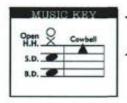
Funk Patterns With Latin Roots

by Chuck Silverman



How. Most styles of music have a certain movement to them, a conspicuous feel, a motion or momentum—a pulse. How about the music you enjoy? There's an undeniable flow and motion to jazz, rock, funk, and Latin music. And we, as purveyors of

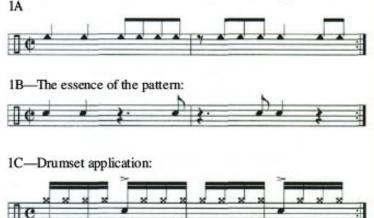
rhythm, are most responsible for the flow.

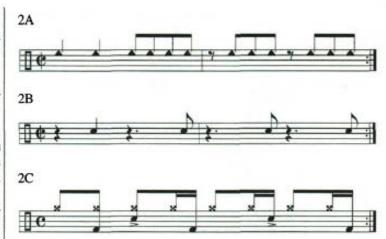
Studying a style of music that is all about flow and motion can help give you a better feel for the particular style of music you like best. I feel that popular Afro-Caribbean music, with its emphasis on dance rhythms, provides students of drums with a vast school of rhythms and a deeper understanding of flow.

Sixteenth notes in funk and 8th notes in Latin music (Afro-Caribbean music such as salsa) are the common denominators in each style of music. These common denominators allow for some very interesting original ideas. I've come up with some goodsounding and good-feeling funk patterns with roots in Latin music; some are relatively easy, obvious applications, and some are a bit more complicated. Let's examine a few.

Presented are two mambo cowbell patterns followed by drumset grooves inspired by what I call the "essence" of the bell pattern. (The mambo bell is typically played by the timbalero—the timbale player—in the chorus section of a salsa-style song.) After each bell pattern, I've indicated the "essence" pattern. Each pattern is written in 2/3 clave, and if you've been following Latin Symposium, you know that you can also try each application by starting on bar 2, thus playing in 3/2 clave. Following each bell pattern is a relatively simple drumset application.

These ideas are meant to provide you with a creative "seed." Take them further and develop your own original ideas. The hi-hat patterns are relatively easy. Feel free to attempt other patterns, making sure to maintain the most important concept—the feel.





Now let's adapt some ideas from the accented cascara pattern. Cascara is most commonly played by the timbalero. The first pattern presented is relatively uncommon, but it is very useful and effective.



3B-The essence of the pattern:



3C—This is an orchestration of the essence of the cascara pattern:



3D-This pattern is derived from the previous pattern by starting on beat "4."





4B—The essence of the pattern:



4C—An orchestration of the essence:



4D—An odd-time variation:



Here's a rhythmic pattern very common in Brazilian samba. It is sometimes called samba partido alto.

5A



Here's the result of applying the pattern to the bass drum with a snare backbeat.

5B



The previous ideas are meant to give you a push into the world of Latin rhythms. I hope you try some of these grooves; if you've got some favorite music that you like to play along to, learn a couple of the grooves and try them out.

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