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Drumstudio2000: Syncopation for Latin patterns

by *Juan Cruz Martínez*

All through this page we will try to achieve more independence as well as confidence on playing some Latin rhythms, such as cascaras, mambo, bongo and clave patterns.

(LH)= left hand

(RH)= right hand

The Clave pattern is a key that is the base of all Afro-Cuban music, a rhythmic pattern that we have to think on when playing any instrument. So, the first idea is to incorporate The Clave in a way that allow us to play "against" it.

Step One:

With your left hand, start to play the 2/3 Clave over the rim of a high tom or a cowbell placed on your left side. Keep quarter notes with your foot on hi-hat. Choose a slow tempo to start with and repeat it many times until it became natural.

2/3 CLAVE



Step Two:

Now try to play the Cascara Pattern over the Ride Cymbal, using your RH. Play the accented notes on the bell.



Step Three:

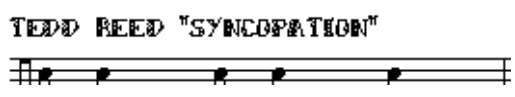
Put all together: RH= playing 2/3 Cascara Pattern
LH= playing 2/3 Clave Pattern



Step Four: "Syncopation for Cascara" Work-out

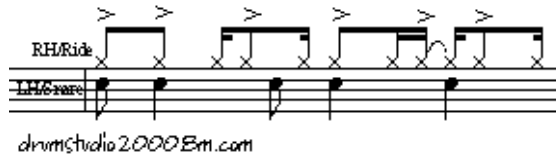
The idea here is to make the Cascara Pattern learn to work against other Left Hand Figures.

Take any Tedd Reed's "Syncopation" page (33-37 would be great), and start to reading each measure with your LH (on Snare Drum) while your RH plays Cascara Pattern over the Ride Cymbal. Make sure that all Snare Drum notes are played against the Cascara correctly. An example of this exercise is given below:





Now, add Cascara with your RH: (note that cascara is not written Cut Time)



I recommend you to read all Syncopation pages. Then, do the same adding Tumbao Figures with your Bass Drum



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