Legend (EN)

WAP-pages / Paul Nas

Djembé

The rhythm is written normally between the dark section (two small squares at each side). Therefore you will see 4 times 4 pulses or 8 times 3 pulses.

Tone

T (tenor, tone or open tone), S (slap) en B (bass). If t,s or b are used, it means that an extra optional hit is possible to be played.

Position of the hands

r (right), I (left). f (flam); two hits that are just not at the same time, d (muffled hit), k (hands-clapping), 2 (double-stroke in a 'roulement', c = muffling during the stroke. Right and left can be switched for the left-handed people. I use the roling hands where each pulse get alternating a rihgt and left hand position. Sometimes, it is because of the speed or a roulement better to play a more practical positioning of the hands.

Djembé 1	S	s s	TTS	bSS T
	f	Ιr	2 r l	r I r r

Douns (Kenkeni, Sangban en Doundoun)

Drum- en bell-strokes: \bullet (open stroke/hit), \bigcirc (muffled stroke), H (stroke with stick on wooden part of the drum), x = bel-stroke, \square (start stroke, often in the break). When o,c or h are used, an extra stroke can be played optionally.

Sangban	•	•	•	 •	•	•		0		О			
	×	×	x	×	x	×	×	×	×	×	x	X	x

Other remarks in the rhythm-box:

If there's an A, B, C, etc. there can be a reference to this point later on during the notation. Also pre-strokes (before the one-position) can be written here.

Used terms

Binary en ternary rhythms

All West-African rhythms are cyclic; they repart themselfs in a certain pattern. The end of each pattern links to the beginning of the same one. A cycle consists of a number of pulses; some of them are 'filled' with a stroke on a drum and/or bell. De total amount of pulses can be divided in groups of four or three pulses so we have binary (actually quaternary) and ternary rhythms. (4/4 or 6/8)

The start of a rhythm

A rhythm can start in different ways. One way is that a person starts playing the pattern for his/hers instrument, and others take out there instruments and find the way to combine their patterns with the one of the first person. An other way is to play a 'call' or 'appèl to all start the rhythm at the same time. This way became more in use in the 'ballet'-styling. In these pages each pattern start on the place that is 'common use'. Where patterns strart before the call had ended, there is an explanation given.

Variations

Sometimes there are variations possible in a pattern. Sometimes they become an element in the cycle, and sometimes they are incidentally played. Sometimes a variation is alternately played with the basic-pattern. Variations can also be made with variations on another instrument (like a conversation).

Solo Accompaniment

This is a pattern that is not a basic-pattern, but a pattern that the solo-player can play in between two solo's (to take a rest /pause between these solo's). Also a new dancer can come to stage during this solo accompaniment.

The flam

The flam (f) is an incidental double-stroke for djembé were the strokes follow shorter to one another as in the roulement. With the flam there are two strokes in one square.

Percussion Studio

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