

2/4 Deconstructed

Shangö Percussion uses a *basic 2/4 rhythm* as a beginner pattern and a shakedown and simple performance piece. **Tracy Prior Seffers**, who teaches world percussion and holds open drum circles, showed us a very clever breakdown of 2/4 that gives us both ease of learning and great flexibility for improvisation.

The idea is that the Dominant Hand, (usually the Right), does a repetitive motion with the baseline phrase, and the non-dominant (typically the Left) performs fill beats.

1 2 3 4 | 5 6 7 8

Shangö's 2/4 basic - 2 phrases

B t t B S | **B t t B t S**
r r l r l | r r l r l r

The deconstructed rhythm uses a slightly different R/L handing –

Right/(Dominant) Hand holds the baseline

1 2 3 4 | 5 6 7 8
B t B T | **B t B T**

Left/(non-dominant) Hand plays fills

1 2 3 4 | 5 6 7 8
B t **t** B T | B t **t** B T
B t **t** B **t** T | B t **t** B **t** T
B **t** t **t** B T | B **t** t **t** B T
B t **t** B T **t** | B t **t** B T **t**
B **t** t **t** B **t** T | B **t** t **t** B **t** T
B t **t** B **t** T **t** | B t **t** B **t** T **t**

These are some, but not all of the possible variations of the patterns. Experiment!

Fully Filled Pattern

B t t t B t T t | **B t t t B t T t**

Have fun! Remember for accent and interest, swap any tone (**T/t**) with a Slap (**S**). The Base notes (**B**) hold the *pulse* and *The One*, You can readily create solos and other variations by simply exchanging phrases, or dropping out notes to create variety.

(Updated 3/24/2022)