

The Baiao

Brazilian Solo Fun

Click on the  icon next to any exercise to hear the sound!

by Rob Leytham

MUSIC KEY	
T.T.	R.C. or Cowbell
S.D.	C.C.
F.T.	
B.D.	
H.H.	Add'l T.T.
w/foot	

This month we'll create a solo using a popular rhythm from Brazil called the baiao (pronounced "bye-own"). We'll also brush up on a couple of rudiments by applying paradiddle-diddles and flamadiddles to a solo based on the baiao.

Before we get to the hand patterns, we have to learn the baiao's foot ostinato. In 4/4 time, your left foot plays quarter notes on the hi-hat (counted "1, 2, 3, 4") while the bass drum plays a rhythm that hints at a quarter-note triplet. (That's the proper Latin feel.) To get started with this feel, play the following pattern. (The bass drum rhythm is counted "1, ah, &, 3, ah, &.")

Ex. 1

Now let's add the hands to the previous foot ostinato. On this first beat, your right hand plays the same rhythm on the ride cymbal (or cowbell) that your right foot is playing on the bass drum. Your left hand fills in the space on the snare drum by playing 16th notes between the ride/bass pattern. Once you're comfortable with it, try playing the snare drum notes as ghost strokes (very quietly).

The next few baiao rhythms have the same foot ostinato, but the hands play a different pattern. Keep your right hand on the ride cymbal (or cowbell) and your left on the snare drum, and play this sticking: RRLR-RLRL-RRLR-RLRL.

This time, play the same sticking pattern, but move your left hand around the drumset. (The second pattern has the right hand striking the floor tom on the "&" of beats 2 and 4.)

Baiao Solo

Now that you have a few groove options for the baiao, let's take the next step and work on ways to solo over it. Rudiments work great for this. In fact, I've written a solo (which we'll get to shortly) that features the paradiddle-diddle and the flamadiddle. But before we get to the solo, play the paradiddle-diddle on the snare drum as sextuplets. (For the purpose of the solo, you'll be starting with your right hand, but you should also practice it starting with your left.)

Now practice the flamadiddle on the snare drum. Get comfortable with this one, because the flamadiddles used in the solo are "supercharged," meaning they're all played among different voices of the drumset.

Now you're ready for the solo. Have fun with it!

6.

The musical score consists of eight systems, each with two staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a common time signature (C). The bottom staff is a bass clef. The music features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and dynamic markings like accents (>) and slurs. A '6' indicates a sixteenth-note triplet in the first system. A speaker icon is located to the left of the first system.

See the August 2001 Modern Drummer for the complete lesson.