

Gnasso

(last edited on 8 November 2020)

Gnasso is a balafon rhythm of the *Bwa* or *Bwaba* from Mali / Burkina Faso.

Gnasso (also found as: *Gnjasso*, pronunciation 'njasso') is the brewer and pourer of the locally brewed beer; "*Dolo*" also called "*Tjappallo*". The "*Dolotière*" is a *Djoula*-French word for the brewer. *Gnasso* is the *Bwaba* word for "*dolotière*". *Gna* = beer.

A rich client of the *cabaret* (café) normally gives away many rounds. However, one day he has no money. The *Gnasso* decides to give it for free that day.

However, this makes the customer so tipsy that he becomes annoying and seriously insults her. (French expression: "*moi, j'ai m'en fou*"). The "*dolotière*" does not respond because the next day he returns - with money - to her. The song says:

Hey female beer brewer; what you say to me; I don't care!
 even if you give me free "dolo"; It makes no difference!
 even the whole audience insults me; I don't care!
 (*moi, j'ai m'en fou*)

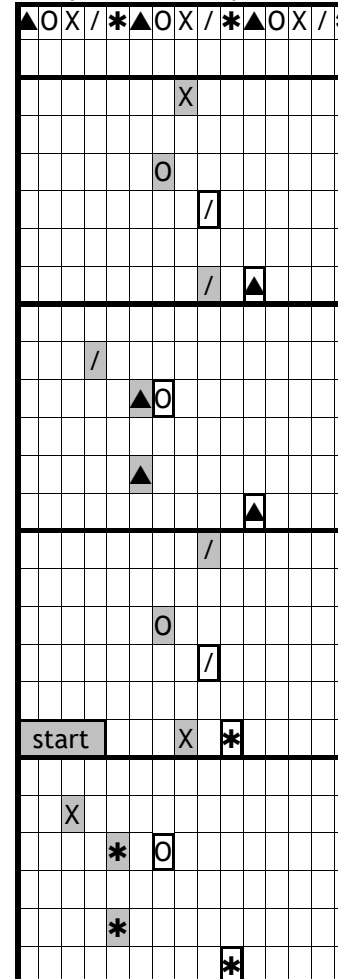
Gnasso -o mè ma omana gnasso na
Gnasso -o mè ma omana gnasso na
Ha dee ba tou-a a-mè
mè ma omana gnasso na

There are seven exercises to work towards the (tricky) pattern A. The simplified pattern A1 can be used to familiarize yourself with the number before starting with A2. (Pattern A1 by myself)

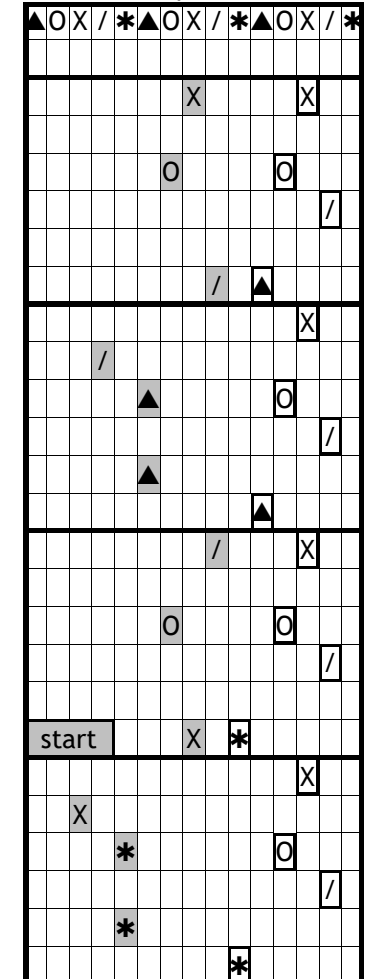
Possible percussion accompaniment

Baradoundoun	S	T	T	S	T	T
Bara	S _d	S _d	B	S	T	S
Clave	x	x	x	x	x	x
Shaker	★	★	★	★	★	★

