

# Kuku

WAP-pages / Paul Nas / Last updated on 12-04-2004

Originally *Kuku* (*Koukou*, *Cucu*, *Coucou*) is a circle-dance for the woman, celebrating the return from fishing. To the Beyla-and Nzerekore-area, (situated partly in Guinea partly in the Ivory Coast) there was once a Malinke-migration. The Malinke mixed with the local people here and formed the Konianka (,Konya, Konyagui or Manian, as the Malinke say) who now speak a Malinke-dialect. This was where the rhythm originally comes from. The rhythm was only played by one low-tuned djembe (see djembé-pattern 1) and one very large solo-djembé. Only later, out of this djembé-pattern, the patterns for the bass-drums evolved.

Nowadays *Kuku* is very popular all over West Africa and played on many occasions. Because of this popularity the rhythm is known with lots of varieties in the different areas that it's played. Two songs:

*Langinabé, ee ewontang  
jaga langinabé, o ma la guinee borima*

peace for us, peace for the people from Guinea

*O ya, ité kuku fonié*

Yes, play the *Kuku* for me!

Call	T	T:T	T	T	T	T	T
	f	r	l	l	r	r	r

Combi	sangban	●		●	●		●
	doundoun		●			●	
	bell	x:x	x	x	x	x	x

Kenkeni	●●	●●	●●	●●
Mamady	x:x	x:x	x:x	x:x

Sangban	●	○	●	●	○	●
Mamady	x	x:x	x:x	x	x:x	x:x

Doundoun		●			●	
Mamady	x	x:x	x:x	x	x	x

Doundoun		●			●	●
variantie 1	x	x:x	x:x	x	x	x

	●	●				
	x	x:x	x:x	x	x	x

Kenkeni		●		●		●	●
(Famoudou)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Sangban	○				○	
(Famoudou)	x	x	x	x	x	x

Doundoun		●	○		●	○
(Famoudou)	x	x:x	x:x	x	x:x	x:x

Kenkeni	●●	●●	●●	●●
alternative	x	x	x	x

Djembé 1	S	T	T	S	S	T	T	S	
	r	r	l	r	r	r	l	r	l

Djembé 2	B	T	T	S	B	T	T	S
	r	r	l	r	r	r	l	r

Djembé 3	S	B	T	T	S	B	T	T
	r	r	r	l	r	r	r	l

Djembé 4	T	T	S	T	T	S	T	T	S	T	T	S
	r	l	l	r	l	r	r	l	l	r	l	r

Djembé 5	T	T	B	T	T	B	T	T	B	T	T	B
	r	l	l	r	l	r	r	l	l	r	l	r

Djembé 6	S	S	T	T	B	S	S	T	T	B
	r	r	r	l	l	r	r	r	l	l

Djembé 7	T	T	T	B	S	S	T	T	T	B	S	S
	r	r	l	r	l	r	r	r	l	r	l	r

Djembé solo 1	T	T	T	T	T	T	S	S
phrase 1	r	l	r	l	r	l	r	r

	S	S	S	S	S	S	T	T
phrase 2	r	l	r	l	r	l	r	r

	S	S	B	B	S	S	S	S		
phrase 3	r	l	r	l	l	2	r	l	r	l

	S	S	B	B	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	r	l	r	l	l	2	r	l	r	l	r

	S	S	B	B	S	S	S	S	T		
	l	r	r	l	l	2	r	l	r	l	l

	S	T	S	T	S	T	T	S	S
	r	r	l	l	r	r	l	r	f

	S	T	S	T	S	T	S	T	S	
phrase 4	r	r	l	r	l	r	l	r	l	r

	S	S	S	S	S	S
	r	l	r	l	r	r

	B:T:S:S	S:S:S:S	S		B:T:S:S
phrase 5	r:l:r:l	r:l:r:l	r		r:l:r:l

	S		B:T:S:S	S:S:S:S	S
	r		r:l:r:l	r:l:r:l	r

	S:T:T:S	T:T:S	B	S	S
phrase 6	r:l:r:l	r:l:r	r	r	l:r

	B:B	B:B	B:B	B
phrase 7	r:l	r:l	r:l	r

	S:S:T:S	T:T:S	B	S	S
phrase 8	r:l:r:l	r:l:r	r	r	l:r

Djembé solo 2	S:S:S:T	T:T:S:S	S:T:T	S:S:S
phrase 1	2:r:l:2	r:l:2	r:l:2	r:l:2

	S:S:S			
	l:r:l			

	B:T:T:B	S:S:S:S	T:T:S	S
phrase 2	l:2:r:l	2:r:l:r	l:r:l	l

	B:T:T:B	S:S:S:S	B:T:T:B	S:S:S
phrase 3	l:2:r:l	2:r:l:r	l:2:r:l	2:r:l:r

	B:S:S	S:S:S	S	
	l:2:r:l	r:r:l	r	

	T	T:S	S	S	T
phrase 4	r	r:l	l	r	r:l

	S	S	T	T
	l	r	r	r

	T	S:T	S:T	S:T	S:T
phrase 5	r	r:l	l:r	r:l	l:r:l

	T	S:T	S:T	S:S:S
	r	r:l	l:r	2:r:l

Djembé solo 3	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
phrase 1	r	r	r	r	r	r	r

	B		S	B		S
	r		r	r		r

	B	T	T	S	B		
	r	r	r	r	r		

	B	B	T	T	B	B	S	B	B	S
phrase 2	r	l	r	l	r	l	r	r	l	r

	B	T	B	S	S	B	T	B	S
phrase 3	l	r	r	l	l	l	r	r	r

	T	S	T	S	S	T	S	B	S	T	S
phrase 4	r	l	r	l	r	l	r	l	r	l	r

	S	T	T	S	T	T	S	T	T	S	T	T	S
phrase 5	l	r	l	r	l	r	l	r	l	r	l	r	l

**Sources**

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Dance classes from: Danielle van Son, Bebe Youla.

Books: Mamady Keïta, Famoudou Konaté, Ponda O'Bryan, Age Delbanco,

Serge Blanc, Stephan Rigert, Paul Janse, Larry Morris and Rafaël

Kronberger.