

Sènèkè Daba

(last edited on 6 March 2021)

Sènèkè Daba is a balafon piece of the *Tiéfo*, a people from the South-West of Burkina Faso (a number of villages south of Bobo Dioulasso, regions of Tiéfora and Sideradougouin).

The rhythm supports the manual plowing ("*laborer*") that is carried out on the field with the Daba (a kind of hoe). They work synchronously with the music supporting the rhythm. There is singing during the work, but sometimes the workers lose attention to the music and the musicians move on. The *Djeli* (*griot*) adds sentences with exhortations or cynicism, ridicule or other humour related to the individual (qualities of the) workers. There is not always time for a break, but you can of course try to take it a bit easier. When seen by the *Djeli*, there is an exhortation or slight mockery in the song. Sometimes the *Djeli* also gives points for the qualities of the work or the disadvantages of a person's work. Then small "bonuses" or "sanctions" can follow. The song is also played / sung when harvesting the fonio. *Daba* = hoe, *Sènèkè* = work in the field. *Sènèkè Daba* = the work in the field with the hoe. There is enough "space" in the melody to vary around the theme. The song is about who works best. It's not Youssouf's language, so the song is his interpretation of what he heard:

Wobo tchey, kan sambla tchey ye, boe ko, fo ka, ta na lo

Sources: Youssouf Keita, Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso January 2013.

