

Samba

The samba is a Brazilian rhythm in 2/4 that "swings" in its own way. The eighth-notes are played straight, not "rounded." Don't let the ride cymbal sound like swing. It should be very straight, but relaxed. The patterns that your right hand and your feet are playing should really lock together and create the forward momentum. Don't play the bass drum too loudly. The sound should be very even and balanced between your hands and feet.

♩ = 90-120



This pattern is generally written and felt in 4/4 when used in conjunction with swing:



There are many different traditional samba rhythms which can be incorporated into jazz. As with any style of music, make an attempt to "get to the source" and hear the original artists. It is worth knowing the work of contemporary Brazilian artists such as Milton Nascimento, Ivan Lins, Joyce, Jorge Ben, Chico Buarque, Eliane Elias, Gal Costa, Beth Carvalho, Elis Regina, Gilberto Gil and Djavan. Also look for recordings featuring Brazilian drummers Dom Um Romao, Airto Moreira, Duduka Da Fonseca, and Portinho.

12/8 Feel

This rhythm also known as *nanigo*, *bembe*, or *Afro-Cuban 6/8*, is perhaps the grandfather of the modern jazz ride cymbal pattern. The 12/8 feel can be played for an entire song or used to change the mood within a song. Two masters of the 12/8 groove are Elvin Jones and Art Blakey.

