

Simple Basic Rhythms and Phrases

1-2-3 / (“Drum Circle #1A”)

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		
BASE	Tone – Tone*	tone	tone	tone	BASE	Tone – Tone*	tone	tone	tone

*In this extremely common pattern, for variety, a Base can be swapped for the second tone. [BASE Tone-**base** tone-tone-tone ...]

3, 3

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
BASE	Tone – Tone	BASE	Tone – Tone	BASE	Tone – Tone	BASE	Tone – Tone

1-4 / “Aramelé”

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
BASE	Tone — Tone	Tone — Tone	BASE	Tone — Tone	Tone — Tone		

1-2-1 / Base line and “filled” (note “filled” similar to 2-4)

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
BASE	Tone	Base	Tone´	BASE	Tone	base	Tone´	
BASE	tone	tone	Base	BASE	tone	tone	Base	Tone´

“Children of the Earth” (Ms Imani)

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
BASE	BASE	Tone	BASE	BASE	Tone	BASE	Tone

In this pattern, you can play all the **base** tones with your dominant hand, and the **tones** with the other hand.

The rhythm patterns can be played alone, or in sequences. Try the “Flip” - alternating two patterns, or “Three-One”, playing one pattern *three* times, and every fourth rep, swap in an alternate phrase. This helps to train timing, switching between parts of a polyrhythm, and the idea of playing solos. One way to train for solos is every few reps, improvise something to replace the phrase you’re playing. Using the “Flip” you can *sound* a lot fancier than you are! It’s building complex patterns out of simple parts. *It’s not really a cheat, it’s completely legit!*