Melody

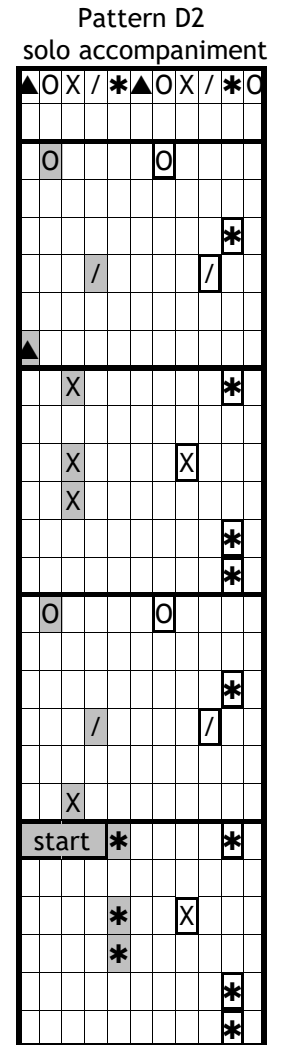
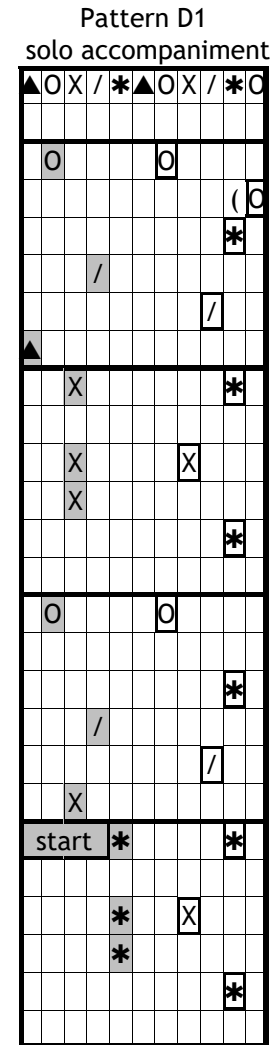
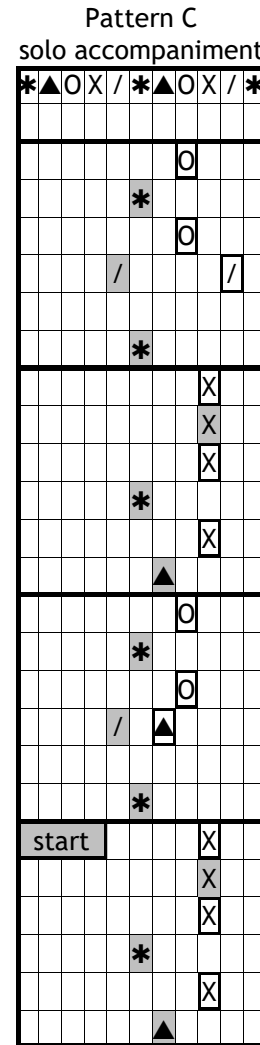
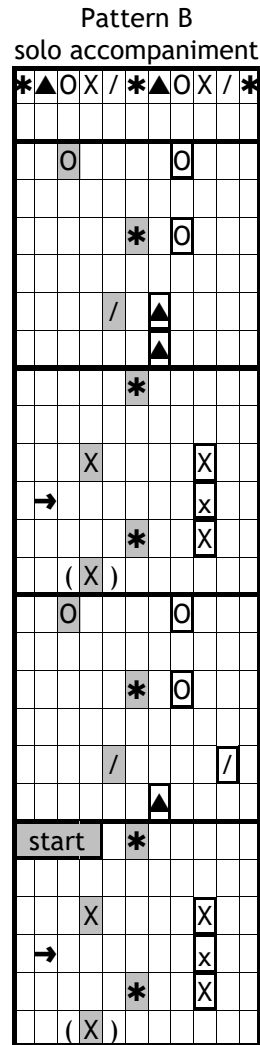
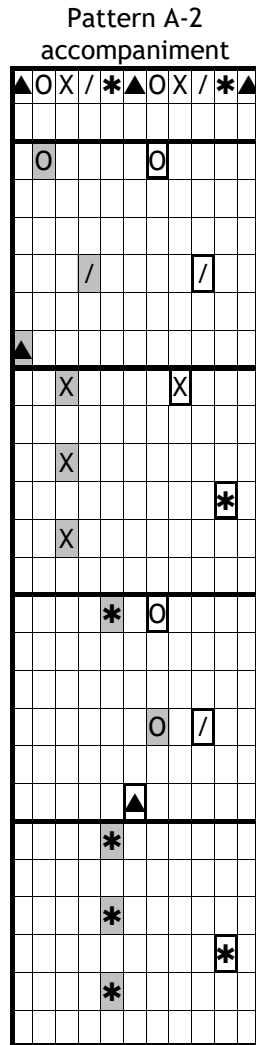
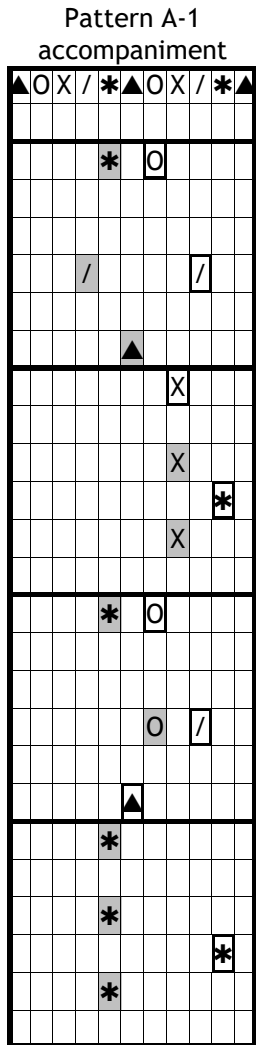
The melody is represented by four vertical grids, each corresponding to a different melodic line. The lyrics are aligned with the rows of the grids. Symbols used include circles (O), triangles (▲), asterisks (*), and slashes (/).

"The *Tiéfo* came from Kong and settled in Kassandé in the department of Sidéradougou, province of Comoé. They gradually occupied the villages around. Including those of Piakorofesso, Taparga, Tanga, Sidéradougou, Déguédégué, Larma, Daramadougou, Dandougou, Gouédougou ... "
(source: Souleymane Ouattara at tribal-wisdom.org)

Possible percussion accompaniment

Kenkeni	●	●	○	●	●
Bara / Djembé	T	S	S _d	S _d	
Shaker	*		*	*	*

Start with A-1. after a while switch to A-2 to give an extra boost (to work). After a while back to A1, and so on. Note the subtle harmony change!



At →, an extra beat can be given with a delay, as in a triplet.

Accompaniment left, melody right.
 There are of course other possibilities to play an accompaniment pattern on the left and the melody on the right, for example the left hand of A-2. Playing the octave of the left hand of Pattern B in boxes 1 and 2 is also a nice addition.

