

Applying The Double Paradiddle Afro-Cuban 6/8, Nanigo



A great way to learn an Afro-Cuban 6/8 feel, also known as a Nanigo, is to use the double paradiddle sticking: R L R L R R L R L R L L This sticking is twelve notes long, often felt as two blocks of six, so it works perfectly in 6/8 time.

To create our Nanigo bell pattern we're going to accent every right hand note in the double paradiddle, while "ghosting" our left hand notes, across both 6/8 bars. Here's what that would look like:

● Ex.1

Try to hear, and isolate, the rhythm that you are now playing with your right hand. This will be our Nanigo bell pattern.

● Ex.2

This exercise shows our right hand rhythm isolated on a cowbell, underneath I've written a dotted crotchet hi-hat pulse. Also, notice how I articulate the cowbell rhythm.

● Ex.3

Now to form a contemporary sounding Nanigo groove. We'll reintroduce our left hand ghost notes, add a bass drum note to beat 1 of the first bar and accent the snare note that falls on beat 1 of the second bar...

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Here are some variations on the pattern, still only using a double paradiddle.

● Ex.4

● Ex.5

● Ex.6

● Ex.7

Next, try adding the following hi-hat foot patterns to the above grooves.

● A

● B

● C