Pattern A1
simplified accompaniment

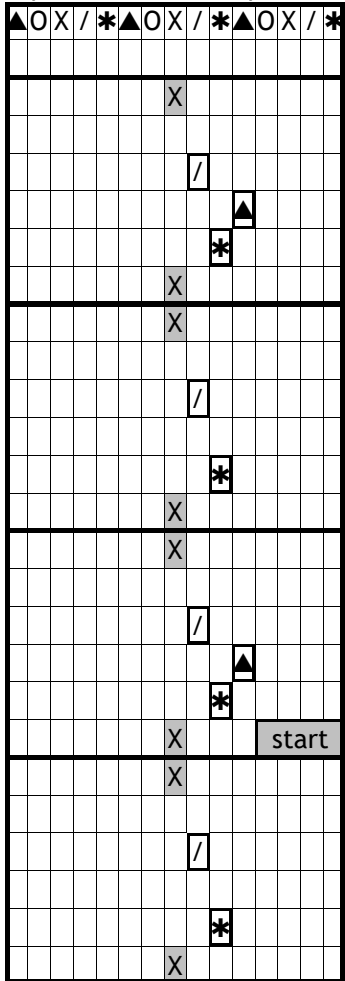


Pattern A2
accompaniment

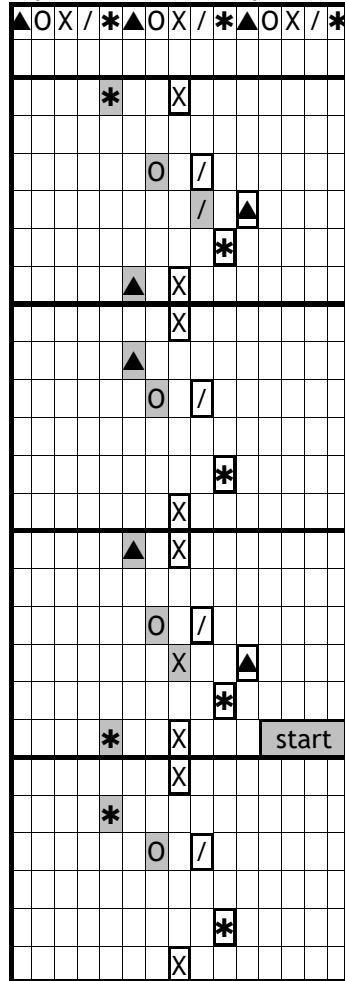


Sources: Youssouf & Kassim Keita, *Konsankuy*, Mali 2012, Youssouf Keita, *Bobo Dioulasso*, Burkina Faso, January 2017.

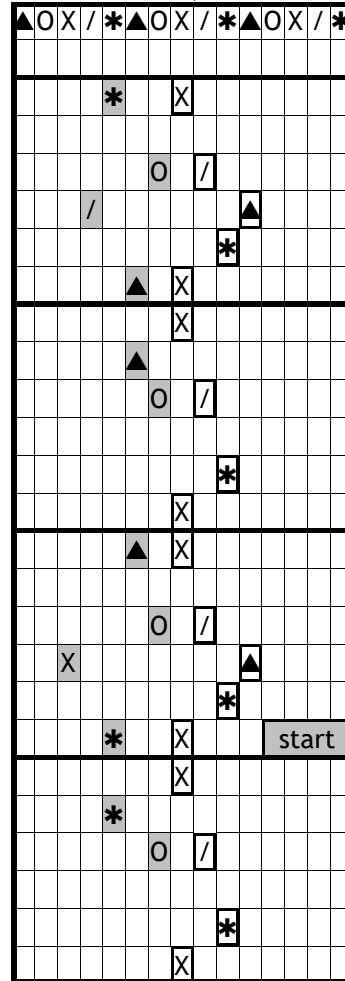
Pattern B1
simplified solo accompaniment



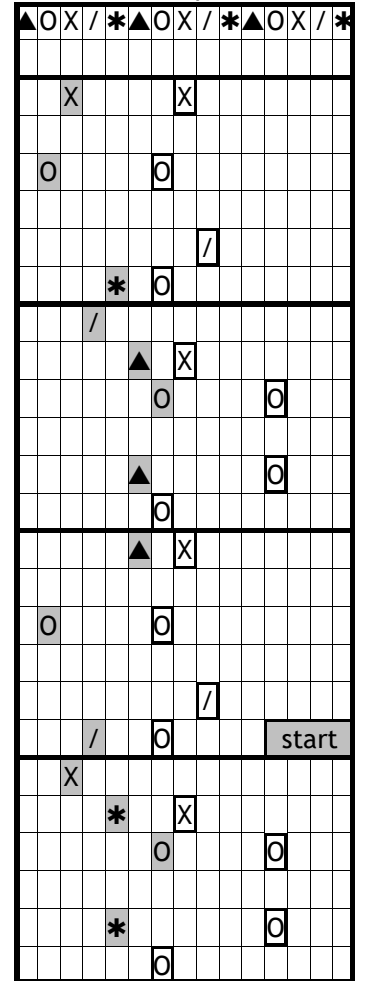
Pattern B2
simplified solo accompaniment



Pattern B3
solo accompaniment



Pattern C
solo accompaniment



Melody
(= also melody of the song)

	*	▲	O	X	/	*	▲	O	X	/	*	▲
gna						*					*	
so			/					/				
o			*					*			*	
mè			*					*			*	
ma			/					/				
o			*					*			*	
ma			*					*			*	
na			/					/				
gna		X						X				
so		O						O				
na		O						O				
	*					*						
	*					*					*	

