

Afro-Cuban Percussion

Quick Start Guide



M-AUDIO

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Afro-Cuban Percussion Documentation

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This is the Latin Percussion collection you've been waiting for. Sonic Implants delivers tons of articulations (hits) per instrument and up to four multi-velocity samples from soft to loud to make you sound like a pro.

Instruments and playing provided by Joe Galeota of JAG Drums. Joe is an Associate Professor in the Percussion department at Berklee College of Music, and the founder and owner of JAG Drums, manufacturers of high quality percussion instruments. Recorded at Blue Jay studios in Carlisle, MA, with engineering by Mark Tanzer (NRBQ, Carly Simon, Patty Larkin, Jerry Marotta, Livingston Taylor, Lyle Mays and others).

Description of Instruments

All percussion samples were recorded in stereo with a natural room ambience. This allows the instruments to mature in a spatial environment before being captured by a microphone. The result is a very natural recording with a full sound.

Bells, Shakers, & Scrapers

Afoxe (ah-foo-shay) - A small, gourd-shaped instrument with an external netting of small balls. Shaking the instrument causes the balls to strike the gourd's exterior.

Agogo (ah-goh-goh) - A double cone-shaped bell played with a wooden stick.

Ankle Bells - A circular bell ring.

Caxixi (kah -shee-shee) - A straw percussion instrument often filled with rice or beriba seeds to yield a distinctive sound.

Claves - (klah-vays) - A pair of thick, wooden sticks that produce a sharp, percussive sound when struck together.

Cowbells - A metal bell struck with a small, wooden mallet. Three sizes of cowbells are sampled here: low, mid, and high.

Frogs Eggs - Small shakers.

Cuban Guiro (gweer-oh) - A hollow, wooden instrument with corrugated grooves across its surface. A wooden stick is dragged along these grooves to create percussive scrapes of varying duration.

Merengue Guiro (meh-rayn-gay gweer-oh) - A guiro made of metal and scraped with a metal stick to produce a bright, raspy sound. Denoted simply as "merengue," as it is most commonly utilized in Merengue music.

Large Basket - A large wooden basket covered with an external netting of small balls that strike wood when the instrument is shaken—similar to the Afoxe.

Maracas - Ubiquitous shakers popular in all forms of Latin music.

Reco-Reco (ray-koh-ray-koh) - A metal scraper that produces sound when a stick is dragged across the instrument's corrugated grooves. It is similar in design to a guiro though it produces a more resonant, metallic sound.

Samba Whistles - Small, hand-carved wooden whistles popular in Salsa music. Four separate tones are sampled here.

Sencero - (sen-say-ho) - A Latin variation on the cowbell.

Cha-Cha Bells - The small bell mounted on the timbales and used for the Chachachá, Guajira and similar styles.

Hand Drums

Berimbau (beer-im-bow) - A one-string Afro-Brazilian bow, originally from Angola. It is played with a thin stick, held in the right hand, which at the same time holds a caxixi. The other hand holds and balances the instrument, while simultaneously holding a stone or coin. When pressed against the string, the stone or coin produces tone variations such as high tones or buzz tones.

Bongos - A set of two small drums typically held between the knees and played with the fingers.

Conga (kuhn-gah) - The most important hand drum in Latin music. It is usually grouped in a set of three drums of varying sizes: the quinto (keen-toh), segundo (seh-koon-doh), and tumbadora (toom-bah-dohr-ah). Each conga drum appears individually in addition to the "Conga Full" keymap, which contains all three.

Cuica - Single-headed Brazilian friction drum. Sound is produced by rubbing a small stick on the drum's inside membrane.

Finger Snaps - Snap sound produced by friction between thumb and middle finger.

Pandeiro (pan-day-ho) - A high-pitched hand drum with tambourine-like shakers.

Vibraslap - Latin instrument with a small sound chamber and an attached wooden ball. Slapping the ball into your hand causes it to strike the sound chamber, which creates a rapidly vibrating tone.

Stick Drums

Jam Blocks - Two wooden blocks, one large and one small, struck with a small wooden mallet.

Repenique (reh-peh-neek) - A metal drum commonly used as a solo instrument in samba music. It is played with a stick in one hand while the other (bare) hand plays counterpoint on the drum head.

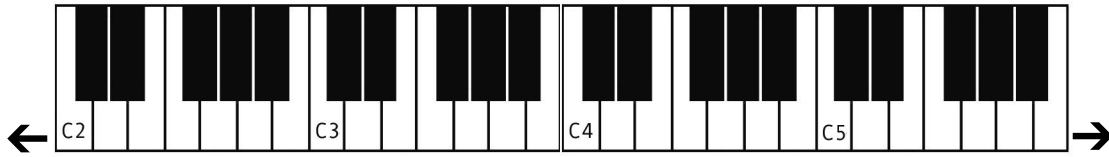
Surdo (sore-doo) - Surdo drums are large cylindrical drums with two heads. They are typically played with a large mallet while the free hand muffles the drum. Three surdo drums of different sizes are included here: Bombo (bomb-boh), Cortador (core-tah-door), and Macana (mah-keh-nah). The Bombo has been sampled using both felt and wooden mallets; the Cortador and Macana drums are sampled using wooden mallets only.

Tamborim (tam-boh-reem) - A small, cylindrical drum struck with a thin stick to produce sharp tones.

Timbales (tim-bah-lays) - Used often as a solo instrument, the Timbales are a set of two open-bottomed metal drums mounted side-by-side on a metal stand and played with wooden sticks.

Timbalitos (tim-bah-lee-toes) - Similar to timbales in construction, but with smaller diameter heads that yield noticeably higher pitches when played.

