

# Sénalé Malin / Mapouka

(last edited on 27 September 2021)

A rhythm from West Africa. A boy is singing about his girl. That smart girl! He loves her, but she is far away. If she doesn't come back, he will have to take another girl. In the second sentence of the song, a call is immediately made (to a possible candidate) to take a "walk" together. In the song the choir singing can always consist of "Hanzounou" with alternating high and low singing. In the second melody the word "Hanzounou" is omitted several times.

You can choose from three sentences for repeated use or to place all three behind each other in a sentence. Nowadays the song is also called "Mapouka", la Danse de Fez (the dance of the butt's). Jenny Huijnen made a variation on Pattern A. In Bwaba / Bobo: *Sénalé* = far away / *malin* = smart / hanzounou = young woman, if you, as a female balafonist, just want to turn the text around, instead of just singing "Hanzounou" (= young woman) you just sing "Bo Yaro" (= young (Bobo) man)!

*Sénalé Malin, Sénalé Malin, Sénalé Malin Hanzounou*

*Bwe wa le na ngwa, Bwe wa le na ngwa, Bwe wa le na ngwa Hanzounou*

*Bwe wa le fe we, Bwe wa le fe we, Bwe wa le fe we Hanzounou*

*We zou bjo wa we ve, We zou bjo wa we ve, We zou bjo wa we ve Hanzounou*

*Sénalé Malin, Bwe wa le fe we, We zou bjo wa we ve Hanzounou*

traditional percussion accompaniment:

(Bara)doundoun	B	:	:	B	:	:	B	:	:	B	:	:
stick (right)	X	:	X	x	X	X	X	X				
Bara / djembé		S	S	S	S		T	T				

Sources: Youssouf & Kassoum Keita, Konsankuy, Mali 2011,  
Youssouf Keita, Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, 2017.

*Mapouka* (also called *macouka*) is a traditional dance from the Dabou area in the southeast of Ivory Coast, which originated among the Aizi, Alladian and Avikam people. The dance is usually performed by women, shaking their butts side by side, looking away from their audience, often leaning forward. One of the best known groups is *Tueuses de Mapouka*. In 1998, the Ivory Coast government banned its actions in public. After the ban, the dance enjoyed a very fast-growing global following, especially in the sub-Saharan countries and western countries with large French-speaking communities. (source: wikipedia)

