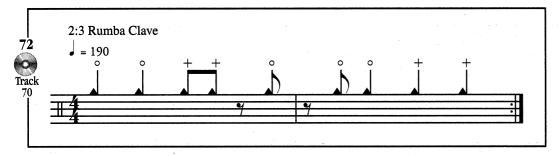
CONGA

In Cuba, there is a week-long celebration of dance and music called *Carnival*. Carnival was originally a European Christian festival, usually celebrated the week before Lent. This festival features music in the streets of Cuba and parades called *comparsas*. These comparsas feature a style of music that is known as *conga*, which originated in Africa and is a group dance. This conga style features many drummers, brass instruments, and singers. One of the distinguishing elements of conga is the use of unique cowbell patterns. Here is an example of one in 2:3 rumba clave.



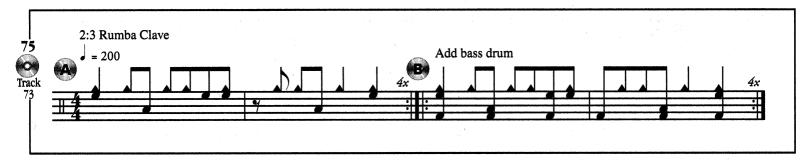
In conga, the bombo, or bass drum, plays this pattern.



Here's a combination of bell pattern and bass drum rhythm together.



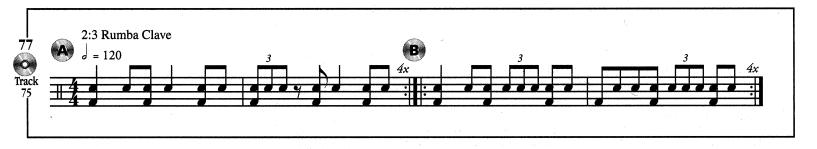
Below are a couple of melodic variations for this pattern that emulate what the conga drums would play in this style.



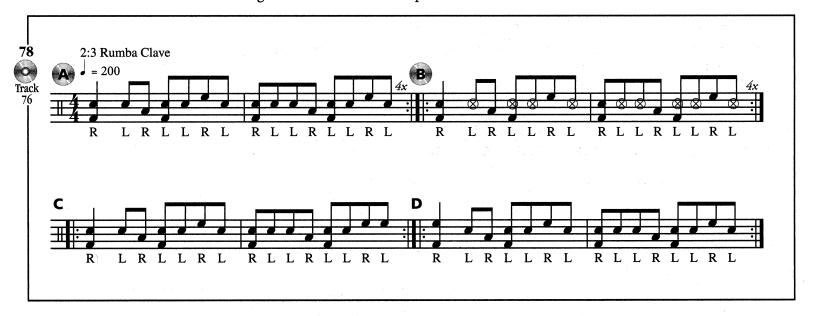
Another aspect of the conga rhythm is the use of the snare drum. Here are two different snare rhythms used in conga. Please observe all stickings.



Let's add the bass drum to this pattern.

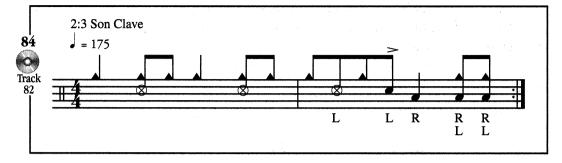


Here are some variations using the tom-toms with this pattern.

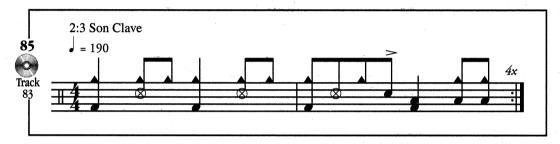


PILÓN

Pilón is a rhythm and style, originating from the Oriente province, that was created by Enrique Bonne in the late 1950s and early '60s. This is a timbale rhythm we will adapt to the drumset. Notice the use of the floor tom to emulate the low timbale. Following is the basic pattern.



Let's add the bass drum on beats 1 and 3.



Below are some variations of this groove for drumset. To hear an example of pilón, check out the song "Ritmo Pilón" by Pacho Alonso.

