

Basic Conga Patterns

The conga drum is one of the cornerstones of Afro-Cuban hand drumming. The patterns below are all examples of the most common conga drum pattern called “tumbao”. There are three basic tones of the conga drum;

- 1) Bass Tone
- 2) Open Tone
- 3) Slap

Additionally, there is a fourth fundamental stroke on conga for the intermediate drummer.

- 4) Heel/Tap or Tap/Heel/Tap.

B S B O O

L R L R R

Basic Tumbao - One Drum

H T S T H T O O

L L R L L L R R

Intermediate Tumbao - One Drum

H T S T H T O O H T S O O T O O

L L R L L L R R L L R R R L R R

Intermediate Tumbao (above) - Two Drums