Melody  
& part 1

Melody  
& part 1

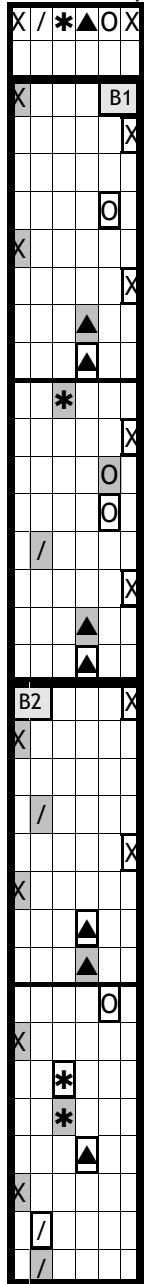
part 2

part 2

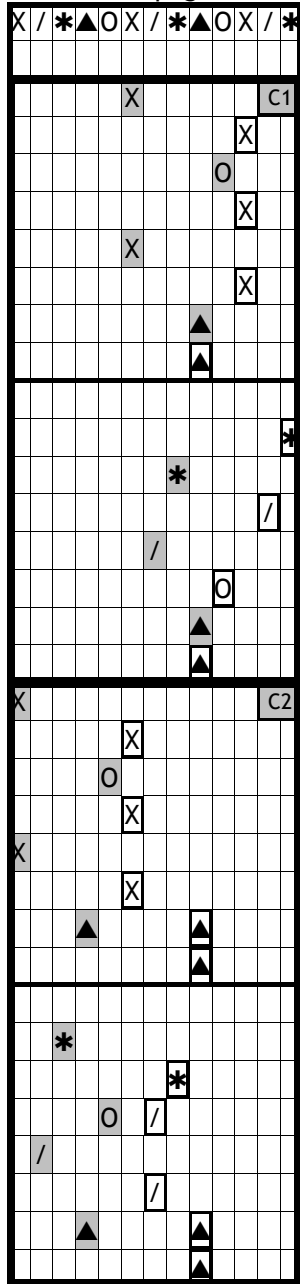
Pattern A1 & A2  
accompaniment

Pattern A1 & A2  
accompaniment

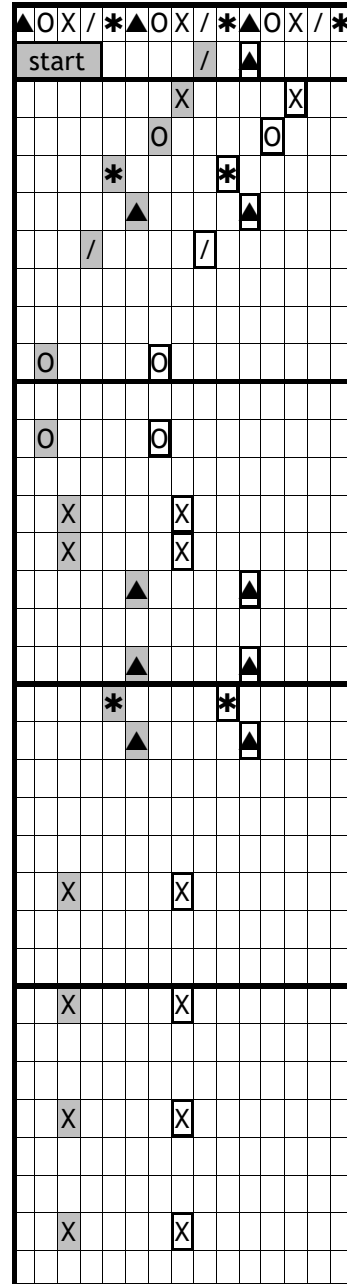
Pattern  
B1 & B2  
solo accomp



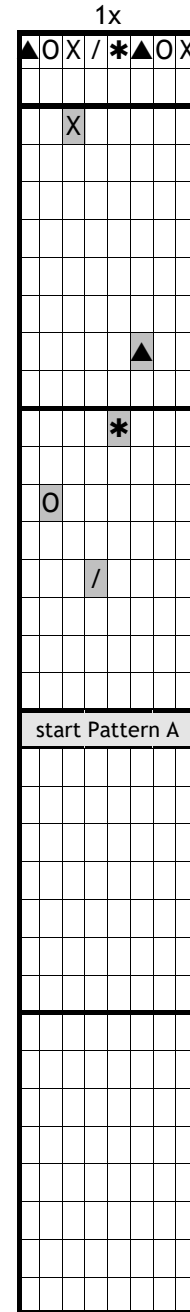
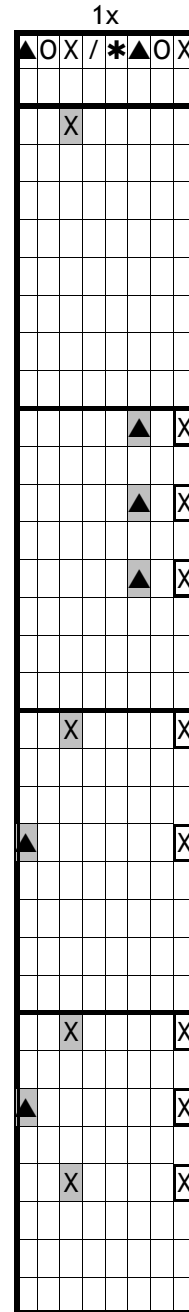
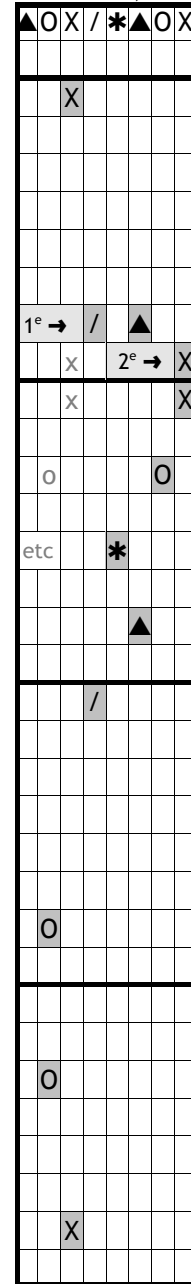
Pattern C1 & C2  
solo accompagnement



Pattern D  
call / short intro



Pattern E: Intro  
(play with  
octaves!) 2x



Pattern F;  
4 (small) variations