	*	▲	O	X	/	*	▲	O	X	/	*	▲
gna						*					*	
so			/					/				
o			*					*			*	
mè			*					*			*	
ma			/					/				
o			*	▲				*	▲			
ma			*					*			*	
na			/					/				
gna		X						X				
so		O						O				
na		O						O				
ha		X						X				
dé		/						/				
ba		/						/				

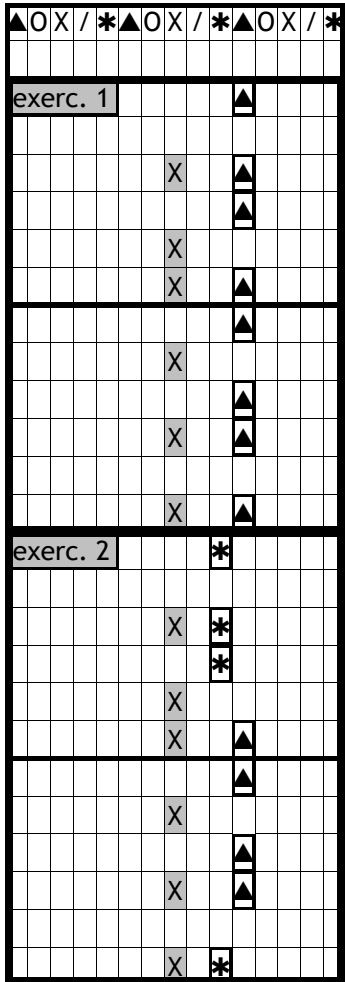
	*	▲	O	X	/	*	▲	O	X	/	*	▲
tu			/					/				
a		O						O				
mè			*					*			*	
mè			*					*			*	
ma			/					/				
o			*					*			*	
ma			*					*			*	
na			/					/				
gna		X						X				
so		O						O				
na		O						O				
	*					*						
	*					*					*	

Pattern D
solo accompaniment

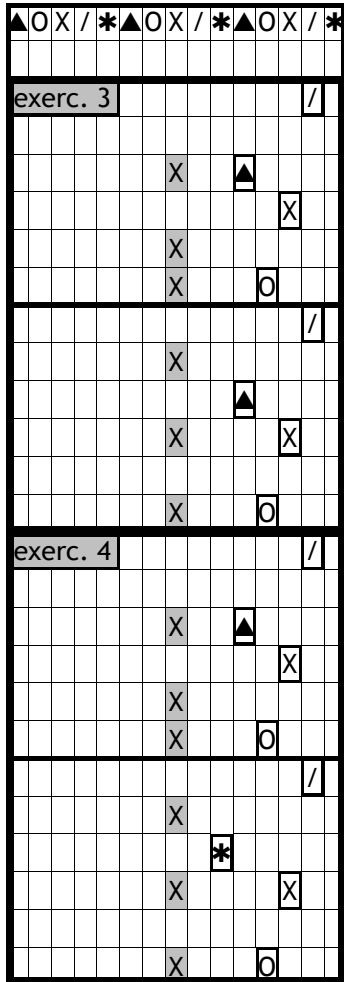
▲	O	X	/	*	▲	O	X	/	*	▲	O	X	/	*
						X								
							*							
						O					O			
							/				O			
							/							
						▲								
						X								
											▲			
						O					O			
							/				O			
							/							
												start		
						X								
						O					O			
							/				O			
							/							
						*								

In this Pattern, the left hand plays, the right hand of Pattern A. That gives right the possibility many variations to play.

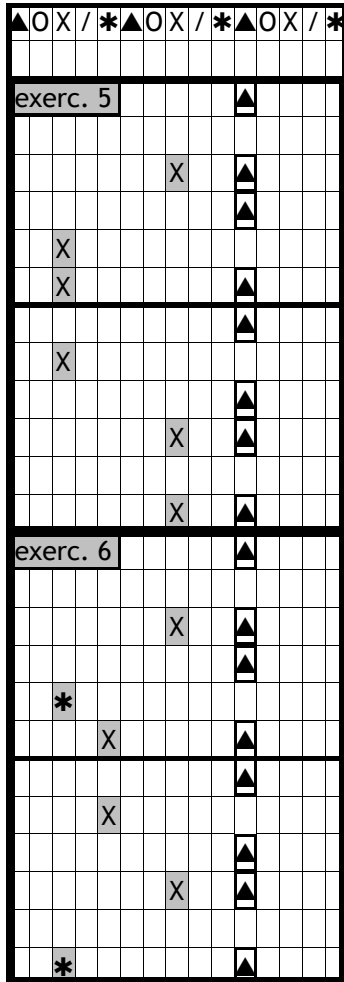
Exercise 1 & 2 to Pattern A



Exercise 3 & 4 to Pattern A



Exercise 5 & 6 to Pattern A



Exercise 7 to Pattern A