Keyboard Layout



Each key on a piano keyboard has a name and octave delineation. For example, middle C is C4. One octave above middle C is C5, etc. (See diagram above.) This is useful in determining how our instruments are laid across a MIDI keyboard.

Note: Middle C is C4, which is the standard for most MIDI keyboards, although on some applications or keyboards refer to middle C as C3 (Yamaha) or C5.

Instrument Ranges

Berimbau - C4-B5	Caxixi - C4-F5	Sencero - C4-A4
Bongos - C4-E5	Cha Cha Bells - C4-E4	Jam Blocks - C4-F4
Congas - C4-B6	Clave - C4-D4	Repenique - C4-B4
Cuica - C4-C5	Cowbells - C4-E4	Surdo Bombo - C4-F4
Finger Snaps - C4-G4	Frog Eggs - C4-C5	Surdo Cortador and Macana - C4-A4
Pandiero - C4-G5	Guiro - C4-E5	Tamborim - C4-D#5
Vibraslap - C4-E4	Large Basket - C4-C5	Timbalitos - A#3-D4
Afoxe - C4-B4	Maracas - C4-D5	
Agogo - C4-F4	Reco Reco - C4-B4	
Ankle Bells - C4-G4	Samba Whistles - C4-E5	

Instrument List

Hand Drums:

- Berimbau Env
- Berimbau
- Bongos
- Conga
- Conga Quinto
- Conga Secundo
- Conga Tumbadora
- Cuica Release
- Cuica
- Finger Snaps
- Pandiero
- Vibraslap Release
- Vibraslap

Bells, Shakers and Scrapers:

- Afoxe
- Agogo Bells
- Ankle Bells
- Caxixi
- Cha Cha Bells
- Clave
- Cowbell Hi
- Cowbell Low
- Cowbells Mid
- Frogs Eggs
- Guiro Cuban
- Guiro Meringue
- Large Basket
- Maracas
- Reco Reco
- Samba Whistles
- Sencero

Stick Drums:

- Jam Blocks
- Repenique
- Surdo Bombo Felt Pitch Bend
- Surdo Bombo Felt
- Surdo Bombo Wood Pitch Bend
- Surdo Bombo Wood
- Surdo Cortador
- Surdo Macana
- Tamborim
- Timbales
- Timbalitos

Contact

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about this or any M-Audio product, we invite you to contact us by using the following information:

<p>M-AUDIO U.S. - 5795 Martin Road, Irwindale, CA 91706-6211, U.S.A.</p> <p>Sales Information: 626-633-9050 Sales (fax): 626-633-9070 Sales Information (email): info@m-audio.com Tech Support (phone): 626-633-9055 Tech Support (email): techsupl@m-audio.com Tech Support (fax): 626-633-9060 Internet Home Page: http://www.m-audio.com</p>	<p>M-AUDIO Deutschland (Germany) - Kuhallmand 34, D-74613 Ohringen, Germany</p> <p>Sales Information: +49 (0)7941 987000 Sales Information (email): info@m-audio.de Technical Support: +49 (0)7941 9870030 Technical Support (email): support@m-audio.de Technical Support (fax): +49 (0)7941 98 70070 Internet Home Page: http://www.m-audio.de</p>
<p>M-AUDIO U.K. - Floor 6, Gresham House, 53 Clarendon Road, Watford, WD17 1LA, United Kingdom</p> <p>Sales Information (phone): 44 (0) 1923 204010 Sales Information (fax): 44 (0) 1923 204039 Sales Information (email): info@maudio.co.uk Technical Support (PC): 44 (0) 1309 671301 Technical Support (Mac): 44 (0) 1765 650072 Technical Support (email): support@maudio.co.uk Internet Home Page: http://www.maudio.co.uk</p>	<p>M-AUDIO Canada - 1400 St-Jean Baptiste Ave. #150, Quebec City, Quebec G2E 5 B7, Canada</p> <p>Technical Support (e-mail): techcanada@m-audio.com Technical Support (PC): (418) 872-0444 Technical Support (Mac): 1-800-638-2120 Technical Support (fax): (418) 872-0034 Sales (e-mail): infocanada@m-audio.com Sales (phone): (866) 872-0444 Sales (fax): (514) 396-7102 Internet Home Page http://www.m-audio.ca</p>
<p>M-AUDIO France - Floor 6, Gresham House, 53 Clarendon Road, Watford, WD17 1LA, United Kingdom</p> <p>Assistance Technique (aucune questions reliées aux ventes) courriel (assistance PC): support@m-audio-france.com courriel (assistance Mac): mac@m-audio-france.com téléphone (assistance PC): 0820 000 731 (0,12 Euros par minute) téléphone (assistance Mac): 0820 391 191 (0,12 Euros par minute) télécopieur/fax: 01 72 72 90 52</p> <p>Ventes (aucun appels d'assistance technique) téléphone: 0810 001 105 (Numero Azur) courriel: info@m-audio-france.com télécopieur/fax: 01 72 72 90 52</p>	<p>M-AUDIO Japan - 株式会社エムオーディオジャパン : 460-0002 愛知県名古屋市中区丸の内 2-18-10</p> <p>テクニカルサポート (電話) : 052-218-0859 テクニカルサポート (Macintosh 環境での email) : mac-support@m-audio.co.jp テクニカルサポート (Windows 環境での email) : win-support@m-audio.co.jp テクニカルサポート (OS に依存しない製品での email) : win-support@m-audio.co.jp テクニカルサポート (英語での email / English Only) : e-support@m-audio.co.jp テクニカルサポート (Fax) : 052-218-0875 Web サイト (ホームページ) : http://www.m-audio.com</p>

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