

Chapter 6

ADDITIONAL BRAZILIAN STYLES



PARTIDO ALTO

The partido alto rhythm is a variation of the samba. It was originally created as a way for musicians to play samba in a smaller group. This style usually features several singers that improvise lyrics with messages of social and political relevance. They compete with one another in a live performance to see who can get the most positive reaction from the audience. Rhythmically, partido alto is characterized by an underlying two-measure phrase that is very syncopated. Let's begin by playing this pattern on the snare drum.

77
Track 75

The partido alto rhythm can also be reversed, depending on the melody of a particular song. Let's play the pattern above, this time beginning with the second measure.

78
Track 76

Now, let's play the partido alto rhythm as a groove between the snare and bass drum. The hi-hat plays eighth notes. This is a highly syncopated beat that locks in with the other instruments, like the piano or guitar, to create a very unique-sounding groove. The example below shows two variations of this basic beat.

79
Track 77

Partido Alto with Sixteenth-Note Hi-Hat

Another way to play the partido alto is to have the right hand play consecutive sixteenth notes while the bass and snare drums play the syncopated rhythm. Following is an example of this groove.

80A
Track 78.1

♩ = 90

Here's what the beat sounds like with the pattern starting on the second measure.

80B
Track 78.2

♩ = 90

Below is an example of a partido alto groove with just the hi-hat and bass drum. This beat can be used for a breakdown section of a song.

80C
Track 78.3

♩ = 90

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

The partido alto can also be played using just quarter notes on the hi-hat.

80D
Track 78.4

♩ = 90

AFOXÊ

Afoxê (pronounced *a-foo-shay*) is a rhythm and dance from Brazil that takes its name from a beaded gourd instrument used in parades. The afoxê style originated in Salvador de Bahia, which is in the Northeast region of Brazil. This style is a secular version of the ritual music of *Candomblé* (pronounced *kahn-dohm-bley*), which is a Nigerian religion practiced in Brazil.

One of the distinguishing characteristics of afoxê is the placement of the bass drum. In this first example, notice the interplay between the snare drum and bass drum.

81
Track 79

♩ = 100

Following are two variations of the basic afoxê pattern.

82
Track 80

♩ = 100

Here are some more variations of the afoxê rhythm. Notice there are some similarities to the basic rhythm of the baião.

83
Track 81

♩ = 100