

# How to play Samba

Alberto Betancourt  
(albetan)

Samba is a fast dance from Brasil.

Batucada is a samba of carnival.

Samba and Jazz were the parents of Bossanova.

In Brazilian editions of sheet music, samba is written in 2/4, but in editions from other countries it appears in 4/4.

Pulse may be in tempo between 90 and 120. So in 2/4 pulse is in quarter notes, and in 4/4 is in half-notes.

Samba is a very rich rhythm and has many patterns. Here we will study some basic patterns in drum-set.

If you play drums practise it, and if you have a midi keyboard or a drum machine, programme it in order to practise playing samba with rhythm.

## Samba

CYMBAL  
SNARE RIDE  
BASS DRUM  
HI-HAT FOOT



## Samba

CYMBAL  
SNARE RIDE  
BASS DRUM  
HI-HAT FOOT



## Batucada

SNARE  
FLOOR TOM  
BASS DRUM  
HI-HAT FOOT



(Midi standard kit)

CAVAZZA



PULSE



You may add as variations for more patterns these rhythmic figures; that may be played in cow-bell, cymbal or ride-timbal, and also in comp piano or guitar chords or ornaments:

#### RHYTHMIC FIGURES



As a fast dance perform it in piano with melody and bass, adding some chord notes:



Here we have a score in 4/4 of Brasil:



You may play samba in a more advanced style, as rootless, or with a bass player:

### Tristeza

The image displays two staves of musical notation for the song "Tristeza". The first staff is a rootless piano accompaniment, and the second staff is a bass line. Both staves are in G major (one sharp). The first staff has a key signature of one sharp and a 2/4 time signature. The chords indicated above the first staff are D7, Gm7, GM7, and G6. The second staff has a key signature of one sharp and a 2/4 time signature. The chords indicated above the second staff are Gm7, C7, DM7, and D6. Red dashed lines connect the chord changes between the two staves.

In *Latin Real Book* you will find nice Brazilian music.

Also in <http://www.ethosbrasil.com/nav/partit.htm> there are the most popular sambas. I knew this site thanks to "360 grades".

Good luck and enjoy Samba.

