, featuring a 4/4 time signature. The top staff shows eighth notes with 'R' and 'L' labels above them, corresponding to the rhythm pattern. The bottom staff shows a bass line with quarter notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

H

Musical notation for rhythm H, featuring a 4/4 time signature. The top staff shows eighth notes with 'x' marks above them. The bottom staff shows a bass line with quarter notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

p *f* *p* *f*

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Traditionally, latin rhythms are played on a variety of percussion instruments in a latin ensemble. When we play latin rhythms on drum set, we are mimicking or substituting other sounds for those instruments. For instance, the claves play the fundamental beat for Cuban rhythms. On drumset, the clave rhythm can be played with a cross stick on the snare drum.

On the following page:

Letter A is the 2:3 son clave. In the third and fourth bar it is shown as the 3:2 son clave. All of the beats and rhythms on the following page are two bar patterns in which either bar can be played first.

Letter B is the rumba clave. The only difference between this and the son clave is that the third note of the second bar is played on the "&" of "4" rather than on the "4".

Letter C is derived from the cascara rhythm. This rhythm is traditionally played on the shell of the timbale or on the cowbell. Here it's written for the ride cymbal.

D is the mambo bell pattern. Play it on the ride cymbal. try playing the accents on the bell.

E is derived from the beat played on the conga drum.

F has the bombo drum notes played on the bass drum. The hi hat can be played on the 2 and 4 counts, substituting for the guiro, or on the 1 and 3 counts in place of the cowbell.

Letters G through J are patterns that will work for a mambo, or a mambo section of an arrangement.

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A

Musical notation for rhythm A, featuring a 4/4 time signature and a sequence of eighth and quarter notes.

B

Musical notation for rhythm B, featuring a 4/4 time signature and a sequence of eighth and quarter notes.

C

Musical notation for rhythm C, featuring a 4/4 time signature and a sequence of eighth and quarter notes.

D

Musical notation for rhythm D, featuring a 4/4 time signature and a sequence of eighth and quarter notes.

E

Musical notation for rhythm E, featuring a 4/4 time signature and a sequence of eighth and quarter notes.

F

Musical notation for rhythm F, featuring a 4/4 time signature and a sequence of eighth and quarter notes.

G

Musical notation for rhythm G, featuring a 4/4 time signature and a sequence of eighth and quarter notes.

H

Musical notation for rhythm H, featuring a 4/4 time signature and a sequence of eighth and quarter notes.

I

Musical notation for rhythm I, featuring a 4/4 time signature and a sequence of eighth and quarter notes.

J

Musical notation for rhythm J, featuring a 4/4 time signature and a sequence of eighth and quarter notes.