practice



Rumba Styles By Ed Uribe

From *The Essence of Afro-Cuban Percussion & Drum Set* By Ed Uribe Published by Warner Bros.

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Sound Enhanced

Hear audio examples of these rhythms in the Members Only section of the PAS Website (www.pas.org).

There are three Rumba rhythm styles: Guaguancó, Yambú, and Columbia. Originally the Rumba was played on the cajones—wooden boxes in three different sizes—that functioned as the three congas do now.

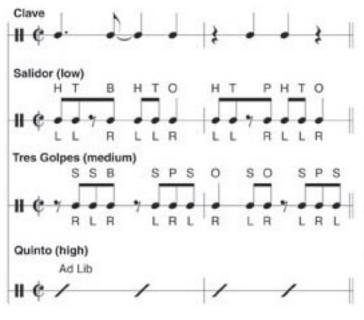
In the following examples, the Quinto (high drum) improvises and interacts with vocals, dancers, and the other two drummers.

Key H = heel of hand T = toe or tip (fingertips) S = slap P = palm tone (closed) B = bass tone

O = open tone

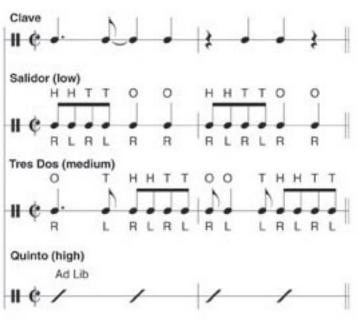
GUAGUANCÓ

The Guaguancó has a wide variety of interpretations both in its conga drumming as well as its other percussion and vocal parts.



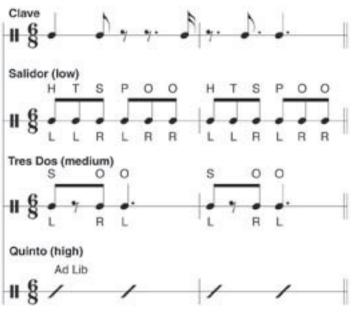
YAMBÚ

The Yambú is the oldest and slowest of the three Rumba styles and is traditionally played on the cajones—especially when played by folkloric ensembles—but can also be performed on congas.



COLUMBIA

The Columbia is the fastest of the three Rumba styles and is played in 6/8.



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