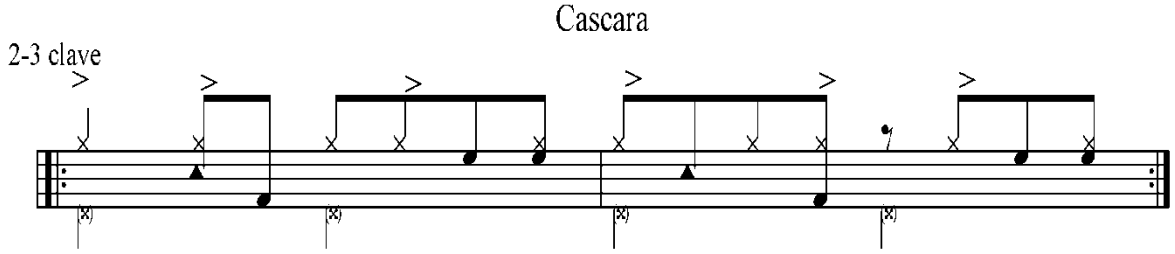
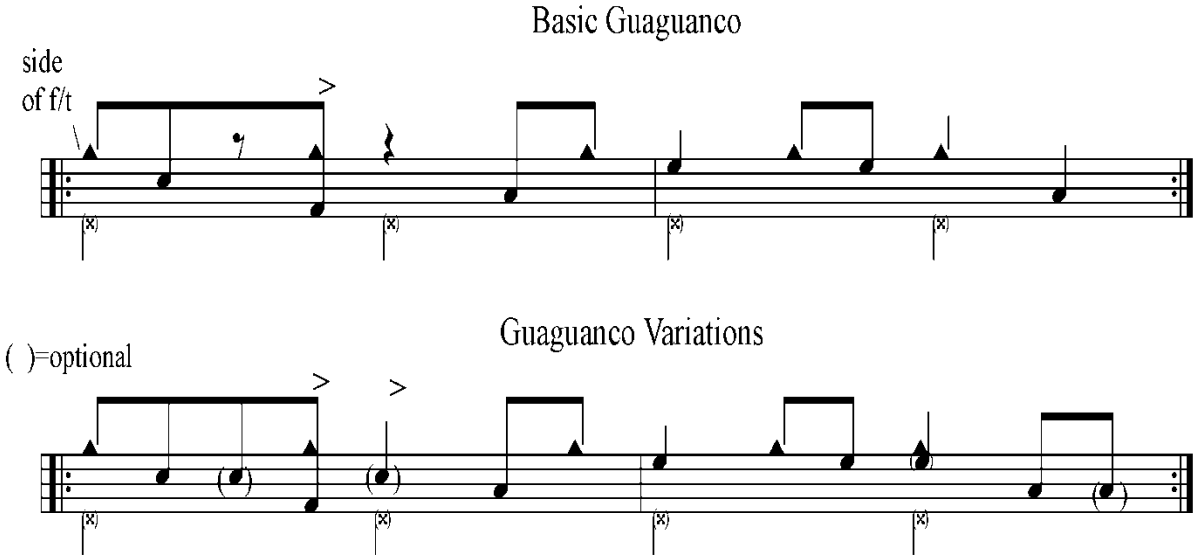
Cuban Patterns for Kit

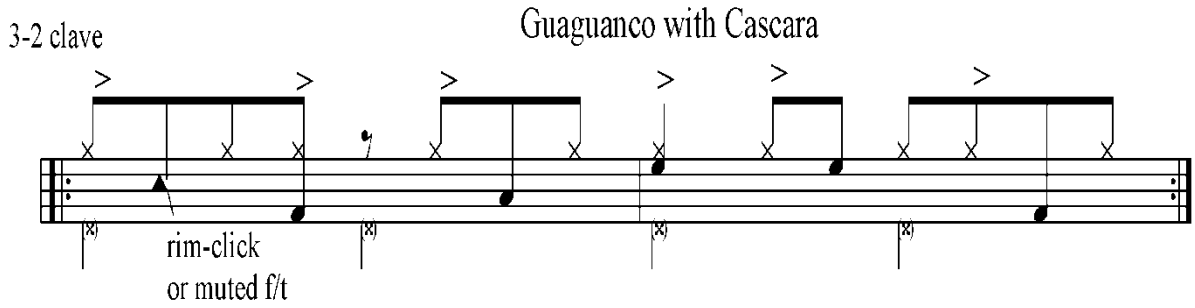
Cascara is a stick pattern derived from the rumba, and can be used in many situations such as Mambo, Salsa, Latin Jazz etc. I play the pattern on the cymbal while replicating the sound of the congas on the rim click and toms. This is a very useful pattern and often used to portray a generic Cuban sound.



