

# The Bossa Nova

## Lesson #2

(SVDL54)

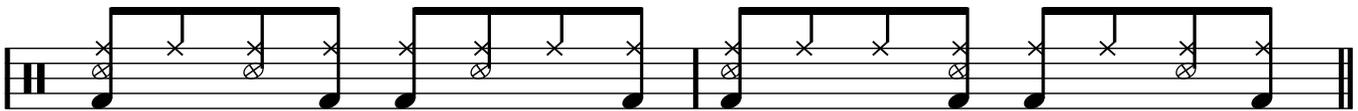
John Xepoleas

Welcome to the second lesson in my 3-Part “Bossa Nova” lesson series. In this lesson I will teach you some commonly played snare drum variations and help you develop your left hand independence.

A Bossa Nova snare drum pattern will often times change to compliment the guitar and/or piano comping patterns. You can also vary the snare pattern and use it as somewhat of a fill to end a phrase or a section of a song. Check out some Brazilian Bossa Nova and Samba music to hear how the drummers apply these principals.

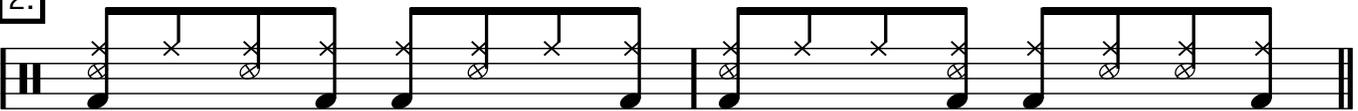
Here are a couple of commonly played snare drum variations.

1.

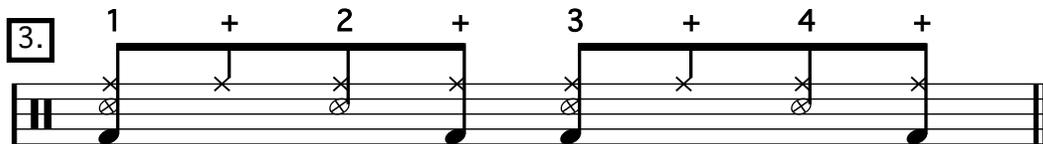


This version is the same as the previous example except there is an additional snare drum note on the “and of 3” in measure two.

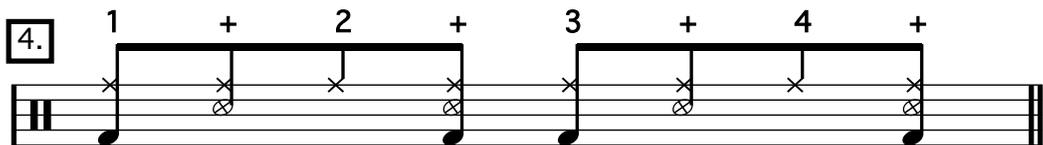
2.



In order to be truly expressive when playing Bossa Nova and Samba music you need to be able to play a variety of different snare drum rhythms and patterns. This is an exercise that will help you develop your left hand independence. We'll start by playing the rim clicks on counts 1, 2, 3 and 4.



Now, we'll move the rim clicks to the “ands” of the beat.



Next we'll create a 4-bar phrase by playing two bars of example 3 followed by two bars of example 4. Start slowly and repeat the phrase until you are totally comfortable playing it.

5.

Here is a shorter and more challenging version of the exercise. In this version you will only be playing one bar of each example.

6.

Now, we'll practice the exercise with your right hand on a ride cymbal and the hi-hat playing on 2&4 with your foot.

7.

Once again, this is the shorter version where you will only be playing one bar of each example.

8.

Here are a couple of snare drum variations that work well with a typical Bossa Nova guitar or piano comping pattern.

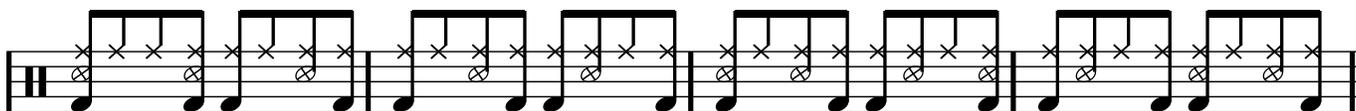
9.



This pattern works great when played in a Bossa Nova song. However, it's actually the rhythm for slow Samba as taught to me by the great Brazilian musician, Macros Silva.



Here is one example of how you could approach an "8 bar phrase" in a typical Bossa Nova song. In bars 1&2 and 5&6, play the basic Bossa nova. In bar 4, add an extra snare note on beat one. Then, for bars 7&8, use example 10 from this lesson as a fill to end the phase. Practice this version, then play along with Bossa Nova recordings and develop some of your own 8 bar phrases.



Suggested Listening

Antonio Carlos Jobim - "Wave"

Stan Getz & Joao Gilberto - "Getz/Gilberto"

Eliane Elias - "Sings Jobim"

Charlie Byrd & Stan Getz - "Jazz Samba"

Stan Getz & Luiz Bonfa - "Jazz Samba Encore"