

Arco Iris mnemonics

July 2014



Mnemonics are a great way to learn rhythms. However, when learning them, it is important that you get the rhythm correct in the first place! This list is compiled from contributions from various band members. It is hoped that if you're struggling to learn a piece, you might find a helpful mnemonic here. Then at the next practice when you hear the rhythm, try and fit the words to it. Don't worry if you can't! Mnemonics aren't for everyone and a particular mnemonic might work well for one person and not for another. Note that writing mnemonics to convey some kind of rhythm is tricky and easily misinterpreted ... so don't necessarily trust any spaces or hyphens in mnemonics!

Another way to help learn the pieces is to pick out parts of the rhythm that group together. For example the low surdo pattern for Bathhouse Ragga consists of two hits followed by a group of four hits. If you do learn pieces this way be especially careful to note the timing of the pattern (the same goes for mnemonics too). In the Bathhouse Ragga example, I know that the group of two hits starts on beat 2 of the bar and the group of four hits starts on beat 4. This is important and makes sure I can play the pattern in time.

I encouraged (challenge!) you to make up your own mnemonics, it doesn't matter if there's more than one mnemonic for the same part. If you do come up with one, send a quick email to the Webmaster or Musical Coordinator so they can add it to this list, it might be of benefit to someone else! And remember, with mnemonics, the more silly the better!

Clavés

3-2 Son clavé: "I like fish and chips"

3-2 Son clavé: "I -can -play cla-vé!"

Rumba clavé: "Rum-ba from Cu-ba"

Afoxé

Starts with bells.

Groove, Bells: "I've-got mar-ma-lade in my suit-case"

Auntie Iris

Starts with bells

Groove, Bells: "I like vi-si-ting Aun-tie I-ris!"

Groove, Bells: "I like drin-king pi-na-col-a-da"

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Axé

Starts with bells or tams.

Groove: "ba--ra-vent--o beat ba--ra-vent--o beat"

Barravrento

Starts with Break 1.

Groove or break 1: "ba--ra-vent--o beat ba--ra-vent--o beat"

Bathroom Ragga

Call and response from lead rep:

- 1 Call: "Where's my tid-dul-lee-pom?"
- 1 Response: Under your nose dear!
- 2 Call: Where's my tid-dul-lee-pom?"
- 2 Response: There!
- 3 Call: Where's my tid-dul-lee-pom?"
- 3 Response: Under your nose dear!
- 4 Call: Where's my tid-dul-lee-pom?"
- 4 Response: There!
- 5 Call: Where's my tid-dul-lee-pom?"
- 5 Response: There!
- 5 Call: Under my nose?"
- 6 Response: Sure is!
- 6 Call: Tid-dul-lee-pom?"
- 6 Response: There!
- 6 Call: Under my nose?"
- 7 Response: Sure is!
- 7 Call: Tid-dul-lee-pom?"
- 7 Response: There!
- 7 Call: Under my nose?"
- 8 Response: Under your nose dear, under your nose dear!"

- Break 3:
- 1 "Now.....I want it
 - 2 Now.....Gimme the brans-ton...
 - 3 Now.....I want it
 - 4 Gimme, gimme, gimme the branston..."

Bremenia

Groove built up instruent by instrument.

- Groove, Bells:
- 0 "Coconut and
 - 1 dairy-lea.....Is my favourite
 - 2 recipe....It goes well with
 - 3 fish cake and beef steak and
 - 4 milky builder's tea. Coconut and..."

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Groove, Tam: 0 "Hurry up hurry
1 up.....Don't miss the
2 train.....It goes at
3 Six-thirty six-thirty
4 It will be on time. Hurry up hurry..."

Jungle

Starts with rep call them timba groove.

Groove: 1 "In the-jun—gle in the-jun—gle
2 in the-jun--gle so-let me-have some"

Break 1: "ba-na-na ba-na-na"

Banana section 1 (surdos):
1 "In.....
2 In.....
3 In....the-jung-le. Innit-innit?
4 In....."

Banana section 2 (surdos):
1 "In.....The-jung-le
2 In.....
3 In....the-jung-le. Innit-innit?
4 Is-ba-na-nas-so let-me have-some!"