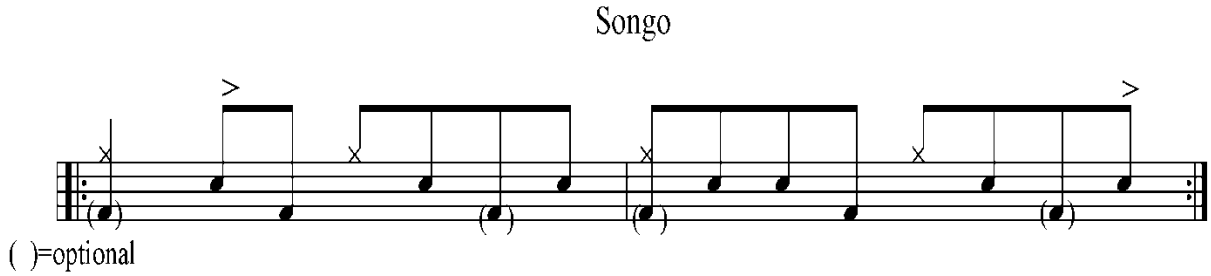
Guaguanco pronounced "Wah-wahn-co", is one of the styles of Cuban rumba and has a very distinct conga pattern, which I play between the floor and high toms with the left hand while the right hand plays the clave on side of the floor tom.



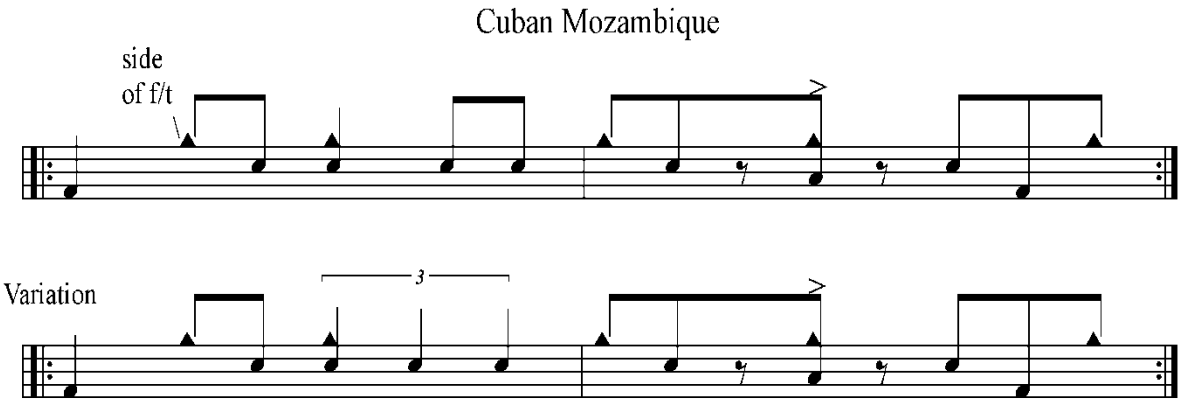
Guaguanco with Cascara



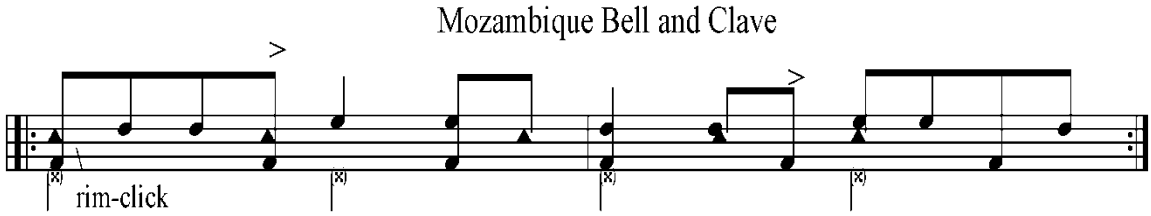
Songo became to popularity in the 70's, and has incorporated elements from folkloric to funk. In the following written example the bass drum strokes in brackets are optional. In the played version the right hand plays the cymbals, while I move the left hand pattern around the toms.



