

Stick Control Unleashed Part IV: Latin

Authentic Latin playing often calls for specific patterns and rhythms and a strong 8th note feel. We're taking a more liberal approach here by applying some simple Latin bass drum patterns to the lines in *Stick Control*. The resulting rhythms will be useful in Latin music and Latin jazz. The control required for these exercises will also free your limbs to create new rhythms and to improvise.

1. Latin Bass Drum 1: Basic and Up-tempo

Begin by playing a steady Latin pattern (Samba ostinato) with the bass drum. Play all strokes as 8th notes with the R strokes on the cymbal and L strokes on the snare, perhaps with snares off for a timbale effect, or as a cross-stick. Also try playing the outer line on a cow bell or the bell of the cymbal.

R = Cym or cowbell

L = SN (Open/cross-stick/snares off)

BD = Latin Ostinato

HH = 2 & 4

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

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

Bass Drum & Hi-hat Patterns

Advanced

1. Play the HH on 1 & 3
2. Play the HH on all 4 beats
3. Play some of the LH strokes on a tom ... experiment

2. Latin Bass Drum 2: Mambo Beat

Play a steady Mambo pattern with the bass drum; two of them are depicted here. Play the R strokes on the cymbal and L strokes on the snare in 8ths – snares off if you like – and hi-hat on 2 & 4. Also try playing the lead hand on the bell of the cymbal or a cow bell with a cross-stick on the snare.

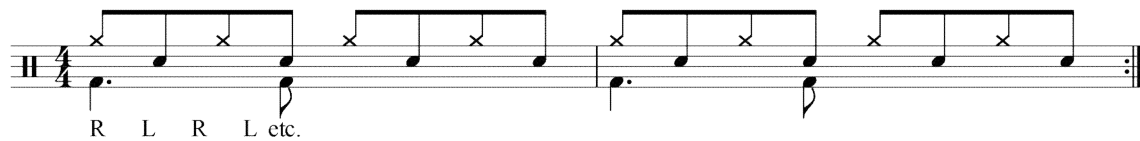
R = Cym

L = SN (Open/cross-stick/snares off)

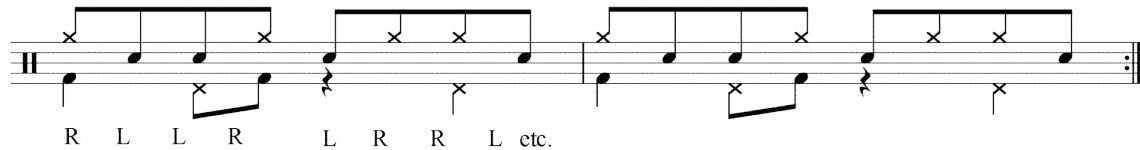
BD = Mambo ostinato (2 forms)

HH = 2 & 4

Line 1, Hi-hat omitted



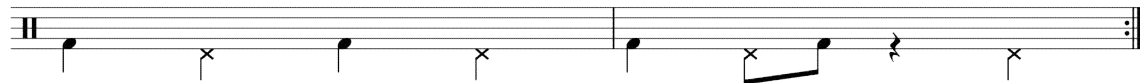
Line 6 with Hi-hat



1-bar Mambo Pattern with Hi-hat



2-bar Mambo Pattern with Hi-hat



Advanced

Play the patterns against a bombo beat on the bass drum. The Bombo beat is prominent on afro-cuban music and is usually played on a large tom. Here we'll play the Bombo beat with the bass drum.

1

2

3

3. Latin Bass Drum 3: Clave Pattern

Traditional Clave patterns (e.g. the *bossa nova* rhythm) can be found in many styles of Latin music and elsewhere. The co-ordination is more tricky than the previous bass drum patterns, but this is well worth adding to your trick bag. Approach these the same as the Latin ostinato, playing a 2-bar Clave pattern on the bass drum, hi-hat on 2 & 4. Also practice shifting your attention between the bass drum pattern and your hands.

R = Cym or Cow bell

L = SN (Open/cross-stick/snare off)

BD = Clave rhythm (two patterns)

HH = 2 & 4

R L R L R L R L etc.

R L L R L R R L etc.

Clave Foot Pattern#1

Clave Foot Pattern #2

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