

the fabric of time



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INDIAN RHYTHMIC CONCEPTS FOR DRUM SET

PART 11

Kandam, the basic 5 bt unit. It looks like this...

TA KA TA KI TA (Alias TA TI KI DA TUM)

This month we will see some of the ways that this time unit can be manipulated to create different units with the same Bols.

The first principle is to add gaps. Converted into a 6 beat phrase it will look like this.

Ex.1

TA DI KI DA TUM

Then a 7 beat phrase

Ex.2

TA DI KI DA TUM

An 8 beat phrase

Ex.3

TA DI KI DA TUM

And finally a 9 beat phrase

Ex.4

TA DI KI DA TUM

Traditionally the gaps are always put in these places but, there are exceptions. For example, the 7 beat phrase might be played like this

Ex.5

TA DI KI DA TUM

The next step is to build up a vocabulary of single units and then larger phrases built out of a group of units. For example, $7 + 7 + (3 \times 6) = 32$. Even if we only use the snare drum, we have a four bar phrase ripe for development.

Ex.6

TA DI KI DA TUM TA DI KI DA TUM DA DI
KI DA TUM TA DI KI DA TUM TA DI KI DA TUM

You, the creative musician, have now to decide in which direction you want to take this phrase. Maybe you want to build a rhythm out of it... If so then you first need to construct smaller rhythms out of your component parts. The six and seven beat phrases might be approached like this.

Ex.7

Ex.8

String the whole thing together and it will sound like this.

Ex.9

Once we're familiar with all the component parts it becomes easy to build odd rhythms. For example, $7 + 6 + 6 = 19$.

Ex.10

Alternatively, you might want to construct some sort of fill-in. Like before, you have to find a pattern for each component part, this time around the drums.

Ex.11

L R L R

Ex.12

L R L R

String the whole thing together and it will sound like this.

Ex.12(B)

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

Then, a fill for your 19/8 rhythm.

Ex.14

L R L R L R L R

To finish off, here is a series of equations which you can use as springboards. It is important to create your own ideas out of these, not just do what's suggested. All the great players are people who have developed their own concepts and built on them.

$$5 + 6 + 5 = 16$$

$$7 + 9 = 16$$

$$5 + 9 + 5 + 6 + 7 = 32$$

$$9 + 6 + 7 + 5 + 5 = 32$$

See you next time for 'Calculus Made Easy'.