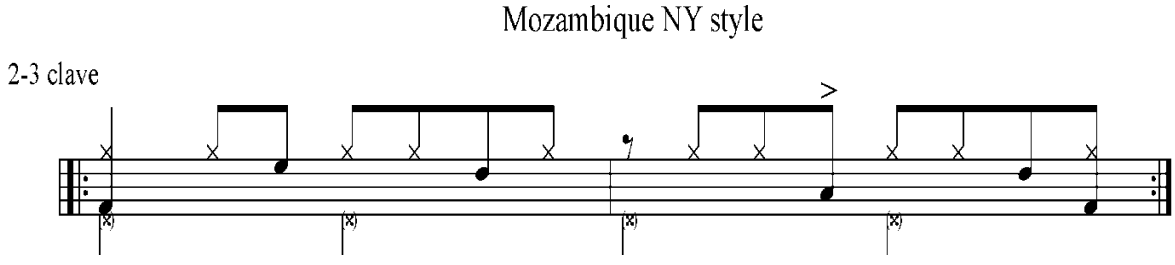
Mozambique is derived from the Cuban carnival rhythm called Comparsa. There are two versions, the original created by Pedro Izquierdo, which I'll call Cuban Mozambique, and version played by Eddie Palmieri in the 60's called NY Mozambique. We'll start with the Cuban Mozambique.



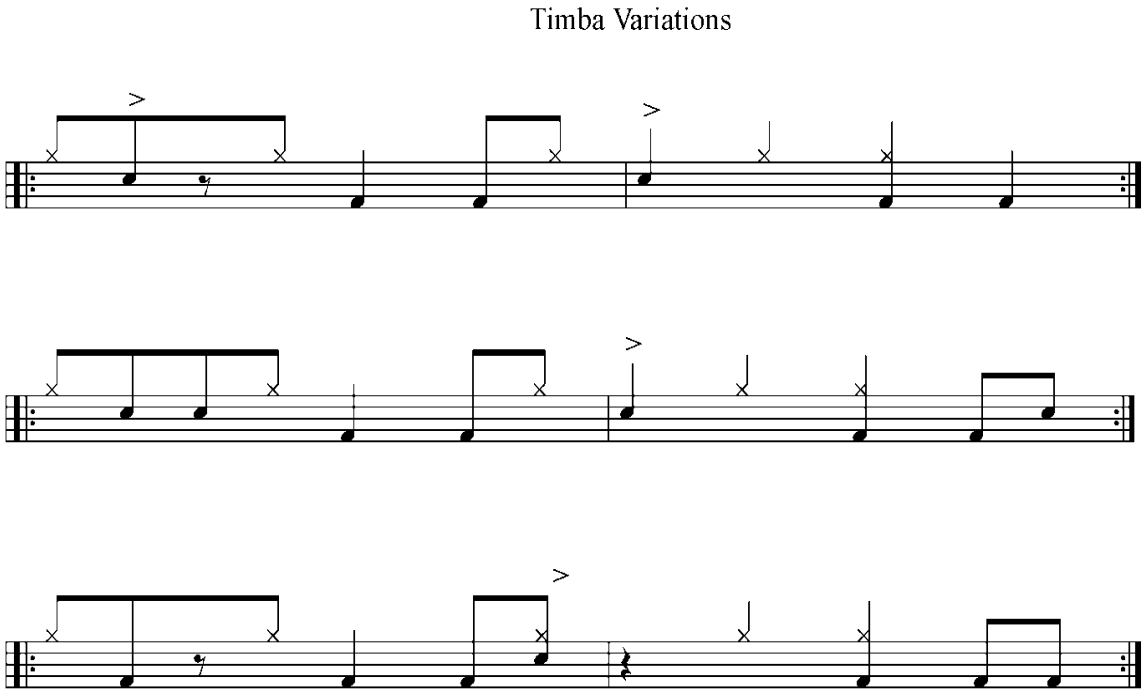
Here is a tom application of a bell pattern commonly used in the Mozambique. The left had plays the clave on the rim-click of the snare, while the bell pattern is played on the toms with the right hand, however if preferred this can be reversed.



