

Bossa Nova Basics

By Alex Ribchester

The Bossa Nova hails from Brazil, with its roots in samba. It is a great groove to play if you want to improve your independence, as you have four separate patterns being played with all four of your limbs. In this lesson I have broken down the groove in to five exercises starting with the hands and then gradually introducing a number of foot patterns.

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

Exercise 1: A drum staff in 4/4 time. The pattern consists of eighth notes on the snare and bass drums, with rests on the hi-hat and toms. The sequence is: 1 (snare), & (rest), 2 (snare), & (rest), 3 (snare), & (rest), 4 (snare), & (rest). This sequence is repeated four times.

3 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

Exercise 3: A drum staff in 4/4 time. The pattern consists of eighth notes on the snare and bass drums, with rests on the hi-hat and toms. The sequence is: 1 (snare), & (rest), 2 (snare), & (rest), 3 (snare), & (rest), 4 (snare), & (rest). This sequence is repeated four times.

5 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

Exercise 5: A drum staff in 4/4 time. The pattern consists of eighth notes on the snare and bass drums, with rests on the hi-hat and toms. The sequence is: 1 (snare), & (rest), 2 (snare), & (rest), 3 (snare), & (rest), 4 (snare), & (rest). This sequence is repeated four times.

For the final two exercises move you right hand on to the ride cymbal or floor tom so that you can hear the stepped hi hats.

7 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

Exercise 7: A drum staff in 4/4 time. The pattern consists of eighth notes on the snare and bass drums, with rests on the hi-hat and toms. The sequence is: 1 (snare), & (rest), 2 (snare), & (rest), 3 (snare), & (rest), 4 (snare), & (rest). This sequence is repeated four times.

9 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

Exercise 9: A drum staff in 4/4 time. The pattern consists of eighth notes on the snare and bass drums, with rests on the hi-hat and toms. The sequence is: 1 (snare), & (rest), 2 (snare), & (rest), 3 (snare), & (rest), 4 (snare), & (rest). This sequence is repeated four times.