Banana section 3 (surdos):
1 "In the-jung-le-In the-jung-le
2 In the-jung-le. Innit-innit?
3 In the-jung-le-In the-jung-le-
4 is-ba-na-nas-so let-me have-some!"

London School

Starts with leader call: "I-just want us-to play. O-KAY!"

Groove, tams/bells: "I -can -play cla-vé!"

Groove, tams/bells: "I like fish And chips!"

Pineapple break: "Boom! Pine-app-le-Pine-app-le-Pine-app-le"

Break 2: "Boom, rid - ic - ul - ous, boom, cray - zee" (x4)

Marcha

Starts with Caixa (usually).

Marcha groove, Tams: 1 "This is the Marcha,

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2 This is the Marcha groove”

Mozambique

Starts with bells.

Break 1: “One two three we all love the samba.”

Break 1: “Donkey donkey don't-hit the donkey”

Rep Tam chorus:

1 “I can't get up in the morning

2 I can't get up

3 I can't get up in the morning

4 I can't get up

5 In my bed....good as dead

6 In my bed....good as dead

7 Dead to the world man”

8 “Dag-en-ham a town of fun Dag-en-ham”

Bars 1-7 played by tams, bar 8 by reps.

Surdo chorus:

1 “bi—que. Mo-zam

2 bi—que. Mo

3 zam bi-que. Mo

4 zam bi-que”

Rain

Starts with Lead call (first bar as rep groove) and response.

Surdo chorus: “Bring.....the-rain.....here comes the rain.”

Break:

1 Bateria: I WANT ME GIRO NOW!

1 Lead rep: Give it 'ere!

1 Bateria: CALM DOWN!

2 Lead rep: Give it 'ere!

2 Bateria: CALM DOWN!

2 Lead rep: Give it 'ere!

2 Bateria: CALM DOWN!

3 Lead rep: Give it 'ere!

3 Bateria: CALM DOWN!

3 Lead rep: Give it 'ere!

3 Bateria: EH

4 Bateria: EH EH EH EH EH EH EH EH

Alternative first bar of break: “This is the way we stop”

Alternative first bar of break: “I'd like a cup of tea”

Alternative first bar of break: “Doing the lam-beth walk”

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Bells groove: "Watch it the-rain is a com-ing!"

Rocket

Starts with leader call: "What's the point of e-las-tic knickers"

Break 1: "Rum--ba from cu-ba"

Break 2:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1 All | "What's the point of e-las-tic knickers |
| 2 All | What's the point of e-las-tic knickers |
| 3 All | What's the point of e-las-tic knickers |
| 3 Surdos: | Rum--ba from cu-ba |
| 4 All | Doing the lam-beth walk" |

Ruth's Ragga

Starts with leader rep call.

Simi's Reggae

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|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Call: | "Gimme a whiskey! |
| 1 Response: | No! |
| 1 Call: | Gimme a whiskey! |
| 1 Response: | No no no no! |
| 2 Call: | Gimme a whiskey! |
| 2 Response: | No! |
| 2 Call: | Gimme a whiskey! |
| 2 Response: | No no no no! |
| 3 Call: | I need a drink! |
| 3 Response: | No way! |
| 3 Call: | I need a drink! |
| 3 Response: | No way! |
| 4 Response: | No! |
| 4 Call: | Gimme a whiskey, gimme a drink! |
| 4 Response: | No way!" |

Break 1: "Boom, gimme a bis-cuit, gimme a twix, boom boom."

Simi's surdo chorus:

- 1 "So,you've got a
- 2 mule.
- 3 Don't let it sneeze on the cheese or you'll look like a
- 4 Fool."

Tumbaiao

Starts with call and response. Sometimes preceeded by Axé.

Turn: "This is the way we stop"

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Turn: "I'd like a cup of tea"
Turn: "Doing the lam-beth walk"

Welfare State

Starts with lead call:

- 1 "We want you, we want you"
- 2 "We want you as...a new re-cruit"

Groove, Bell/Tam: "I've got cus-tard in my un-der pants"

Whatever

Starts with call and response.

Thanks to all those who contributed mnemonics.