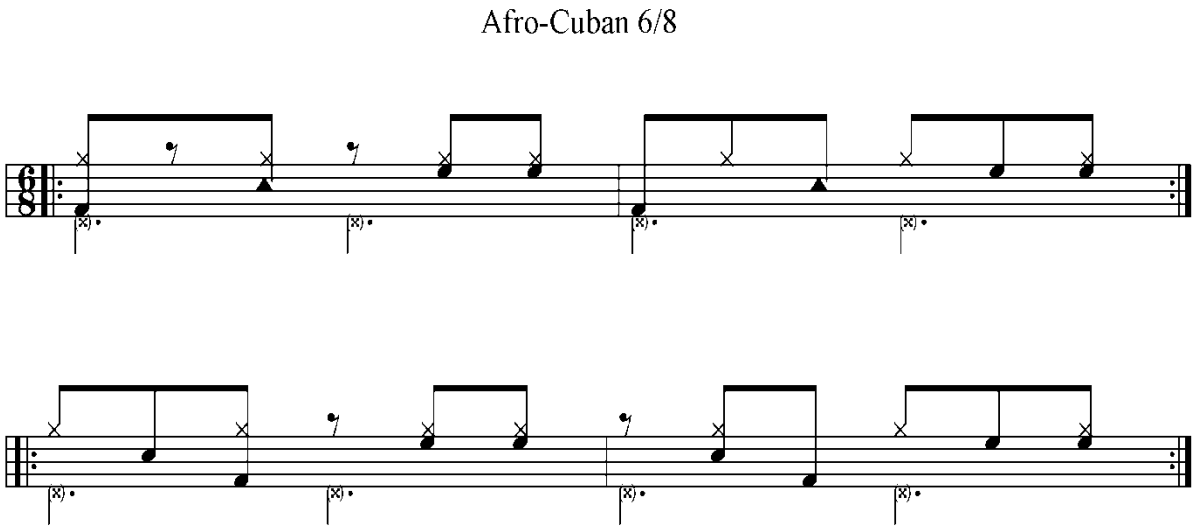
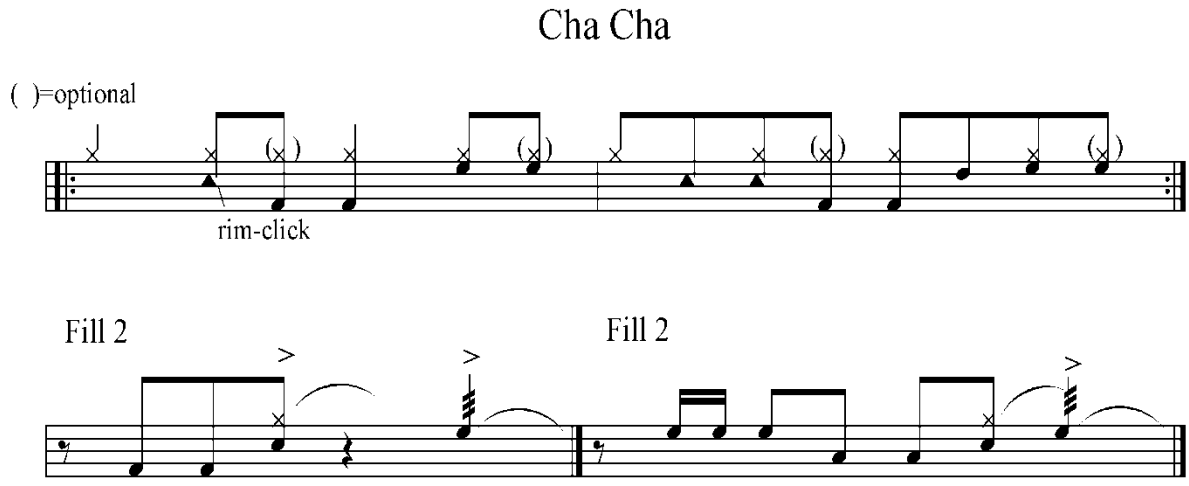
Now for the NY version. The great Elvin Jones liked to use this type of pattern.



Timba is a modern Cuban rhythm, and it's a kit pattern rather than an application of conga or timbale patterns.



Afro-Cuban 6/8 sometimes called Bembe. Again this pattern is a combination of traditional bell and conga parts, and very useful to create a generic 6/8 pattern.



Cha Cha is a very popular dance, created in the 50's by Enrique Jorrin and was supposed to imitate the sound of the dancers feet. The original percussion instrumentation was timbales, congas and guiro. In this drumset application I have included a couple of typical Cha cha fills.