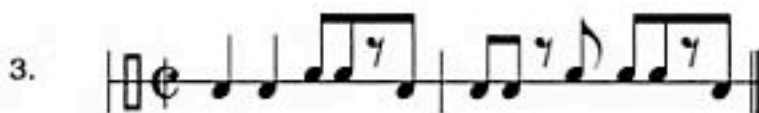
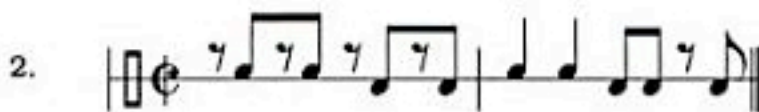


# Ago-go Bells

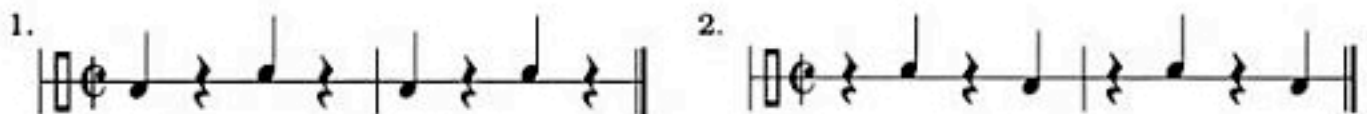


Ago-go bells are pairs of bells connected with a metal rod. There are also sets of three or four bells connected together. They are usually tuned in thirds, held in one hand, and played with a stick with the other. Once a rhythm is started, the **pattern** is generally kept constant except in less traditional settings where improvising variations works well.

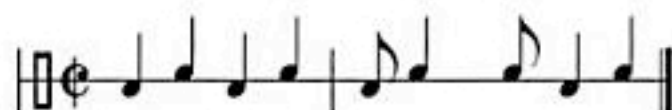
Following are some common patterns for **Samba**:



The first of these next two patterns is common for Balaó. The second—its reverse—is also used as both a **pattern** and a variation:



The following **pattern** is played for the Maracatu:



This **pattern** is common for the Marcha de Rancho:



Another very common technique is that of squeezing the bells together with the connecting rod to produce a *chick* sound (*figure 1*). The sound can be used as rhythmic filler played in between the sticked notes (*figure 2*). You can also hold the bells together while you hit them, giving you muted notes (*figure 3*). These notes become part of the **pattern** itself. Following are some examples. *The notes marked "X" are played by squeezing the bells together for the "chick" sound. The others are played with the stick on the high and low bells.*

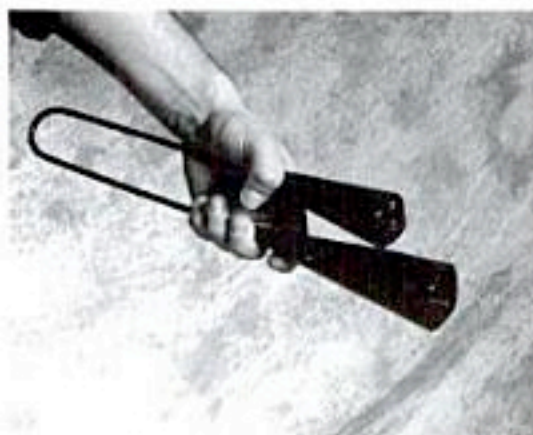


Figure 1



Figure 2

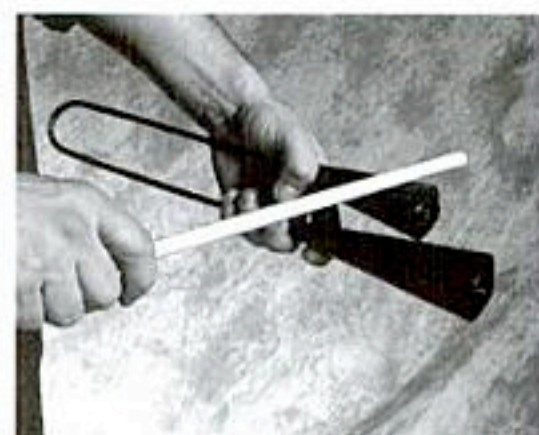
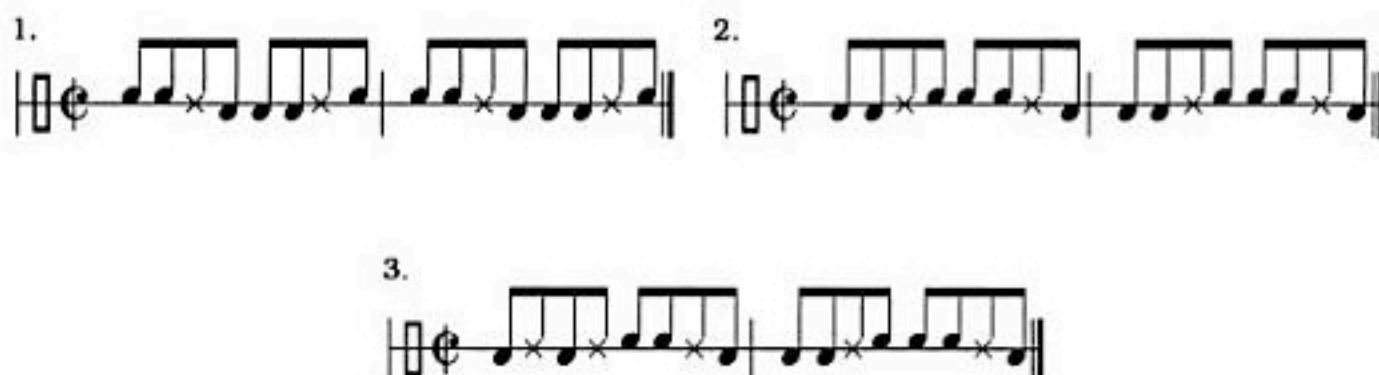


Figure 3



As with all the **percussion** instruments in all the various songstyles, the possibilities for rhythms are endless. Listed here are only a few common patterns. Improvise to come up with your own patterns and licks. To get going you can try starting patterns 1-3 above on the second bar.