

- The Three Essential Elements of the Samba groove - How to sing and internalize

The concept of the 'Three Essential Elements of Samba groove' comes from an analysis of different samba recordings and the search for common rhythmic elements derived from the percussion instruments.

This is not a samba 'clave' or *THE* samba pattern, but it is the **general rhythmic elements condensed in a singing phrase**.

These are the rhythm aspects that are always present in the samba groove.

According to the analysis we can summarize the samba groove in three interconnected parts.

1. TOP part - represented by the shaker or 'pandeiro' (high frequency instruments), playing sixteenth notes - straight or with accents
2. BOTTOM part - represented by floor tom ('surdo') or any low sound instrument, playing a low short note on the first beat and a low open note on the downbeat of 2nd beat
3. MIDDLE part - represented by the 'tamborim', 'cuíca', 'agogô', playing improvised rhythms in between, with a predominance of accents on the 2nd and 4th sixteenth notes.

Because singing is a very efficient way of studying music (and maybe the best way to do it, considering voice our first instrument), the translation of these three parts into syllables and sounds to be practiced as a singing pattern, will help you develop a stronger samba groove feel.

The diagram shows a 2/4 time signature at the top left. Below it, a musical staff with five lines contains two measures of music. The first measure has four notes, and the second measure has four notes. Above the staff, the syllables 'du ka chee ka | doon ka chee ka' are written. Four boxes with arrows point to specific syllables: 'short sound' points to 'du', 'short open accent' points to 'ka', 'staccato' points to 'chee', and 'long low sound' points to 'ka' in the second measure.

How to practice

- Sing by yourself;
- Practice with the percussion loop recording (available to download);
- Practice with songs (playlist available with a selection of different songs to sing with it);
- Sing the groove when you are playing your instrument;

For the complete video about this subject, access Brazilian Rhythm Workshop website or Youtube - also you will find assignments and expanded instructions