

CONGA SANTIAGUERA BELL PATTERNS

Traditionally these parts are played “llantas” (iron brake drums)

NOATION KEY (adaptation to cowbell)

X = lower sound on bell (near (but not on) mouth)

x = higher sound on bell (near closed end)

These patterns are notated in 2/2 or cut time (The pulse is felt on beats one and three).

Tempo is about 150 -160 bpm (where the half note is the beat).

#1 “MANI TOSTAO”

This pattern is essential to the conga oriental. If there is only one bell player, they should play this one!

1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+
X			x	x		x	

#2 “UNO Y DOS” OR “TRES DOS” (AS PLAYED BY MOST CONGAS IN SANTIAGO)

1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+	1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+
X				x		x		X				x			

BELL #3:

This is the only bell that improvises and changes patterns. During the “Pilon rhythm” (The “main groove” of the conga), this bell can improvise, playing mostly on the beat. This bell pattern changes for the Columbia and Masón rhythms.

#3 : “conga” or Pilon Rhythm

1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+	█
x								█

SOURCES:

Private lessons with Lazaro Bandera Malet, musical director, La Conga de Los Hoyos

Private lessons with Richard Lineonel Ferrara, musical director, Conga Paso Franco

Private lessons with Raul Lopez Martinez, director, Conga San Agustin

Private lesson with Mauricio Herrera, NYC-based percussionist from Holguin, Cuba.