

Afro 6 — basics

Play each pattern many times without stopping.

the fundamentals of the bell pattern

Todd Bishop
www.cruiseshipdrummer.com
www.pdxdrummer.com

1. Play and count the bell pattern in 3/4:

1 2 3 & (1) & & &

RH/bell
LH/snare
RF/bass
LF/hihat

Also play quarters with the left foot and right foot:

Add quarter notes on the snare drum:

B B B R L R L R L R

It may be helpful to think of this as a sticking.

2. Play and count the bell pattern in 6/8, in 2:

1 2 1 2

RH/bell
LH/snare
RF/bass
LF/hihat

Add the snare drum on the 1 and 2:

B R L R R L R B R

You can also count in 6 at first, if necessary:

1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6

RH/bell
LH/snare
RF/bass
LF/hihat

And with either foot:

Play with left or right foot.

3. Play this funk-style pattern, with a strong pull towards the 1 of each measure:

1 a 1 a

bell/hihat
snare
bass

This leads you into the natural accents for the bell pattern. Play this by itself:

4. Add the clave rhythm. Rumba clave:

B B R B B B R

Son clave:

B B B R B B R

Also practice adding the clave rhythm with each foot.

Then play the left foot on 1 and 2 with each of the above:

Also play the foot part with the right foot on the bass drum.