

THE BRAZILIAN TAMBORIM



Sometimes music instruments can have the same name but be a different instrument all together, which is the case with the **Brazilian Tamborim (LP3006)**.

The Brazilian tambourine is different from the American tambourine (which we call *Pandeiro* in Brazil). Because these instruments are a very important part of the culture of various countries, they all come from the word, Tambor, which means drum.

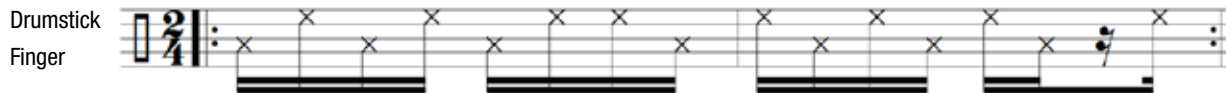
The Tamborim (meaning little drum), is a simple hand-frame drum, 6" in diameter, played with a single plastic stick. It has now a plastic head but in the past it had a natural one. The Tamborim is associated with Samba and is one of the main instruments in The Samba Schools (Percussion groups). The Tamborim is played on the Bateria (Percussion section) with as many as 100 other Tamborim players. In this setting it's tuned very tightly to produce a very high pitch. The Tamborim is also played in other styles of music derived from the Samba, like Chorinho, Bossa Nova and Pagode, where you may use wood or metal sticks and even your fingers. In this instance, the tuning can vary.

The important thing (that should be stressed here), is that when you are playing Samba, you've got to develop a 16th Note Clock inside your body because that's the main drive to get the groove happening (the train). If you don't get that feel, it is going to be a problem, because you can fall behind the beat.

You can start now playing your Tamborim's basic pattern hitting the head with a stick while the hand that holds the drum uses the middle finger to play a pattern underneath the head. The combination of what you are playing with the stick on the top of the drum and your fingers, create that 16th note feel, which is the secret! (pattern #1)



Once you've learned this pattern (which starts on the down beat) you move on to learn the pattern that starts off the beat. (pattern #2). It is very important for you to know that the melody of a particular song may call for you to start the pattern on the off beat; that is why you have to train yourself to play the pattern both ways.



Now, if you want to go deeper into the Tamborim, there is a technique called Tamborim Virado, in which you turn the hand that is holding the drum (like opening and closing a door knob) while using the flexibility of the plastic stick to strike the opposite edges of the drum head. (not included). Outside Brazil, in World Music, Jazz or other genres, the Tamborim's basic pattern is sometimes referred as the Brazilian Clave.

What I learned from this beautiful instrument is that, in a tune, you can play the Tamborim along with the melody getting the feeling that you're shaping the rhythmic landscape.